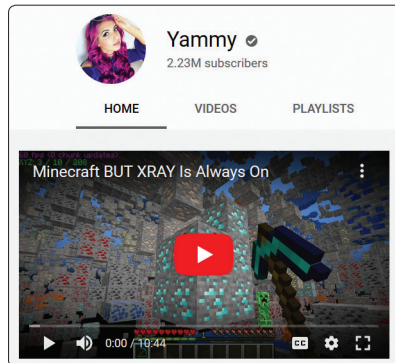


Life today

Today's influencers are not only people who have a key position in society but anyone who can make a name for themselves online. There are many more ways available – if you have something to say – to share it with the world. Find out who the top 10 influencers are on YouTube.



Imagine

Paul gives you a new challenge which is not only to be an imitator of him, and of Jesus – following their teaching – but also an example to other believers. He tells you that you are chosen. You don't really feel you are anything special, and you certainly don't think you could be an example to other people. Your faith is still very new and you know you have a lot to learn, and yet here is Paul saying that you need to inspire and help other people to believe. You talk to an older member of the church, and she reminds you that we all have a part to play in the church community. You realise that she has been a big part of how you have learned about Jesus, so perhaps you might be able to do that for someone else, too.



Did you know?

In Thessalonica, Paul would mainly have been preaching to the Gentiles, meaning that members of the 'church' there would have come from all walks of life. This would have been very different to the normal order of things, where people grouped together with others similar to them. By living out this life of equality and inclusion, the ruling Romans would have seen this community as a threat to their control. In that sense, the church there was an influencer – leading the way for a new way of living.



Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians

A nugget to explore with children:
Chapter 1, verses 4-5a, 6-7a

For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers.