



**Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series:
I Choose: Week 9 (November 26, 2023)**

*This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only." (James 1:22) **Step 1: GATHER** with your family or group. **Step 2: REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon. **Step 3: PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.*

DISCUSSION STARTER

When you think of the meaning of "GOOD", what comes to mind? People often say, "I am a good person" when they are defending their position before God. This is usually spoken in the context of, I don't need Jesus because I am good. In saying this by the definition of "GOOD", they are stating, "I am morally righteous and approved by God already, I don't need Jesus." How does this align with scripture?

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read: Psalm 13:1-3 & Luke 18:19. To fully understand the biblical definition of "GOOD", we must shift our minds from the idea of good meaning 'doing nice things for people'. People are capable of being kind or thoughtful, giving generous gifts, and caring for the disadvantaged. But the Bible is clear that no amount of "good deeds" can change the fact that people are sinful by nature. Doing nice things will not make us morally right and approved before God. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read Romans 3:10-12. Once we realize that our good deeds will never make us good enough to be approved of and made morally right before God, it is then, and only then, that we realize our need for Jesus. We are approved of and determined right with God because Jesus is good, not because we are good (Romans 3:22-23). When you place your faith in Jesus' goodness, only then will you be approved of before God, being made righteous and holy.

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read Acts 11:22-24. What makes Barnabas good? The fact that he was "full of the Holy Spirit and faith". So, the foundation of goodness is being full of the Holy Spirit and faith. We must place our faith in Christ, believing that he was God in the flesh, that he was perfectly good, and that he died on the cross to conquer our sins and make us morally right with and approved before God. This is what makes us full of the Holy Spirit and faith. Barnabas loved and encouraged others towards Jesus. We see Barnabas' love for people in four ways: he accepted imperfect believers, he cared more about people using their gifts than he did his own success, he generously invested into building God's kingdom (Acts 4:36-37), and he devoted himself to reaching lost people.

DOING THE WORD

When you are full of the Holy Spirit and faith you will begin to influence other people to the Lord. Biblical love is a self-sacrificing commitment to lead someone to be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, and to want their relationship with God to grow. The greatest way we can show love to someone is to tell them about the grace of God in Christ so that they may be saved. How can you be like Barnabas this week? Is your love for God growing? Are you seeking to help others step into a relationship with Jesus and grow in their faith? Do you ask God to use you to reach the lost for Christ? Are you generously investing in ministry to expand sharing the Gospel? This is how you become a truly 'good' person before God.