

# CLOSE TO HOME: Homesick

December 1, 2024

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## 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

9-10 What would be an adequate thanksgiving to offer God for all the joy we experience before him because of you? We do what we can, praying away, night and day, asking for the bonus of seeing your faces again, and doing what we can to help when your faith falters.

11-13 May God our Father himself and our Master Jesus clear the road to you! And may the Master pour on the love so it fills your lives and splashes over on everyone around you, just as it does from us to you. May you be infused with strength and purity, filled with confidence in the presence of God our Father when our Master Jesus arrives with all his followers.

## REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?

2. Today we begin the sermon series "Close To Home" during this advent season. What is home for you? Where is home? What emotions or thoughts resonate when you reflect on this home? Have you ever been homesick? Explain.
3. Paul prayed for the Thessalonians night and day, how often do we pray? What is your spiritual prayer practice? Share a time when you have felt encouraged by the prayers of others.
4. Paul mentions faltering faith. What does that mean to you? Can you share times in your life when your faith has faltered? Can you share a time when your faith stood firm in the trials of life?
5. Paul says, "May the Master pour on the love so it fills your lives and splashes over on everyone around you." How can we practice sharing this love with our family, friends, foes, community, and world? Make a list of ways to share our love as a church with those around us during this Advent season.

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