

Here's a small group guide based on the sermon transcription:

## Small Group Guide: Enthralling Our Minds with God's Goodness and Greatness

### Opening Question:

Share a time when you experienced awe or wonder in nature. How did it make you feel about God?

### Key Takeaways:

1. God has given us free will as a fundamental aspect of being human.
2. The purpose of our free will is to make decisions that determine how things play out on Earth.
3. The ultimate goal of the gospel is to transform our thinking and desires to align with God's intentions.
4. We can cultivate a big view of God's goodness and greatness through:
  - a) Creation
  - b) The Bible and the gospel of Jesus Christ
  - c) Recognizing God's goodness in the events of our lives

### Discussion Questions:

1. How does understanding our free will as a gift from God change your perspective on decision-making?
2. The sermon mentioned that the universe is expanding at over 3 million light years per second, yet is precisely calibrated. How does this scientific fact impact your view of God's greatness?
3. Discuss Dallas Willard's quote: "The acid test for any theology is this: Is the God presented one that can be loved heart, soul, mind, and strength?" How would you describe a God who can be loved in this way?
4. How does seeing your life "within the framework of unqualified goodness" (as Willard suggests) change your perspective on difficult circumstances?

5. The sermon talks about being "set free to do whatever we want" and having that align with God's intentions. What steps can we take to move closer to this ideal?

#### Practical Applications:

1. This week, spend time observing nature and reflecting on how it reveals God's character. Journal your thoughts.
2. Choose a passage from the Gospels and read it daily, focusing on Jesus' actions and words. How does this deepen your understanding of God's goodness?
3. At the end of each day this week, identify one event where you recognized God's goodness. Share these with the group next time you meet.
4. Memorize Philippians 1:6. Reflect on how God is working to complete the good work He began in you.

#### Closing Prayer:

Lord, we thank You for the gift of free will and the opportunity to know You more deeply. Help us to be captivated by Your goodness and greatness as we observe Your creation, study Your Word, and recognize Your hand in our lives. Transform our minds and hearts to align more closely with Your perfect will. In Jesus' name, Amen.