

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 1: ABIDE

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

In a world that constantly pushes us toward hurry, performance, and self-sufficiency, Jesus offers a different way of living—one marked by dependence, surrender, and transformation through the Holy Spirit. Before we explore each attribute of the Fruit of the Spirit, we have to start with the primary invitation at the center of it all: abide in Christ.

In **John 15**, Jesus describes Himself as the vine and us as the branches, reminding us that the most fruitful life is not found in striving harder, but in staying constantly connected to Him. We produce what we are connected to, and lasting spiritual fruit can only grow from lives rooted in the presence of the Spirit through the life of Jesus.

KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

John 15 (NIV)

Galatians 5 (NIV)

John 13 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Abide in Jesus

In **John 15**, Jesus invites His disciples to abide in Christ, teaching them that they must remain in Him, who is the vine.

- a. What does it mean to abide in Christ?
- b. What are some habits that would draw us to abide in Him?

2

Producing Fruit

It's easy to believe we need to strive to produce fruit in our life, yet it's not by our own power, but in our obedience to Jesus that we see fruit produce.

- a. Why do you think we often want spiritual growth to happen quickly instead of gradually?
- b. How can we slow down and rely on the Spirit's voice, instead of rushing the process?

3

Where Are You Connected?

Jesus understands that we have various influences around us, so we have to be cautious how we let ourselves be influenced.

- a. Have you ever had someone influence or pressure you toward something you knew wasn't good for you? What made it hard to resist—or easier not to give in?
- b. What are some practical ways we can guard ourselves from unhealthy influence in our lives?

4

You Were Called to Freedom

Paul, in **Galatians 5:13**, says *"you were called to freedom brothers and sisters, only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but to serve one another in love."*

- a. Why do you think Paul says we have the freedom to do anything, but not the freedom to live for the flesh?
- b. Why do you think he adds "but to serve one another in love," in accordance to how we use our freedom?

Fruit of the Spirit

In **Galatians 5:22-23**, Paul writes about the fruits of the Spirit, which are the fruits born from walking in step with the Spirit.

- a. Which of these fruits are the hardest to live out? Why?
- b. What do you think God may be trying to teach or grow in you through that struggle?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: In **Galatians 5:19–20**, Paul talks about the kinds of things that grow in us when we live disconnected from God and led by our own desires.

- Which unhealthy pattern or reaction do you notice showing up most often in your life?
- How has that pattern affected you or the people around you? What do you think God may be trying to grow in its place?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Helpful practical habits that might follow the theme of curriculum.

Fruits of the Spirit: This week, reflect and write down:

- If you're living more by the flesh or by the Spirit.
- How is God calling you to start living?

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be aware of your own patterns of living and to know how He is guiding you to live.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

John 14:26, *"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."*

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.

NOTES

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WEEK 2: LOVE

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Our culture tells us that love is many things—love is a feeling, an emotion, something you can fall in and fall out of. Love is earned and is dependent on behavior. Yet Scripture presents love not as an emotion but as a decision. Love is sacrifice, a choice and a commitment that lasts long beyond the emotion of the moment. This week we will look at how the Bible defines love and how that should impact how we relate to God and each other

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

Romans 5:6-8 9 (NIV)

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV)

John 3:16 (NIV)

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Love Beyond Feelings

Our culture often defines love as emotion, attraction, or chemistry, but Scripture describes love as something deeper.

- a. What are some ways our culture defines love differently than how Jesus lived it out?
- b. Why do you think commitment becomes difficult when love is based mostly on feelings?

2

Loved First

1 John says, "We love because He first loved us."

- a. How does knowing God loved you before you earned it change the way you see Him?
- b. Why is it sometimes difficult to believe we are fully loved by God?

3

Sacrificial Love

Romans 5:8 says that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- a. What makes sacrificial love difficult in everyday relationships?
- b. When have you experienced someone loving you through a difficult or undeserving moment?

4

Love In Action

Love is more than a feeling; it is an intentional choice we make whether we feel love or do not.

- a. Which one has shaped the way you show love: your feelings or your intentional choice to love? Why?
- b. What are some ways we can start loving intentionally, even when we don't feel it?

5

Living Out Love with Jesus' as Our Example

When we know Jesus love, it becomes the example for how we love the people around us.

- a. How have you understood Jesus' love?
- b. How can you live out the love you have seen Him give?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Loving well is difficult, but this is what Jesus calls us into in each space we have the ability to.

- Where have you struggled to be loving to those around you? Why?
- What can you do to start loving well?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Helpful practical habits that might follow the theme of curriculum.

Love Like Jesus: This week, reflect and write:

- If you're submitting to your feelings or to God.
- How is God calling you to love?

Ask the Holy Spirit to show up where you are scared, teaching you His truth, so it might heal you.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:12-14, *"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."*

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

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WEEK 3: JOY

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

In a world constantly chasing happiness through comfort, success, and escape, Jesus offers a different kind of joy. In **Galatians 5**, joy is revealed as fruit produced by the Holy Spirit in lives rooted in Christ. It is not something we create through better circumstances, but something formed within us as we walk closely with Him.

This week, we'll explore how true joy grows through connection to God's presence. Even in difficult seasons, Jesus shows us that joy and sorrow can coexist, and that abiding in Him produces a resilient joy that brings hope, stability, and life in a difficult world.

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV)

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

Matthew 5:1-12 (NIV)

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Joy Versus Happiness

Jesus talks about a kind of joy that is deeper than the world's version happiness or comfort.

- a. What do you think is the difference between happiness and joy?
- b. Why do you think we often look to circumstances to determine how we're doing emotionally?

2 The Blessed Life

In the Beatitudes, Jesus calls people "blessed" even when they are poor, mourning, or meek.

- a. Why do you think Jesus connects the blessed life and joy with difficult unwanted circumstances instead of wanted ones?
- b. Have you ever experienced God's presence strongly during a hard season? What did that look like?

3 Joy in Him

In John 15, Jesus says that abiding in Him leads to joy.

- a. What are some things that pull your attention away from staying connected to Jesus?
- b. What helps you slow down enough to spend some time with God during the week?

4 Being a Joyful Light

Spirit-formed joy becomes visible to the people around us.

- a. How do you think joy affects the atmosphere around a person?
- b. When have you seen someone carry peace or joy in a way that impacted you?

5 Placing Our Joy in Him

When our life takes a turn, sometimes it seems our joy does too, but God wants us to place our joy in Him

- a. Is your joy dependent on your circumstances? Why?
- b. Do you think that it would be possible to have joy in difficult circumstance? Why or why not?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Jesus never promised a pain-free life, but He did promise to be with us in it all.

- Has believing that we might have a pain-free life on earth affected your perspective of God? Why or why not?
- What kind of healthy perspective do you think God wants us to have?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Helpful practical habits that might follow the theme of curriculum.

Finding Joy—This week, write down:

- How your current life is affecting your heart?
- How does God want to show up in your life?

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you recognize who your joy is dependent on. Also to know how He is guiding you to see the world through His eyes.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Philippians 4:6-7, *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.

NOTES

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WEEK 4: PEACE

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

It seems as though in life, we run into an unrest and anxiety due to different reasons. Responsibilities pile up, outcomes feel uncertain, relationships carry tension, and the pressure to keep everything together can quietly wear down the soul. If we are honest, many of us carry far more internally than anyone else can see. Into that unseen space, Jesus speaks a promise the world cannot offer: *"My peace I give to you."*

This week, we'll look at peace not as a calm personality, a conflict-free life, or the ability to stay unaffected by difficulty, but as the deep security that comes from belonging to Christ. In **Galatians 5**, peace is one of the signs that the Spirit is reshaping what is happening beneath the surface of our lives. As we bring our anxieties to God, release our need to control every outcome, and learn to trust Jesus in the storm, we can start to recognize the Spirit form a stability in us that circumstances cannot create and pressure does not have to destroy. This peace becomes more than something we feel; it becomes something we carry into our homes, relationships, work, and world.

KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

John 14:27 (NIV)

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

Philippians 4:6-9 (NIV)

Mark 4:35-41 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Carrying More than We Show

Many people look calm on the outside while carrying anxiety internally.

- a. What are some things that quietly steal your peace throughout the week?
- b. Why do you think it can be difficult to admit when we feel overwhelmed or anxious?

2

During the Storm

In **Mark 4**, the disciples panic during the storm while Jesus remains calm in the boat.

- a. Do you think it can be difficult to trust God in certain areas of life when you have never personally experienced His peace or presence there before?
- b. Usually, what is your first reaction being in this kind of situation?

3

Releasing Control

Philippians 4:4-7 tells believers to not be anxious, but by prayer and thanksgiving make your requests known to God.

- a. Why are prayer and thanksgiving so important that we do this instead of being anxious.
- b. How has God guarded your heart when you have consistently spent time praying?

4

Living into Peace

Peace is advertised as this really nice emotion, where we feel calm and comforted. Peace in Scripture is more than just a feeling; it's a way of living amid the storm.

- a. How have you chased after feeling the emotion of peace to carry you through a difficult circumstance? How did that affect you and the people around you?
- b. What do you think it means for peace to be a way of living, as something we get to step into every day?

5

Staying Connected to God

Peace is one of the fruits the Holy Spirit develops within us over time.

- a. What habits or rhythms help you stay connected to God during stressful seasons?
- b. These habits are ways to make space for God to meet you; knowing this, how can you use them to make space for the Holy Spirit transform you into a person of peace?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Jesus never promised a life without storms, but He did promise His presence within them.

- Do you think His presence is enough in your storms? Why or why not?
- What does it say about the kind of God He is that He wants to be with you in the storm?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Helpful practical habits that might follow the theme of curriculum.

Finding Peace—This week, practice:

- A rhythm of spending time with God.
- Reflect on how God showed up.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you recognize how to live in His peace in every circumstance.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.

NOTES

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WEEK 5: PATIENCE

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Life has a way of exposing our impatience, not only in the small disruptions, but in the deeper places where our hopes feel delayed, our prayers seem unanswered, people are slow to change, or God's timing feels hard to understand. Patience is not simply the ability to stay calm or wait longer. It is the Spirit-formed strength to remain faithful, loving, and steady when life does not move at the speed we prefer.

We can grow to a place where we view patience as active trust in God's character and timing. Through the image of a farmer waiting for the harvest, James reminds us that faithful waiting is not passive; it is the willingness to keep doing the next right thing while trusting God with what only He can do. And in 2nd Peter, we are reminded that what may feel like slowness to us is often the mercy and patience of God at work. As we abide in Jesus, the Spirit forms in us a patience that can endure suffering without becoming bitter, love others without demanding control, and wait on God without losing hope.

KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

James 5:7-11 (NIV)

2 Peter 3:8-9 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 **Waiting Is Difficult**

Impatience often shows us where we struggle to trust God's timing.

- a. What kinds of situations tend to make you the most impatient?
- b. Why do you think waiting can feel so frustrating or uncomfortable?

2 **Faithful in the Waiting**

James compares patience to a farmer waiting for a harvest.

- a. What do you think it means to remain faithful while waiting on God?
- b. How can we continue doing the "next right thing" even when nothing seems to be changing?

3 **Patience with People**

Sometimes the hardest place to practice patience is with others.

- a. Where has it been hardest for you to practice patience with others? Why?
- b. How did impatience affect that relationship?

4 **God's Timing**

2 Peter reminds us that what feels slow to us may actually be God's mercy at work.

- a. Have you ever looked back and realized God's timing was better than your own?
- b. Why is it difficult to trust God when we do not understand what He is doing?

5

Becoming Steady

The Holy Spirit forms patience in us so we do not become bitter or hopeless in difficult seasons.

- a. What usually happens in your heart when life is not moving the way you hoped?
- b. What do you think it looks like to remain hopeful while waiting?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Patience often reveals whether we trust God only for outcomes or also in the process.

- Do you tend to trust God more when life is moving quickly or slowly? Why?
- What might God want to teach you in a season of waiting?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Helpful practical habits that might follow the theme of curriculum.

Finding Patience—This week, take a few moments each day to reflect on:

- Where you feel rushed, frustrated, or discouraged.
- How to respond like Jesus would when you feel this way.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you remain faithful, steady, and hopeful even when life feels slow.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:2-3 (NIV), *"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*

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

NOTES

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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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