

**FOCUS**  
Cultural Issue

**TITLE**  
Strong to Help the Weak

**REFERENCE**  
1 Thessalonians 5:14

• brown merit •

# 1 Thessalonians

... LESSON 5

• FOR THE LEADER

• PREP



## FOR THE LEADER

### WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT:

It is the responsibility of every Christian to care for the weak and the helpless. It is a major part of how God wants us to relate to the world.

### THINK ABOUT IT:

- What does it mean to be weak?
- What are a Christian's responsibilities to the weak?
- Have you ever experienced being weak or helpless?



## PREP

- paper (one sheet per boy)
- pencils (one per boy)

• *Notes* •

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# 1 Thessalonians

... LESSON 5

· READ



· REFLECT



· RESPOND



## READ

*And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.*  
1 Thessalonians 5:14

We live in a world where we hear that the strong survive. If you happen to be strong, be glad. If you happen to be weak, you're in for a very rough life and may not make it. Some people excuse this way of thinking by applying the concept of "survival of the fittest" to everyday human life. It has become a prominent business model and unfortunately, the way many people approach their personal life.

What does Scripture say about those who are weak? Believers in Jesus should act very differently toward people who are weak than our culture does. Christians who are stronger are to help and encourage those who are weak. James 1:27 adds an important perspective on how important it is for Christians to take care of the weak and those who need help. It says, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

It is our job as believers to help people in distress and those who can't take care of themselves. We can't turn a blind eye to the poor and needy, thinking that someone else will take

care of them. They are weak, and through Jesus they can be made strong. That only happens if we share Jesus with them, and one of the best ways to help that happen is by taking care of their needs.

Second Corinthians 13:4 says, "For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him to serve you." Jesus was crucified in weakness. He became weak so that we would be able to become strong through Him. How should the fact that Jesus became weak for us influence our opinion of those who are weak?

As followers of Jesus, we should learn to be patient and encouraging toward those who are weak rather than attacking them. Jesus was a friend to those who were weak, hurting, and lost. His example should set the standard for our action. Our culture would label these people as losers, freaks, and outcasts. Jesus died so that our weakness could be forgiven and made strong by the power of God. It's in response to His gift to us that we should in turn show kindness to the weak in need of our help!

**PRAYER:** Dear God, thank You for helping me to become strong in You. Thank You for forgiving my weakness that allowed sin and for giving me strength to overcome sin. Please give me compassion for those who need help and encouragement. In Jesus' name. Amen.



REFLECT

Using a pencil and paper, list some of your weaknesses. Be as honest as possible. Think about areas of your life are you weak in, or things you are not good at. When you've made your list, think of ways you can improve anything on the list. Then take a moment to ask for God's help on the listed items.

Inside of each of us, there are strengths, and there are also weaknesses, failures, temptations, and struggles. Jesus came and died for the sin caused by our weakness. He was raised to life so that we could have the strength to overcome those weaknesses.



RESPOND

List the names of five friends that you know are weak, hurting, or outcast. Spend some time every day this week praying for them. Also, ask God to help you think of ways that you can help and encourage them.

Take the list of your weaknesses that you made earlier. Tape that list somewhere private. Each morning, look at that list and remind yourself that Jesus is your source of strength.

**7-DAY** Sunday ·  
**BIBLE** Monday ·  
**READING** Tuesday ·  
**PLAN** Wednesday ·  
Thursday ·  
Friday ·  
Saturday ·

The *Fire Bible: Student Edition* provides a reading plan that follows a two-year design for reading the entire Bible. Follow that reading plan in order to earn the green Bible Reading merit.

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