

Life today

Why people suffer and die is one of the big questions we have in our world today. Another difficult thing is living with the fact that sometimes there are no easy answers. Paul's words would have brought comfort to people who were grieving. What things bring you hope in sad situations?

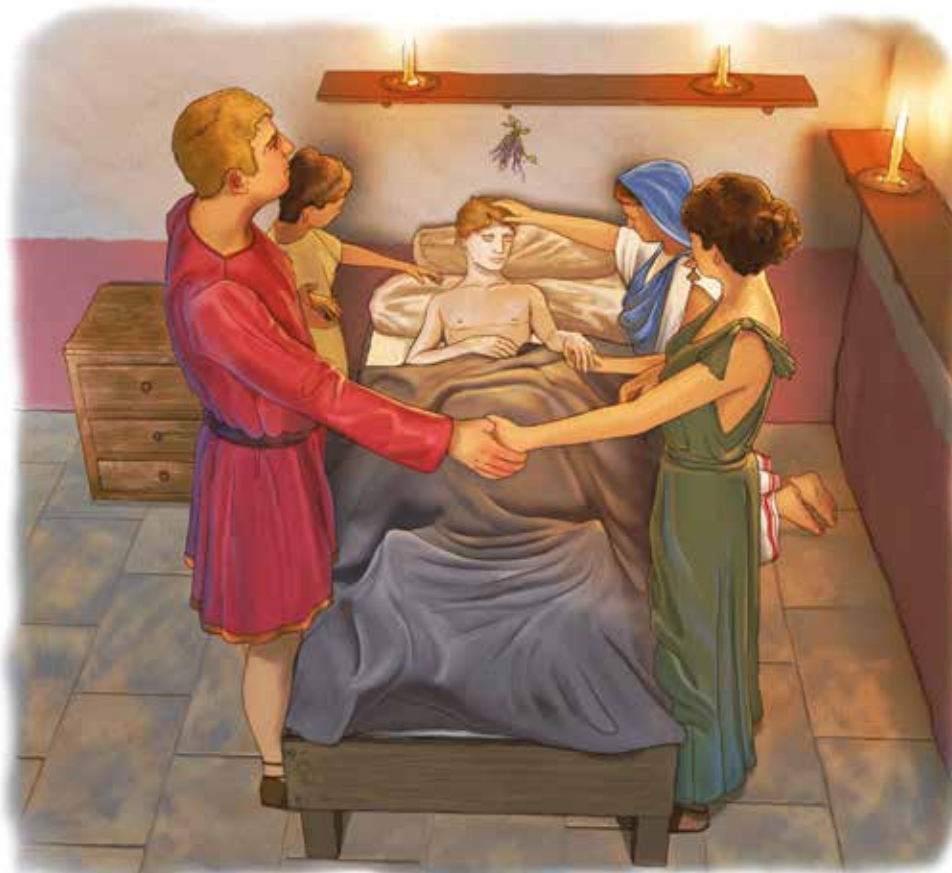


Did you know?

The time the Thessalonians were living in was very difficult and dangerous – death was a daily reality to most people. Fifty per cent of children died before they reached the age of 10. Girls had babies from around the age of 12, and many women and girls died in childbirth. People had also been hoping for Jesus to return, and so would have had big questions about why people in their community had died before that happened.

Imagine

You and your family have had a lot of hard times. When you were very ill last year, you were really worried that you would not get better again. In fact, most people in your community have experienced this feeling and even the loss of someone they love. You hold on to the faith you have in Jesus, and trust



his teaching in those times, but it doesn't stop you feeling sad and wanting to grieve. What is different is that even in really difficult situations, where there is illness and death, you can still have hope. These words from Paul encourage you and keep you going, even through the really hard times.



Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians

A nugget to explore with children:
Chapter 4, verses 13,14 and 18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. Therefore encourage one another with these words.