God Family Country

GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Trust God, Love People

Speaker: Wanda Gardner

Scripture quotations are from the King James Version (KJV).

Highlighted Scripture

- **Psalm 118:8 (KJV)**

  "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."

  Our deepest confidence belongs in the Lord. Wanda's message invites us to bring our disappointments to Him, while still receiving faithful people as gifts rather than expecting them to take God's place.

- **Jeremiah 17:5 (KJV)**

  "Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD."

  The warning concerns relying on human strength while turning our hearts away from God. It calls us to examine where we place our ultimate hope; it does not require rejecting every trustworthy relationship.

- **Psalm 62:8 (KJV)**

  "Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah."

  Trusting God makes room for honest prayer. We can bring Him fear, grief and uncertainty without pretending that painful experiences did not matter. He is our refuge as we decide how to move forward.

- **Romans 12:10 (KJV)**

  "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;"

  Christian community is marked by genuine affection and honor. Discernment can protect us from harm without becoming an excuse to withdraw kindness or assume the worst of everyone.

- **Ephesians 4:32 (KJV)**

  "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

  God's forgiveness in Christ shapes the way we treat others. Tenderheartedness and forgiveness grow from His mercy, rather than from denying that someone has done wrong.

- **Colossians 3:13 (KJV)**

  "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

  Remembering Christ's forgiveness helps us bear with one another. Forgiveness and rebuilt trust are distinct: restoring trust may require truthful change, accountability and time. Love need not mean immediate access to our lives.

- **Matthew 6:14 (KJV)**

  "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:"

  Following the Lord's Prayer, Jesus takes forgiveness seriously. Receiving the Father's mercy calls us to extend mercy. This is not permission to excuse harm or a transaction by which we purchase God's grace.

- **Matthew 10:16 (KJV)**

  "be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."

  Jesus spoke these words while sending His disciples into a hostile setting. Wisdom and gentleness belong together. We can set appropriate boundaries and recognize danger without responding with malice.

Discussion Questions

- What is the difference between receiving help from a faithful person and asking that person to provide the security only God can give?
- How does Psalm 62:8 invite you to pray honestly about a difficult relationship? Share only what you feel comfortable sharing; painful details are not required.
- How might forgiveness and rebuilding trust require different steps? What could a wise boundary look like alongside a sincere desire for another person's good?
- Where do you need both the wisdom and gentleness Jesus describes in Matthew 10:16? How could those qualities shape your next response?
- Wanda expresses gratitude for George's faithfulness. Who has shown you dependable love, and how can you practice that kind of faithfulness toward someone else?

Reflection Challenge

This week, bring one relationship before God. You do not need to solve its whole history at once. Ask Him for one faithful next step that reflects both love and wisdom.

Ask yourself:

- Am I placing an expectation on someone that belongs with God alone?
- Am I protecting a necessary boundary, holding on to revenge, or struggling to distinguish the two?
- Where can my own honesty, kindness and consistency help others know they can depend on me?

Try this:

- Read one of the highlighted passages in its surrounding chapter. Notice what it says about God before deciding what it asks of you.
- Write a private prayer naming what you need to entrust to God: hurt, uncertainty, resentment or an outcome you cannot control.

- Choose one wise action, such as a kind response, a clear boundary or seeking counsel from a trustworthy believer. Contact with someone unsafe is not required.
- Thank God for a person who has demonstrated faithfulness. If appropriate, tell that person one specific way their care has encouraged you.

Remember

- God is our ultimate refuge; people were never meant to carry His place in our lives.
- Loving people and exercising discernment can go together.
- Forgiveness does not mean pretending harm did not happen.
- Rebuilt trust may need honesty, accountability and time.
- Wise boundaries can be held without bitterness or revenge.
- Faithful relationships are gifts to receive with gratitude, and faithfulness is something we can practice.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for being our refuge. We bring You the disappointments and fears that make trust difficult. Help us place our deepest confidence in You. Because You have shown us mercy in Christ, teach us to forgive without denying the truth. Give us wisdom to recognize danger, courage to keep appropriate boundaries and gentleness in the way we treat others. Thank You for people who show dependable love. Make us honest, kind and faithful as we entrust what we cannot control to You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.