

Mt. View

# Epistles

1 Thessalonians 1.7

To the kids of Mt. View, grace to you and peace.

The days are getting colder, night-time comes faster, and the leaves are changing colors! I am reminded of how long it has been since I last saw you. Did you know that I keep you in my prayers, even when I don't see you? I pray for your health. I pray that you are doing okay with lots of changes at school. And most of all, I pray that you remember your faith in God and can be an example of it to others.

You might not think of yourself as an example that others can look up to... but I think you are!

For example, have you ever received an award at school? Sometimes awards are given to kids who have read a lot of books, or to kids who are really good at helping others, or to kids who are very respectful and courteous. Your teachers give out these awards to set an example of good behavior.



I wonder, what type of example might we make an award for at church? Maybe for people who help at the Food Bank or Community center a lot, giving their time to serve others. Or maybe for people who are always praying for other people. Or maybe for people who are always willing to forgive others.



These aren't always the same things we would make examples of at school. But they are examples that are a lot like how Jesus lived, and so how we are supposed to live as Jesus followers.

In one of his letters, Paul challenged the people of a town called Thessalonica (Thess-a-lone-ica) to be "an example" to other people. It reminds me of that saying: "actions speak louder than words." Often, we best share our faith by being examples of it: being kind and helpful to others, forgiving someone for a wrong, standing up for others, and giving from what we have to make sure everyone has food, shelter, and clothing.

Talk with your family about what you have done recently to be an example of faith to others. If you can't think of anything recent, maybe you can brainstorm an idea of what you can do to serve God and neighbor, and so be an example of Jesus' great love.

Shalom,

*Pastor Bri*