

- Passionate Commitment -

Ice-Breaker:

- **Do you consider yourself more introverted or extroverted? What is the most difficult part of developing deep relationships with people?**

Discussion:

1. **Read I Thessalonians 2:17-18. Think about a time when you were separated for a season from someone close to you.**
    - **What made the separation so difficult?**
    - **What feelings accompanied the re-uniting?**

2. **Read I Thessalonians 2:17-18. Paul made every effort to reunite with his friends in Thessalonica. Why is persistence important when it comes to building close friendships?**

3. **Read I Thessalonians 2:18; Ephesians 6:10-12; II Corinthians 12:7-9; I Peter 5:8-10. Paul understood that there is a spiritual battle that affects us in significant ways.**
    - **What do you think Paul meant when he said our battle is not against flesh and blood?**
    - **How often do you think about spiritual warfare?**
    - **Read James 4:7. How often do you practice this verse and pray against spiritual attack?**

4. **Read Ephesians 4:26-27. Why do you suppose unresolved anger can give Satan a foothold in our lives?**

5. **Read I Thessalonians 3:6. One blessing of building deep relationships is the rich fellowship and pleasant memories you share together.**
    - **Have you noticed that when you get back together with old friends, it seems like you can pick up your relationship right where you left off? Why do you suppose that is?**
    - **What are some practical steps you can take to move a relationship to a deeper level?**

Application:

- **Jesus said the greatest commandment revolves around loving God and loving people. At the beginning of each day this week, pray for opportunities to prioritize people over tasks.**