

## **The Real Deal**

### **1 Thessalonians 1:2-8**

*The evidence of the Holy Spirit filling and growing a Christ follower is not just the works or behaviors; it is the \_\_\_\_\_ BEHIND those works and behaviors: "...faith, hope and love...but the greatest of these is love."*

**Discussion 1. What are some possible NONSPIRITUAL motives for feeding the hungry or going on mission trips or gathering on Sundays? How can we check our own motives for our Christian behaviors?**

*Spreading the gospel is like starting fires; you need both the combustible material and the heat source. The words of our witness are the combustible material, and the Spirit is the heat source. The gospel message \_\_\_\_\_*

**Discussion 2. How does the fire illustration (i.e., that we can only provide the combustible material, but the Spirit has to provide the heat source) actually free us up from some of the fears of witnessing? Do you find it helpful? Why or why not?**

*There is a fundamental difference between joy and happiness. Many secular systems of freedom and justice are aimed at happiness. The gospel has a deeper, longer goal: \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Discussion 3. Describe a moment or season in your life when you did NOT have happiness but had a sense of profound joy. What role did your faith play in those circumstances?**

*It is not like the Holy Spirit to be growing me spiritually without also working through me to grow those around me spiritually. \_\_\_\_\_ is a natural outflowing of the Holy Spirit in a Christ follower.*

**Discussion 4. Talk about one person who "discipled" you at some point in your Christian walk. Have you ever had the opportunity to pay that blessing forward to someone else?**

**Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?**