

Life today

The kind of things that people who care about you often nag about are usually important or something which will help you in the long run. What sort of things do parents and carers beg, encourage and urge children about today?



Imagine

Your parents are always begging you to do certain things: to help out more round the house without complaining, and to play with your siblings. Your parents also encourage you to work hard at your studies and to do the best you can. They urge you to make the right choices and to try to be a good person. Paul's words here are about him begging, encouraging and urging; but this is about living in a way which honours God. What sort of things do you need to do in life to honour God? Are they to do with your work or your family? Your studies or your behaviour? You don't really like it when your parents keep going on at you, but there is something about the way that Paul speaks which makes you respond and really want to do what he is asking.

Did you know?

It seems likely that Paul and his friends brought the gospel to a group of people who worked hard together with a patron who would have given them money. They would have given up the financial support of their patron to become a different group – the church – under God's patronage, with God's support. People in power were suspicious when groups of poor people organised themselves, and the reference in verse 14 – about the Thessalonians suffering – might have been because the rulers thought they were not being loyal to Rome, by having God as their patron.



Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians

A nugget to explore with children: Chapter 2, verses 11 and 12 (CEV)*

* Contemporary English Version

