



### INTRODUCTION

Have you ever gone somewhere and thought to yourself, “I wish my friend was here to see this?” Or, have you looked at your vacation pictures and thought “I sure wish I was there?” We often spend far too much time wishing for things, instead of actually doing them. We Wish things would change, or we were different, or that life was easier. Even though we wish, God does not. God is in the business of making things different; of transformation. As we journey with Him let’s see how we can stop wishing and start trusting in the God of transformation.

### FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is one thing that you wish you could change about yourself?

#### Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-3

2. Sanctification is defined as a journey, or path, of aligning ourselves with God’s standards. How is this different from our salvation or being justified?

#### Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22

3. These verses are a picture of our destination; a list of Christ-like behaviors and attitudes. Which of these are easiest for you to do? Which ones are God still working out in you?
4. We can allow the things of this world to desensitize us to the things of God. What are some examples of things that can desensitize us? What are some ways we can stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit?
5. This weekend Mark talked about 2 ditches that we can fall into: legalism/religion or apathy. Which one do you tend to fall into most often? How has God pulled you out in the past?
6. In 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 it says that it is God working in us that sanctifies our lives. God is working in us as we align ourselves to His Word and His ways. How have you seen evidence of that in your life?

### NEXT STEPS

Do you ever get impatient with God? I remember when I was in my 20’s I would ask people, “How do I get kindness, patience and self-control? Give me a formula, tell me what I need to do?” What I didn’t understand is that it wasn’t about “doing” more, it is about surrendering more....allowing God to do His work in me, in His timing, through the circumstances He allows. This process happens only as we consistently surrender and seek Him. What do you need to surrender to Him this week to allow Him to do His transforming work in you?

### RENEW YOUR MIND

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, he will surely do it.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:21-23

