

# **Bible Study Guide: The Good and Beautiful God – Understanding Love, Holiness, and Grace**

 Source Transcript:

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## **Big Idea**

**God’s holiness and love are not in conflict—they work together to draw us into transformation through grace, truth, and a restored relationship.**

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## **Theme**

**Understanding who God truly is—holy, loving, just, and merciful—changes how we see ourselves, others, and the purpose of the cross.**

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## **Core Scriptures**

### **Psalm 103:8–10**

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”

### **Exodus 34:6**

“The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious...”

## **Romans 5:8**

“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

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### **Introduction: Rethinking Who God Is**

Many people have a distorted view of God:

- A harsh judge
- A distant authority
- A conditional lover

But Scripture reveals:

#### **Key Insight:**

“God’s holiness is expressed through His love.”

#### **The Problem**

We project human love onto God:

- Transactional
- Conditional
- Performance-based

#### **The Truth**

God’s love is:

- Unconditional
- Sacrificial

- Transformational
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## **Main Point 1: God's Love Is Different Than Ours**

### **Explanation**

Human love:

- Is conditional
- Depends on behavior
- Often ends when offended

God's love:

- Never fails
- Pursues even in sin
- Forgives continually

“We love conditionally—God loves unconditionally.”

### **Biblical Examples**

- The Prodigal Son
- The woman at the well
- Jesus eating with sinners

### **Application**

- Do I believe God's love is unconditional?
- How does this change how I see myself?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“God’s love is not based on your performance.”

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## **Main Point 2: Holiness and Love Work Together**

### **Explanation**

God’s holiness:

- Sets Him apart
- Defines what is right

God’s love:

- Draws us toward Him
- Restores relationship

“His holiness does not push us away—it calls us closer.”

### **Spiritual Truth**

Holiness is not:

- Harsh judgment

It is:

- Loving guidance

### **Application**

- Do I fear God’s holiness or trust it?

- How does holiness guide my life?

### **Sticky Quote:**

“God’s holiness protects what His love values.”

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## **Main Point 3: Grace Is a Gift—Not a License**

### **Explanation**

Grace:

- Is freely given
- Cannot be earned

But:

“Some misuse grace as an excuse to continue in sin.”

### **Spiritual Truth**

True grace:

- Leads to transformation
- Produces change

False grace:

- Ignores sin
- Avoids growth

### **Application**

- Am I living transformed by grace?
- Or taking advantage of it?

### **Sticky Quote:**

“Grace changes you—it doesn’t excuse you.”

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## **Main Point 4: Jesus Meets People Where They Are**

### **Explanation**

Jesus:

- Sits with sinners
- Heals the broken
- Restores the rejected

“He goes to the people no one else wants.”

### **Spiritual Truth**

God does not say:

- “Fix yourself, then come”

He says:

- “Come, and I will transform you”

### **Application**

- Do I believe God meets me where I am?

- How do I treat others who are struggling?

### **Sticky Quote:**

“Jesus meets you in your mess—not after it.”

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## **Main Point 5: Judgment Is Rooted in Love**

### **Explanation**

God’s anger:

- Is not random
- Is not hateful

It is:

- Protective
- Corrective

“God’s anger is about protecting you from harm.”

### **Illustration**

Like a parent:

- Correcting a child to prevent harm

### **Spiritual Truth**

Judgment:

- Teaches

- Redirects
- Restores

## **Application**

- How do I respond to conviction?
- Do I see correction as love?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“God’s correction is proof of His care.”

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## **Main Point 6: Sin Has Consequences We Cannot Fix**

### **Explanation**

Sin:

- Separates us from God
- Leads to death

“We cannot undo sin ourselves.”

### **Spiritual Truth**

No amount of:

- Good deeds
- Religion
- Effort

Can remove sin

## **Application**

- Do I try to fix myself without God?
- Do I understand my need for a Savior?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“You cannot fix what only God can redeem.”

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## **Main Point 7: Jesus Paid the Price for Our Sin**

### **Explanation**

Jesus:

- Took our place
- Bore our sin
- Paid the ultimate price

“The consequence was fulfilled by Jesus on the cross.”

### **Spiritual Truth**

The cross is:

- Justice satisfied
- Love demonstrated

### **Application**

- Do I fully accept what Jesus has done?
- How does this change my life?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“Jesus took your place so you could have His life.”

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## **Main Point 8: Conviction Leads Us Back to God**

### **Explanation**

The Holy Spirit:

- Convicts
- Guides
- Restores

“Conviction is God calling you back home.”

### **Spiritual Truth**

Conviction is not:

- Condemnation

It is:

- Invitation

### **Application**

- How do I respond to conviction?
- Do I turn toward God or away?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“Conviction is the voice of grace.”

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## **Main Point 9: We Are Called to Reflect God’s Love**

### **Explanation**

We cannot:

- Love God
- Hate others

### **Spiritual Truth**

True faith produces:

- Compassion
- Forgiveness
- Grace

“You cannot love God and hate your brother.”

### **Application**

- Where am I struggling to love others?
- What needs to change in my heart?

## **Sticky Quote:**

“Your love for others reveals your love for God.”

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## **Main Point 10: The Cross Is the Ultimate Invitation**

### **Explanation**

The cross declares:

- You are loved
- You are forgiven
- You are invited

“The cross is wide open for you.”

### **Spiritual Truth**

Jesus:

- Never abandons
- Never rejects
- Always welcomes

### **Application**

- Will I accept this invitation?
- How will I respond?

### **Sticky Quote:**

“The cross is not rejection—it’s an invitation home.”

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### **Discussion Questions**

1. How has your view of God been shaped over time?

2. Do you struggle to accept God's unconditional love?
  3. How do you respond to conviction?
  4. Where might you be misusing grace?
  5. How can you better reflect God's love to others?
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## **Practical Application Steps**

### **1. Embrace God's Love**

- Stop striving—start receiving

### **2. Respond to Conviction**

- Turn back to God quickly

### **3. Live Transformed**

- Let grace change your actions

### **4. Show Compassion**

- Extend grace to others

### **5. Reflect on the Cross**

- Remember what Jesus has done
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## **Closing Prayer**

Father,  
Thank You for being both holy and loving.

Help us to understand Your heart,  
to receive Your grace,  
and to walk in transformation.

Teach us to love others  
as You have loved us,  
and to live in the freedom of the cross.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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## **Final Takeaway**

**When you truly understand God's love and holiness, it changes everything—how you see yourself, how you live, and how you love others.**