

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

TOOLS FOR CREATING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW | ROMANS 12:2



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Where did God show up?

As you see the goodness of God move in your life, use this page to write down how He's blessed you. Encourage one another and celebrate victories within and/or outside of your group meetings.

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WEEK 6: KINDNESS

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

God's kindness is more than simple politeness or being nice. Scripture shows us that kindness flows from His character and is one of the clearest evidences of a life transformed by Christ. God's kindness leads us to repentance, restores us when we fail, and continually meets us with grace. As followers of Jesus, we are called to extend the same kindness we have received from God to others.

This week we'll look at Jonathan's relationship with David in **1 Samuel 18**. Jonathan chose to love and honor David even when it cost him personally. He was humble, selfless, and rooted in genuine love. This is an example of how people can be live sacrificially toward one another, due to kindness and love.

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

1 Samuel 18:1-3 (NIV)

Romans 2:4 (NIV)

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

Ephesians 2:4-7 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Receiving God's Kindness

Recognizing God's kindness toward you becomes the greatest example we can use to show kindness to others.

- a. When you think about God's kindness toward you, what comes to mind first?
- b. How has experiencing God's grace changed the way you view yourself or others?

2

Biblical Example

Jonathan loved David deeply, even though David's success would eventually cost Jonathan his place as heir to the throne.

- a. In **1 Samuel 18**, what stands out to you about Jonathan's kindness toward David?
- b. Why do you think kindness can become difficult when it costs us something?

3

Kindness Beyond Confidence

It's easy to be kind when people are easy to love. Scripture often calls us to go further.

- a. Who is easiest for you to show kindness to? Who is hardest?
- b. What do you think gets in the way of showing kindness consistently?

4

Kindness as an Example

Jesus teaches that serving "the least of these" is like serving Him.

- a. How do acts of kindness influence the people around us?
- b. Has someone's kindness ever made you more open to hearing about God? What happened?

Living Kindly

Kindness is not just words we say, but words we live out.

- a. What is one practical way God may be inviting you to show kindness this week?
- b. How would your relationships change if kindness became your first response instead of frustration, judgment, or indifference?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Pat Morley writes, *"The height of our love for God will never exceed the depth of our love for one another."*

- Do you think our treatment of others accurately reflects our love for God? Why or why not?
- Where is God inviting you to grow in compassion, patience, or kindness toward someone right now?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Helpful practical habits that might follow the theme of curriculum.

Living Kindly—This week, recognize:

- Where you struggle to be kind.
- Listen to Him how you can walk in kindness there.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you listen closely to Him, hearing how He leads you to kindness in every part of your life.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME**CLOSING SCRIPTURE**

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV), *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*

Let the group rest in this encouragement as you close together in prayer.

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WEEK 7: GOODNESS

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Goodness is more than simply making good choices. It is the visible evidence of God's character being formed within us through the Holy Spirit. Jesus perfectly demonstrated goodness by consistently moving toward people with compassion, integrity, and truth. As we abide in Christ, the Spirit aligns what we believe with how we live, producing a goodness that remains steady whether anyone is watching or not. This week we'll explore how God develops His character in us and how Spirit-produced goodness becomes a witness to the people around us.

KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

Galatians 5:22 (NIV)

Ephesians 5:8-10 (NIV)

Acts 10:38 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 What Is Goodness?

We might hear about the 'goodness of God' but not know exactly what Scripture is saying.

- a. When you hear the word "goodness," what comes to mind?
- b. How have you seen God show that "goodness" in your life?

2 The Example of Jesus

Acts 10:38 describes Jesus as someone who "*went around doing good*" with the power of the Spirit.

- a. What stands out to you about the way Jesus treated people throughout His ministry?
- b. Why do you think goodness often requires action rather than just good intentions?

3 Goodness When No One Is Watching

Ephesians 5 challenges believers to discover what pleases the Lord.

- a. Do you think your character is different in public moments and private ones? Why?
- b. What areas of life are easiest to justify small compromises in?

4 When Goodness Costs Something

Sometimes doing what is right is inconvenient, misunderstood, or costly.

- a. Can you think of a time when doing the right thing required sacrifice?
- b. Why can it be difficult to remain faithful when goodness isn't rewarded?

5 Reflecting God's Character

Jesus said that our lives should point others toward God.

- a. Who has influenced your faith because of the way they lived rather than just what they said?
- b. What would change in your relationships if your first question became, "*What would reflect God's character here?*"

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Goodness is not simply avoiding bad things—it is actively becoming more like Christ.

- Where do you feel the gap between what you believe and how you actually respond in everyday life?
- What part of God's character do you most want the Holy Spirit to develop in you right now?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Helpful practical habits that might follow the theme of curriculum.

Living in God's Goodness—This week, reflect on:

- How God's goodness has shown up in your life.
- How to live out the goodness God shows you to others.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see His goodness more clearly in your life.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 5:8-10 (NIV), *"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord."*

Let the group rest in this encouragement as you close together in prayer.

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WEEK 8: FAITHFULNESS

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Faithfulness is one of the strongest qualities anyone would want in someone else. We want our spouses to be faithful. We want our business partners and friends to be faithful. In the Bible, faithfulness is critical to our calling as Christ-followers. We are called to be faithful stewards of our calling and even remain faithful through each trial. In the end, the reward we will receive will be based on our goodness and our faithfulness.

Thankfully, in God, we have the ultimate example of faithfulness. God is described as being faithful to generations. He is faithful even when we are faithless and His faithfulness never ends. In a world that is fickle and ever shifting, we will see how God's faithfulness moves us to be faithful, unwavering, unshaken and committed to our calling as followers of Jesus.

KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

2 Timothy 2:13 (NIV)

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV)

Matthew 25:21 (NIV)

Revelation 2:10 (NIV)

Deuteronomy 32:4 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 God's Faithfulness

God's faithfulness is clear and consistent throughout all of Scripture.

- a. When you think about God's faithfulness in your life, what stands out most?
- b. Has there been a season when God's faithfulness became clearer to you? What happened?

2 Faithfulness in Small Things

Scripture teaches that faithfulness is often demonstrated in the day-to-day choices before it is seen in bigger things.

- a. What are some small responsibilities God has entrusted to you right now?
- b. Why do you think faithfulness in the small things can sometimes feel unimportant or unnoticed?

3 Remain Faithful through Challenges

Faithfulness becomes most visible when difficult circumstances challenge it.

- a. What situations tend to challenge your faithfulness most? (Example: waiting, disappointment, hardship, distractions, or something else.)
- b. Can you think of a difficult season that actually strengthened your trust in God? What happened?

Reflecting God's Faithfulness

4 The faithfulness of God shapes the way we are called to live and relate to others

- a. Who has modeled faithfulness well in your life? What impact did it have on you?

b. How does that impact encourage you to live faithfully today?

5 Living Faithfully

Faithfulness is not just about good intentions but about steady obedience over time.

- a.** Where do you sense God inviting you to become more faithful right now?
- b.** What is one practical step you can take this week to remain committed to that area?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: God remains faithful even when we fall short

- When you've fallen short, have you ever felt like God was frustrated with you or pulling away from you? Why?
- Where is God really?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Helpful practical habits that might follow the theme of curriculum.

Living in God's Faithfulness—This week, reflect on:

- Where God is calling you to be faithful.
- Where God has been faithful to you

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see His faithfulness more clearly in your life and help you be faithful where He is calling you to be faithful.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Lamentations 3:22-24 (NASB1995), *"The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'Therefore I have hope in Him.'"*

Let the group rest in this encouragement as you close together in prayer.

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WEEK 9: GENTLENESS

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

In Galatians 5, Gentleness is the Greek word *prautēs*, which carries the idea of meekness, humility, and controlled strength. Gentleness is not weakness; it is strength surrendered to the Spirit. Gentleness stands in direct contrast to the works of the flesh, like hostility, anger, selfish ambition, dissension, and division. It is the Spirit's work of forming our words, reactions, correction, and relationships in the way of Jesus. In Christ, we see gentleness fully embodied: He carried authority, spoke truth, confronted sin, and moved with courage, yet He was gentle and lowly in heart. He did not crush the weak, shame the broken, or use His power to protect His ego.

This week, we are going to examine where our lives may be marked more by reaction than formation. Where have our words become sharp, correction become harsh, responsibility become control, or strength become self-protection? As we abide in Christ and keep in step with the Spirit, gentleness becomes evidence that Jesus is not only changing what we believe but also how we carry ourselves toward others. A Spirit-rooted life does not need to force its way; it can tell the truth without cruelty, correct without crushing, influence without dominating, and respond without reacting.

KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

Philippians 2:1-8 (NIV)

Galatians 6:1 (NIV)

Matthew 11:29 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Understanding Gentleness

Gentleness is often misunderstood as being passive, quiet, or weak. Scripture presents it as strength guided by God's Spirit.

- a. When you hear the word "gentleness," what comes to mind?
- b. Why do you think gentleness is often mistaken for weakness?

2 Jesus' Gentleness

Jesus carried authority unlike anyone else, yet He was *"gentle and humble in heart."*

- a. What stands out to you about the way Jesus interacted with difficult, broken, or sinful people?
- b. When is it hardest for you to respond like Jesus rather than simply react?

3 Gentleness in Our Reactions

Often our first response reveals what is happening in our hearts.

- a. When you feel criticized, misunderstood, or frustrated, how do you typically respond?
- b. What situations tend to bring out the least gentle version of you?

4 Gentleness and Influence

Many people think influence comes through force, control, or winning arguments. Jesus showed another way.

- a. Have you ever experienced someone correcting or confronting you with gentleness? How did that impact you and the situation?

- b. Why do you think gentleness can be more powerful than force in relationships?

5

Living Gently

Gentleness is not just something we admire; it is something we practice.

- a. Where is God inviting you to become more gentle right now?
- b. What would change in your relationships if gentleness became your first response this week?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: We all have our experiences that someone had not been gentle with us, or maybe we weren't gentle with someone.

- What was your experience like, whether the first or the second? How did that affect you?
- Have you been able to forgive them? Have you been able to forgive yourself? How might God's perspective of them or yourself help you release that circumstance to Him?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Helpful practical habits that might follow the theme of curriculum.

Living in God's Gentleness—This week, reflect on:

- Situations where you become reactive, defensive, or controlling.
- What fear, insecurity, or frustration may be underneath that reaction.
- How Jesus is guiding You to gentleness.

Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you how to deal gently with yourself and others.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Philippians 4:5 (NIV), "Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near."

Let the group rest in this encouragement as you close together in prayer.

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WEEK 10: SELF-CONTROL

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Self-control isn't about restriction, but about true freedom. In **Galatians 5**, self-control is the Spirit's work of bringing our desires, impulses, and habits under the leadership of Christ. Listed last in **Galatians 5:23**, "*self-control*" functions as a capstone virtue that safeguards the others, as the Spirit who indwells produces a new internal governance, freeing believers from the tyranny of the "*desires of the flesh*." Living in the flesh, we are often mastered by what we crave, but through the Spirit, we are empowered to live with clarity, discipline, and purpose. Jesus modeled this perfectly: resisting temptation, remaining obedient under pressure, and living fully surrendered to the Father's will. As we abide in Him, self-control becomes less about willpower and more about alignment. By the Spirit, we learn to say "*yes*" to what leads to life and "*no*" to what pulls us away from it.

This week, we'll identify what we allow to shape or control us and discover how the Spirit leads us into a life marked not by restraint alone, but by lasting freedom.

KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NIV)

Titus 2:11-12 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 What Shapes Us?

We are all being influenced and formed by something.

- a. What tends to have the strongest influence on your decisions, emotions, or daily habits?
- b. How can you tell when something other than God is beginning to have too much control in your life?

2 Freedom or Control?

Many things promise freedom but often end up controlling us.

- a. Have you ever pursued something you thought would bring freedom, only to discover it was unhealthy?
- b. Why do you think it's often difficult to recognize those patterns while we're living in them?

3 Learning from Jesus

Jesus faced temptation and pressure yet remained faithful to the Father's will.

- a. What stands out to you about the way Jesus responded to temptation in **Matthew 4**?
- b. When you feel tempted, pressured, or emotionally reactive, what usually makes it difficult to respond like Jesus?

4 Spirit-Led Freedom

Self-control is consistently saying "yes" to where the Spirit is leading you.

- a. Where has it been really hard to say "no?" Why?

- b. How can you start stepping into a pattern of hearing God's voice and living that out?

5

Seeing Fruit Grow

As we walk by the Spirit consistently, self-control increases and it's growth becomes visible.

- a. What is one area where you've seen God help you grow in self-control over the years?
- b. What is one area where you would like to experience more freedom and Spirit-led growth?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Paul describes the Christian life as a battle between the desires of the flesh and the leading of the Spirit.

- When do you find yourself most vulnerable to acting on impulse rather than listening to God?
- In what areas of your life do you sense the greatest tension between what you want versus what God is leading you toward, and why do you think that tension exists?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Helpful practical habits that might follow the theme of curriculum.

Living in Self-Control—This week, reflect on:

- What has been influencing me most lately?
- What is one small step of surrender God may be inviting me to take?

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you surrender to Him and help you walk by the Spirit.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5:16 (NIV), *"So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."*

Let the group rest in this encouragement as you close together in prayer.

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Prayer Requests

Note your prayer requests and fellow small group members' prayer requests here and pray for one another throughout the week.

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Water of Life
community church

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