



ONE ANOTHER



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

2020

Introduction To The 4G Guide

Introduction to the *One Another* series

When people ask me what I love about Calvary, my answer is always the same, "We are a family." We are not a perfect family, because we are imperfect people. Nevertheless, we are a family that worships together, serves together, and cares for one another. We do this because God did not create the church to be a business, an organization, or even a building. God created the church to be a family working together to make disciples.

In our "One Another" series we will discover how we can work together as a family for God's mission. The book of Acts shows how the first Christians came together to hear God's Word, serve God, and serve one another. When they did, people saw God working and gave their lives to Jesus. Together, we can live a life where others can see Jesus and the life that He offers.

GATHER – GOD – GROUP – GIVE

It's important that we GATHER each week as a church family. Still, God has so much more for us! He wants us to take what He's teaching and apply it to our lives. This is the heart of the 4G Guides. We've written these guides to encourage you in your personal GOD TIME and in your small GROUPS. They're designed to help you understand and apply what God is saying to us. This then allows you to take what God is teaching and GIVE it to others.

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture references are from the *English Standard Version* (ESV Text Edition: 2016) Bible.



USING THE 4G GUIDE

Each week is divided into four sections:



Gear Up

Each week starts with the Gear Up section. This section introduces the weekly topic and expounds on Scripture. Also provided are some practical steps to putting the subject matter into practice.



God Time

Personal time with God is vital to the Christian walk. Five daily devotionals are provided for each week's topic. This is your one-on-one time in a guided devotional format. At the conclusion, we encourage you to pray, seeking direction for the day and the rest of the week.



Group Time

We learn from one another! In small groups we meet to dig deeper into the weekly material. This booklet contains lesson outlines for discipleship discussion. For more information on available groups and forming a group, go to our Groups webpage:

cbcfamily.net/groups.



Family Group Time

Family worship glorifies God. Each week we have simple devotionals just for Families. Plan ahead though, as many of these lessons include fun experiments or video shorts to discuss.



Gear Up: We Are In This Together

We've probably all seen an old broken-down church building. It's sad! Whether abandonment by the congregation, natural disaster, people moving away, or crime was the cause, it just seems like church buildings should have people in them. While an abandoned church building is a sad sight to see, we must remember that the Church is not a building. No, the Bible teaches us that *the Church* comprises the people of God—also called the body of Christ. A church building does not define the people of God, and it does not limit us.

Where Is the Church?

Look at Acts 2:42-47.

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. ⁴⁴Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. ⁴⁵They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

There's a lot to focus on in this passage—wonders, miracles, and signs! But there's something else. This passage shows us what the early Christians were passionate about: truth, community, and caring. First, they were passionate about God's Word. This meant they wanted to know the truth about salvation and godly living. Secondly, they were intentional with their time with God and others. This meant they spent time in worship, in one another's homes, and fellowshiping with those in their community of faith. Thirdly, they deliberately cared for other Believers. They wanted them to have their needs met— even if it involved personal expense.

So, where is the Church? It is wherever the body of Christ gathers to follow Him. It is where people live by those three hallmarks of faith. We can do that in our Sunday morning gatherings, Bible study groups, and in service opportunities throughout the week.

Where the Church Is, Lives Are Changed

Following Christ is transformational, but it also comes with a price. The early church faced great difficulty - they often lost their homes, their jobs, or even their lives. But like Jesus taught us, we must be willing to leave all for His sake (Luke 14:33). Just as the early church experienced persecution or difficulty, we may, too. But we must be willing. Why? Because following Jesus is worth it!

Being a part of the family of God changes us through truth, godly community, and biblical caring. The early church knew and experienced this. And so can we!

On Mission Together

As the Church, our mission is to help people find Jesus, so that they can join the family of faith. (Matthew 28:19-20) This means we teach who Jesus is, why He came, and how to experience the salvation that comes by grace through faith in Him.

But we must work together to accomplish this! God has given us each one of us gifts and abilities that play important roles in the mission. It is only by working together that we can accomplish what the CBC Family calls the "3 D's." Together, we can demonstrate God's love (John 13:35), declare the Good News, and make disciples both near and far (Matt 28:19-20). The question is... are you ready?

God Time: Day 1



Ephesians 2:19-22
19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

V. 19 says we are “fellow citizens” and that we are “members of the household of God”. If we are followers of Jesus, this defines our new identity. We have a new “nationality” and “family”.



“Fellow citizens” defines our new _____

“Members of the household” defines our new _____

Who are “the saints?” _____



Verse 20 tells us this new identity is built on three foundations:

“The _____” (Found in the New Testament)

“The _____” (Found in the Old Testament)

“_____ himself being the cornerstone” from whom everything is created.



In verse 21, circle “the whole structure.” The whole structure includes us with the saints, the founders, and the cornerstone.



Verse 21 says that the “the whole structure, being joined together, grows into...” something. What does it “grow into?”

Who is “you” in “you also are being built together?” (Verse 22)

What are we “being built together into?”

Who is directing this process?

God Time: Day 2



Ephesians 4:15-16
15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.



Circle who is the head of the church? (Hint: Verse 15)

- a) Pastor b) Jesus c) Elders d) The Bank



Circle who equips and holds the body parts together.

- a) Pastor b) Jesus c) Elders d) Parking



Circle, who “makes the body grow?”

- a) Pastor b) Jesus c) Elders d) Potlucks

Hopefully you circled “b” for each question and enjoyed “d.” How must the parts, us, work to make this all happen? (V. 16)

Are you doing your “part?” Are you “working properly?” If God is calling you to do more or do better, talk to your group leader or Pastor and we will help you find your proper part.

God Time: Day 3



Colossians 3:16
16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.



Here is a list of synonyms for “teaching” and “admonishing,” circle four “teaching” words and underline four “admonishing” words:

Coaching Rebuking Training Warning

Reprimanding Educating Instructing Scolding

Colosians 3:16 says we should do both with one another.



• What is our **source** for “teaching and admonishing”?
_____ Wha
t should our **attitude** be when doing both? Pray for this.

God Time: Day 4



Ephesians 4:11-13 NIV
11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Verse 11 identifies leadership roles.



Who gifted these leaders? _____

Verse 12 identifies the leaders’ purposes:

“To equip the saints _____”

“For building up _____”



Re-write verse 13 in your own words:

God Time: Day 5



CBC’s Mission Statement is to DEMONSTRATE God’s love, DECLARE the Good News, and DISCIPLE near and far.

As we’ve seen this week, to accomplish this mission it is God’s will that we are better together. Through Jesus, each of us is equipped with certain gifts, and each of us is vital - when we each do our part!



Matthew 16:18
18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Prior to this, Peter had just proclaimed, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Matthew 16:16.



What are you proclaiming? Playing a part in CBC’s mission is witness to your proclamation. Make an honest assessment of the parts you are playing in each of the three pieces of CBC’s mission statement:

1. Demonstrate God’s Love

2. Declare the Good News of His Gospel

3. Make Disciples Near & Far

Group Time

◀◀ LOOK BACK:



1. Each participant shares one praise and one prayer request. (Commit these to prayer for the coming week.)

2. ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

Y/N	Y/N	_____
_____	_____	

3. Starting a new series.



What do you hope to gain from this series?

▶▶ LOOK UP:

Good News: *As the church, we are called to live on mission together. The One Another passages show us how to do this.*

In Acts 2:42-47 we catch a glimpse of the first church. We can see what the first Christians were passionate about - God’s word, spending intentional time together, and deliberately caring for one another and others. Who wouldn’t want to be a part of that?

We see that people were giving their lives to Jesus daily, but remember, this also led to intense persecution. How did the church sustain itself? People were continually drawn to the church because these followers of Jesus had something to offer that no one else did. They offered truth, community, and compassion.

The church is wherever followers of Christ gather to pursue Jesus; and wherever the church is, lives are changed. We need to measure ourselves using these two parameters: we gather to pursue Jesus, and lives are being changed. Together, this is our mission.

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

Read: Acts 2:42-47. After answering each question, discuss how the practices of the first church compare to our practices today.

- Through the apostles’ leadership, how did they *worship*?

- How did they *fellowship* with one another?
- How did their actions affect others in *outreach* (Acts 2:47a)?
- What was the result (Acts 2:47b)?

▶▶ LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *CBC’s Mission Statement is to DEMONSTRATE God’s love, DECLARE the Good News, and DISCIPLE near and far. Are You Ready To Live On Mission Together?*

- What is God asking you to do right now to DEMONSTRATE His love?
 - _____
 - How, when, and with whom will you do it this week?
 - _____
- Do you know how to DECLARE the Good News?
 - If not, what will you do? _____
 - If yes, right now, to whom is God asking you to declare?
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____
 - 3. _____
 - How and when will you do it?
 - _____
- Are you teaching and training others (DISCIPLE) to do these two things? Do you know how?
 - If not, what will you do? _____
 - _____
 - If yes, are they teaching and training others also (2 Tim. 2:2)?
 - _____

Pray for one another to take these steps. Be ready to share with your group what God does with your obedience.



Family Time



Big Idea: What is your mission?



Key Verse: Acts 2:42

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

The devil is very good at distracting us from the mission of telling others about Jesus. Sometimes the consequences of those distractions are huge.



Ask: How important do you think it is to tell others about Jesus? Why?



Encourage: What are your distractions? Hobbies and other things we enjoy can be great, but if they are making us turn away from the mission God has called us to, they become distractions that steal from us.



Challenge: How can you as a family be deliberate in caring for others and showing Jesus to them? Here are a few ideas. Place a check next to the ones that you will do as a family sometime this month or write out your own idea.

___ Prepare care packages to be distributed to homeless individuals around Bastrop or Austin. Include useful items such as toiletries, sustainable items such as packaged snacks, and encouraging items such as a small Bible or handwritten message from your family.

___ Commit to volunteering as a family at locations such as *Feed the Need, Primera Food Pantry, or the Bastrop Pregnancy Resource Center*. These are great service opportunities where children, teens and adults can all be involved together, giving an opportunity to share Jesus with others.

___ Write an email letter to our missionary to Ukraine, Gary Chadwick. (gchad2003@gmail.com)

___ Come up with your own idea that deliberately proclaims Jesus to those in our community:





Also: *Care@Calvary* is a ministry that allows us to serve, help, and care for our church family as a family.

Sign up by sending an email to care@cbcbastrop.org. You will be notified when a need arises.



Gear Up: Love One Another

The Jews were passionate about the Law of God.

They had His words and rules, the 10

Commandments, the stories of what He had done for them in the Exodus and more, but they became legalistic and prideful. Before long they had added more rules and approached God's Word from the wrong heart. Rule-following became more important than the heart and many thought they were better than others simply because they had the Law.

Interestingly, Jesus came along and did everything the Law required. But He fulfilled it from the right heart—meaning He was never prideful nor legalistic! Instead of telling His followers all about rules, He gave us a new command: loving one another. Jesus focused on the heart!

Read John 13:34-35.

³⁴I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I [Jesus] have loved you, you are also to love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

A New Commandment

Jesus gave us the new commandment of loving like Him to show the world that we are His. The Greek word “new” here means that it hadn't been found just like this before—*new not in age, but fresh in quality*. Though God's people had been told to love one another (Leviticus 19:18) and should have been doing that, now Jesus is telling them to love in a new way—with the new quality of loving like He does. Now there is a specific example to follow!

So, how did Jesus love? He lowered Himself (being humble), served others who had nothing to offer, was never self seeking nor prideful, and gave up everything so that others could have life. Notice, none of these are feelings; no they are choices involving actions. What this means is that we too can choose to show love like Jesus.

Love Like Jesus

Since we are followers of Jesus who have placed our faith in Him, we have God's Holy Spirit living inside us. The Spirit gives us the power to choose love (even when we don't feel like it) and He gives us the power to then act on that choice.

When we love like Jesus, we can give others better than they deserve. We can also make sacrifices so that other people can experience a love that forgives, builds, and encourages. This is the kind of love that changes lives - it helps them see who Jesus is and prepares their hearts to place their faith in Him.

Outdo One Another in Love

Read Romans 12:10 (ESV).

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

The Bible clearly tells us to love everyone. Jesus teaches us this in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10). But in addition to that, we are given special instructions to love “one another” (John 13:35) – meaning other Believers. The Greek word for “one another” here is “*allelon*.” This means of the same kind.

When we choose to love those inside and outside the church in a Christlike way, it shows the world that we follow Him. This is a powerful witness to unbelievers of who Jesus is and what He can do through normal people. It makes them want to know the God who can make us love that way! Who will you show love to today? Who will you point to Jesus?

God Time: Day 1



Read John 13:34-35

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.



Circle each instance of "love one another" (there are 3).
Who is our example to follow in loving one another?



How would you describe His love for us?

If we love one another in this way, what will be the result?

God Time: Day 2



Read John 15:9-10

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.



Whose loving example does Jesus follow? _____

Whose loving example should we follow? _____



Circle each instance of "abide in _____ love".

How did Jesus show He was abiding in the Father's love?



In the same way, how do we show we are abiding in Jesus' love?

What did Jesus command us to do (Matthew 22:37-40 and 28:19-20)?

God Time: Day 3



Read John 15:12-14

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you.



Verse 12: Whose loving example are we to follow? _____

Verse 13: What do friends do to show their love?

Verse 13: How do we know that Jesus loved His friends?

Verse 14: How do we know if we are friends of Jesus?

God Time: Day 4



Read John 15:15-17

¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.



In verse 15, circle the word "all" and the words "known to you."

Has Jesus shared all that the Father has shared? _____

In verse 16, Jesus has appointed us for a purpose. What is it?



The latter part of v. 16 begins, "so that..." Write the rest of verse 16b in your own words. (What does "in my name" mean?)

Verse 17 says that "bearing fruit that abides" is commanded. For what result? _____

God Time: Day 5



Read 1 John 4:7-12
⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.



Circle each "love," "loves," "loved," or "love one another,"



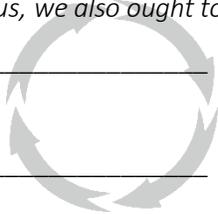
From verses 7 and 8, summarize the relationship between God and love, love and people, and people and God:



Most religions are based upon people doing things to gain a god's favor. How are these verses different?



Finish verse 11: "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to..."



Finish verse 12: "if we love one another..."



What can you do today to show love to another with no expectation of anything in return? How will you do it?

Group Time

LOOK BACK:



1. Each participant shares one praise and one prayer request. (Commit these to prayer for the coming week.)

2. ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

Y/N	Y/N	_____
_____	_____	

3. **Point:** *CBC’s Mission Statement is to DEMONSTRATE God’s love, DECLARE the Good News, and DISCIPLE near and far. Are You Ready To Live On Mission Together?*

Review the previous lesson. How did you do the 3D’s (Demonstrate, Ddeclare, and Disciple) this past week?

LOOK UP:

Good News: *If we want people to know that we are followers of Christ, we need to love like Christ loves us.*

The Hebrew people were serious about The Law. It included not only the Ten Commandments, but also all the other commands given in the first five books of the Old Testament. But it didn’t take long for pride and legalism to result in extra-biblical, manmade rules which were required to be followed as proof of a godly life. (Unfortunately, we can often see this even in the church today.)

But then Jesus came. He not only obeyed all the commands, but He changed the playing field. He lowered himself, served those who had nothing to offer, gave everything so others could have life, and gave us a new commandment: *“Love one another as I have loved you.”*

Jesus’ love was more than a feeling, it was a **choice** accompanied by **action**. Therefore, our love for one another must mirror this. We must **choose** to give others better than they deserve and sacrifice so that others can experience love (John 13:35).

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

Read: Romans 12:10

- How would you define *“brotherly affection?”* List examples of what this would look like today.
- What does it mean to *“Outdo one another in showing honor?”* List examples of what this would look like today.
- Read Romans 12:11-21. Compare this list with your lists above.

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *Our love for one another should make others say, “I want to meet the Jesus that makes them love that way.”*

- What is one thing you could give someone in the church that is better than they deserve?

- How, when, and with whom will you do it? (This can be confidential and does not have to be shared with the group.)

- What is one thing you could do sacrificially so that someone in the church can experience love?

- How, when, and with whom will you do it? (This can be confidential and does not have to be shared with the group.)

- **Care@Calvary** is a ministry that allows us to serve, help, and care for our church family. Go to cbcfamily.net/care.



Family Time



Big Idea: If we want people to know that we are followers of Christ we need to love like Christ loves us.



Key Verse: John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Set it up: Simple acts of kindness are so rare these days that anyone reaching out in love to others will be noticed.



Ask: How do you think a lady on a bus feels when a young man gives her his seat?

How blessed is a young mother when someone helps her buy supplies for her baby?

Pride often keeps us from reaching out to others. What is holding you back from helping strangers in a time of need?



Encourage: Loving as Jesus loves is not the same thing as the feeling we often think of when we talk about love. Loving as Jesus loves is a choice. A choice to serve those who have nothing to offer us in return. We often have to look past what might make us uncomfortable so we can extend love to those who need to feel the heart of Jesus.



Challenge: As a family, make a list of three people you have encountered this month who need to experience God’s love:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

How can you cross their path and love them this week? What simple act of kindness can you reach out with, so they feel cared for and loved? Make your friends and those you encounter want to meet the Jesus that makes you love them so well!



Gear Up: Encourage One Another

Most of us know: sinning is easy and doing right is difficult. The reasons for this involve our sinful nature, and temptations that come from Satan and the world. Yet, God has given us help to overcome! One way He helps us is through Christian community; we can help and encourage one another.

Satan would like us to stay isolated and individualistic. If he can convince us to be afraid to share our struggles, show our weakness, give up control, and take risks in godly relationships, then he has achieved a little victory. But God wants us to follow Him— and this means we do those things... and help each other in the process!

Help Each Other Follow Him

Read Hebrews 3:12-23.

¹²*Watch out, brothers and sisters, so that there won't be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.*

¹³*But encourage each other daily, while it is still called today, so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception.*

We are to “encourage each other daily.” The Greek word for “encourage” is rich. It implies coming alongside to comfort, console, strengthen, and admonish for the purpose of building up. It's similar to what we might see a good coach doing for his team members.

We need others who will strengthen us this way—those who are willing to pour into us and go the extra mile with us. We all have areas where we need to grow, hurdles to jump over, places where we need to get out of God's way, or things we need to remove from our lives. But if we want others to encourage us this way, we must be ready!

Am I Ready?

We must all ask ourselves: Am I ready to receive this kind of encouragement—this exhortation? This means we have to get close to others. We often isolate ourselves and hide from each other to conceal sin or because of fear. When people ask how we are doing, we often say, “I'm good!”, even if we aren't. We hide from those who could get close enough to see our struggles, sins, or weaknesses. We put up walls. The problem with walls? They keep the good out, too.

Instead, we need to allow others to get close to us. We need to tear down the walls and stop hiding. We must give up control and allow others to get close enough to really see us. It is with *seeing* that they come to both care about us and then to encourage us. Are you ready for this kind of love?

Encourage Others

Not only do we need to be encouraged, but we need to encourage others. Look around you. There is someone in your path that God is calling you to encourage. Come alongside them to build them up. Run that extra mile with them. Give them strength and support. In other words, “*do unto others as you would have done to you!*” (Luke 6:31)

Join a Group

A great place to receive and give encouragement (exhortation) is in a group of other Believers. Here at CBC, we have many groups that meet across the campuses to gather, study the Bible, and encourage one another in the walk of faith. Check out our active groups at cbcfamily.net/groups and get involved. Encourage one another daily!

WEEK 3 – ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

God Time: Day 1

 How easy is it to spot and address times or circumstances where you might be falling away from God?

How easy is it to spot and address this in others?

 Read Hebrews 3:12-13
¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Circle “*exhort one another every day.*” Exhort means to encourage, urge, spur on, and even push or pressure.

We are commanded to exhort/encourage one another when we spot those who may be falling away from God. But it needs to be done in the proper attitude.

 Read Ephesians 4:29
Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Rewrite this verse in your own words:

 Read Galatians 6:1
Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Circle “*restore him in a spirit of gentleness.*”

This verse likewise speaks to the attitude we must have when addressing a falling away from God. It also gives a warning.

God Time: Day 2

 Read Hebrews 10:23-25
²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Circle “*confession of our hope*” in verse 23.

Synonyms for confession include: *statement, declaration, and affirmation.* Do you know how to make a “*confession of your hope?*” If not, what will you do?

 Re-write verse 23 in your own words:

God Time: Day 3

 What does it mean to “stir up” others?

Does your response lean toward the positive or negative? Passion and excitement are needed to stir things up, and it can go both ways.

 Reread Hebrews 10:23-25
²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

 In verse 24, “*to stir up one another*” definitely results in a positive - “*to love and good works.*” How can you stir up others to love and good works today? How will you do it?

God Time: Day 4



Reread Hebrews 10:23-25

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

As we've seen over the last two lessons, we are to hold fast to our faith and passionately "stir up one another to love and good works." But to truly work together and encourage one another, we need to, well, show up.



Reread verse 25. Paul is very frank when he says, "as is the habit of some," and it's not tongue-in-cheek. What does he mean by "and all the more as you see the Day drawing near?"

There should be an urgency to all we do. Time is short!

God Time: Day 5



Read 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.



God has destined us to obtain _____

We obtain salvation through _____

Jesus secured our salvation by _____

Verse 10 tells us that salvation results in us living with Jesus and that it doesn't just happen when we die (i.e., are "asleep"), but that we have life with Jesus right now as we live and breathe.



Are you living with Jesus right now? _____

Reread verse 11.

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

"Therefore," what will do to encourage others?

Make a list:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

WEEK 3 – ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

Group Time

LOOK BACK:



4. Each participant shares one praise and one prayer request. (Commit these to prayer for the coming week.)

5. ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

Y / N	Y / N	_____
_____	_____	

6. **Point:** *Christ Alone means this: You need Jesus; and when you have Him, point others to Him.*

Review the previous lesson. How will you “prepare the way” so others can know Jesus?

LOOK UP:

Good News: *We need people in our life to help us follow Jesus.*

When we try to follow Jesus on our own, we often run into either pride or fear, or both. But God created us to help each other follow Him. The question we need to ask ourselves is, “Am I ready to give and receive exhortation?”

To “exhort” means to urge, encourage, push, or prod. It’s a picture of coming alongside someone to keep them from falling into a trap. It’s also a picture of a coach, one who’s been there before, correcting problems and teaching new skills towards a common goal.

The problem is that too many of us have grown comfortable with our sin. We isolate ourselves rather than welcome people into our lives who are close enough to see, care, and encourage us. We need others who can come alongside, to warn and coach us. At the same time, we must seek to come alongside and to coach others, also. This can only happen when we know one another. This is 4G Groups.

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

- How does being in a group “encourage” you?

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:14

- What does it mean to “admonish the idle?” Idle in what? What might we be idle in that needs to be admonished?
- What does it look like to “encourage the fainthearted?” What are areas where we may be fainthearted and need encouragement?

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *We can only truly encourage one another if we are ready to give and receive exhortation (urge, encourage, push, or prod).*

- What is one area of your spiritual life that is *idle*? (Example: Not following through with the application sections of the Group Times.)

Are you willing to receive and give exhortation to others as needed?

How, when, and with whom will you exhort one another?

- What is one area of your spiritual life where you feel *fainthearted*? (Example: Not sharing my faith with others.)

Are you willing to receive and give exhortation to others as needed?

How, when, and with whom will you exhort one another?

Pray for one another to do these. Be ready to share with your group what God does with your obedience.



Family Time



Big Idea: We need people in our life to encourage, uplift, and help us to follow Jesus!



Read: Luke Hebrews 2:13a
But exhort one another every day.

Set it Up: We all have times of discouragement, even in the middle of doing the right thing, trying hard, or keeping a positive attitude. Sometimes the encouragement of another person and the chance to help someone is what we need to lift our spirits.



Ask: God will sometimes send someone into our lives to encourage us. How do you think the girl was feeling when she couldn't get her airplane to fly? How did helping the second girl get back to her group help encourage the first girl?



Encourage: What are you trying to accomplish on your own that you need encouragement to finish? How could seeking out a friend help you in your time of need?



Challenge: Who in your life needs encouragement from you? Make a list of people in your life who have been struggling and need your friendship. Make a point to send a card, give a word of encouragement, draw them a picture, or find a special way to lift them up:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Gear Up: Serve One Another

Do you love giving gifts? Some people do! There are those who just always seem to give the best gifts.

Whether you do or don't, we can all agree that gifts

always mean more when they are given by someone who knows and loves you.

God Gave You the Perfect Gift

There has never been a better gift giver than God! A beautiful day, a great relationship, or the ultimate gift of salvation are all very precious gifts from God. But there is another gift that we often overlook.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Everyone has a unique part to play in the family of God. Notice that Paul writes to the Corinthian church that there are varieties of gifts, service, and activities. In other words, not everyone in life is expected to play the same part in the family! We each have our unique roles.

But every part is essential. We are *all* necessary! Sometimes we don't feel that way, or we feel like someone else's gift is more valuable. This is not true. We are all equally loved and valued by God.

God designed and gifted each of us perfectly for our part. Think about this: no one else can do what God has called and created you to do. It's true! That doesn't mean that God is limited and can't do what He wants, though. It just means that He uniquely designed His children with gifts that He wants us to use.

These gifts that He gives are the *“manifestation of the Spirit.”*

What does this mean? It simply means that the gifts that He gives Believers *reveal* Him to others. They disclose God's work in our lives and are evidence of Him. We are given these spiritual gifts to show Jesus, and that in itself is a gift!

Gifted to Serve

Not only do these gifts show Jesus, but they also build His church— they are for our common good, according to 1 Corinthians 12:7 (above).

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11.

¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

You have a gift! Maybe you are a musician, teacher, pray-er, encourager, organizer, listener, or helper. If you aren't sure what your gifts are, start by thinking about what you love to do, the things you are passionate about, and the skills you have. Sometimes the things we enjoy doing are things that are hard for others— that means God has gifted us in this area. We can then use that gift to *serve others!*

When We Serve Each Other, God Is Glorified

“To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever.” When we serve others, we glorify God and not ourselves. How unlike the world! This is what the world needs to see: Christians serving each other in humble unity. Find your gifts and use them to play your unique part, manifest the Spirit, glorify God, and serve others.

God Time: Day 1



Define *freedom*: _____

The Merriam-Webster definition of freedom is: *the absence of necessity, coercion, or constraint in choice or action.*

In other words, freedom = free to choose, free to act.



Read Galatians 5:13-14

¹³ *For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.* ¹⁴ *For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*



Circle the words "*but through love serve one another.*"

Our choices lead to actions which reveal our motivation. What will you choose to do this week to serve another?



God Time: Day 2



Acts 20:17-38 is a passionate account of Paul meeting with the Ephesian elders. This is a church he started over a tumultuous three-year period and he knows he will be unable to visit Ephesus again. Paul pours out his heart to these men and finishes with this exhortation:



Read Acts 20:33-35

³³ *I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel.* ³⁴ *You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me.* ³⁵ *In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*



Name some ways you can use your "*hands,*" or your gifts, to minister to the necessities of the church without the expectation of anything in return:

God Time: Day 3



Define *gift*: _____

The Merriam-Webster definition is two-fold:

1. a notable capacity, talent, or endowment.
2. something voluntarily transferred by one person to another without compensation.



Number 2 is something more like a gift you might receive for a birthday or Christmas. Like Jesus is the gift of God.

So, when the Bible talks about gifts we have, or have received, it's talking about the first definition - a notable capacity, talent, or endowment.



Read 1 Peter 4:10-11

¹⁰ *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

In verse 10:



- We each have "*received a _____*"
- These gifts are used to: _____
Why will we do this?
"*As good stewards of _____*"
- What is the meaning of "*varied grace?*"

- Have we each received the same gifts? _____

(Continue on next page)

WEEK 4 – SERVE ONE ANOTHER

Verse 11 tells us that, whether speaking (words) or serving (hands);



- Speak as though _____ was speaking.
- Serve as though _____ was serving.

If we do this, who will be glorified?

“That in everything _____ may be glorified through _____.”

God Time: Day 4



1 Corinthians 12:4-7

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.



Fill in the blanks from verses 4, 5, and 6:

There are varieties of _____, but the same _____.

There are varieties of _____, but the same _____.

There are varieties of _____, but the same _____.



Who is it that empowers all these gifts? _____

In whom does he empower them? _____

Re-write verse 7 in your own words:

God Time: Day 5



Does our society, politics, media, or entertainment, consider it better to serve or be served? Which receives the higher status? Why?



Read Matthew 20:25-28

²⁵ But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Not much has changed in 2,000 years. But Jesus commands His followers to gain status a new way: imitate Him by being servants.



What can you do this next week to show you are a follower of Jesus through serving others?

WEEK 4 – SERVE ONE ANOTHER

Group Time

◀◀ LOOK BACK:



7. Each participant shares one praise and one prayer request. (Commit these to prayer for the coming week.)

8. ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

Y / N	Y / N	_____
_____	_____	

9. **Point:** *We can only truly encourage one another if we are ready to give and receive exhortation (urge, encourage, push, or prod).*

Review the previous lesson. How did you give and or receive encouragement?

⬆️ LOOK UP:

Good News: *You make God famous (glorified) when you use your gifts to serve one another.*

We often think of giving and receiving gifts around Christmas, birthdays, and anniversaries. The best gifts are from those who love you and reflect something about you. But God gave each of us the perfect gift: Not only did He give salvation through His Son, but He gave us all a part in His kingdom family. As we saw in 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, we all have essential parts to play, but we are not all the same parts.

God designed each of us perfectly for our specific part. If we have proclaimed faith in His ultimate gift of salvation through Jesus, then His Spirit has empowered us to play that part and serve in His family. He has gifted each of us and when we use our gifts to serve one another, God is glorified. When we serve together, we become so much more. Therefore, each of us needs to find what we can do - and do it.

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

- Are “gifts” products of nature, nurture, given, or all three?

- Make two lists; 1) “Examples of gifts”; and 2) “Examples of service.” Match the gifts to the services.
- Make a third list of “activities” in the life of the church that haven’t been addressed in the previous lists. Add *gifts* and ways of *service* so that all the *activities* of list three may be performed.

▶▶ LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *When we serve one another, God is made famous (glorified).*

- What is one spiritual gift you, or others, have identified in you?

- Are you using this gift to serve others in the church to your full potential?

- If not, how can you start doing so this week?

- What are activities or ministries within the church that you believe are not being fully served?

- How can you use your gifts to serve in these activities?

- Who are others, with the appropriate gifts, that you can encourage (exhort) to serve in these areas?

Pray for one another to do these. Be ready to share with your group what God does with your obedience.



Family Time



Big Idea: You bring glory to God when you use your gifts to serve one another.



Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.



Ask: What do you enjoy doing? What are your hobbies or things that make you feel good to participate in?



Encourage: As Christians, we often talk about spiritual gifts, but God has given us so much more to share with others. Have you ever thought that perhaps something you have fun doing is a God-given gift for you to enjoy and share with others?



Challenge: Make a list of the top five things you enjoy doing. It can be anything...reading, art, dance, music, encouraging others, writing, talking, sports, etc.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Think over your list above and ask yourself how you can use one of these things to serve someone else.

Make a note next to each item on your list and try to use it this week.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Gear Up: Accept One Another

Christians often get divisive over things that really aren't that important. Christianity definitely has "non-negotiables" like salvation by grace alone through faith in Christ alone, belief in our Triune God, belief in the inerrant Word of God, and so on, but there are a lot of things that we can view differently. For example, is it ok to listen to any music made by non-Christians? Is it ok to wear flip flops at church? (The list goes on.)

You're Not Supposed to Do That

Sometimes, people come up with a long list of rules— things that Christians are just not supposed to do. The problem with those lists is that they are manmade and often are just blanket statements that don't focus on the heart. They also rob us of our freedom in Christ. While these lists often come from people with good intentions, there are some things that the Bible is silent about. We call those things "disputable matters."

Those things can be evaluated by gaining a better understanding of the principles of Scripture and by keeping Christ at the center of our lives. (For example, if a behavior is cruel, then it violates the principle of love and so it is wrong; it doesn't demonstrate that you follow Jesus!)

Welcome One Another

Read Romans 15:7.

⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

In the Book of Romans, Paul tells us that we should welcome our brothers and sisters in Christ like He has welcomed us. This brings glory to God! But what does it mean? How did Jesus welcome us? He received us heartily, welcoming all people into the family of God, despite our differing cultural practices or opinions.

Each person ultimately answers to God. This means we don't get to do whatever we want in the name of freedom in Christ. We also shouldn't judge others' freedom on disputable matters while they follow Jesus. In addition, we must beware of causing someone to stumble in their walk by *our* freedom. For example, if I eat Oreos but you think the sugar might tempt you to be gluttonous, then I won't eat Oreos in front of you and you shouldn't judge me harshly for enjoying a few cookies. This is similar to what was going on in the Book of Romans. Paul tells us that as long as we are both making decisions in honor of the Lord, then we have done well. (See also Romans 14:5-6)

Read Romans 14:12-13.

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. ¹³Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.

As we keep from judging others' freedom and also don't cause others to stumble, we find ourselves in a place of tension.

A Tension That Leads to Peace

Read Romans 14:17-18.

¹⁷For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. ¹⁹So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

If we focus on rules that God didn't give us, we often miss the more important matters of the heart. Whatever decisions we make should be based on serving Christ and following His commands. This leads us to peace with other Christians. Ask yourself these questions to see if you are accepting one another and pursuing peace: Do you judge others' freedom? Will you focus on righteousness, peace, and joy? Will you serve someone and help lead them to Jesus?

God Time: Day 1

 Have you ever judged someone in church based on their outward appearance (Ex: clothing or hair style)?

Have you ever judged someone’s faith based on their outward appearance or comments on non-biblical issues?

Read Romans 14:1-4

 ¹ *As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.* ² *One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables.* ³ *Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.* ⁴ *Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master[lord] that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.*

 How does Romans 14:1 say Christians should treat those who might be judged *weak in faith*?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

The Jews had many regulations pertaining to foods - what one could eat, when they could eat it, how it was prepared, etc. It was easy to believe, “This is how we do it, therefore it’s only godly to do it this way.” What are examples where Christians might similarly judge others in today’s church life?

 _____

Have you ever been judged this way? How did it feel?

 Reread Romans 14:4. If someone is doing their best to follow God, who does this verse say is their judge, and what should you and I be doing with our opinions?

God Time: Day 2

 From the minute you wake up in the morning you are making choices about what you will eat, what you will wear, what you will read, what you will listen to, where you will go, etc. When you make these choices, who are you trying to please?

 Read Romans 14:5-6

⁵ *One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.* ⁶ *The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God.*

 Circle each instance of “in honor of the Lord” in Romans 14:6.

In all your daily choices, whom should you be trying to please?

 Today, what is one choice you could make differently to do your best to honor God?

WEEK 5 – ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER

God Time: Day 3



Read Romans 14:10-12

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess [give praise] to God." ¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.



At the end of the day, who will you be judged by? _____

At the end of the day, who will others be judged by? _____

Does it do anyone any good for you to judge others? _____



What is one thing you could do better today, giving praise to God?

God Time: Day 4



As Christians, should we be concerned what others (especially other Christians) think about us and the choices we make?



Read Romans 14:13-16

¹³ Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. ¹⁴ I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. ¹⁵ For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. ¹⁶ So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil.

Rewrite verse 15 in your own words.

Sometimes we need to put our own freedom aside so that we can help a brother grow in their faith (Romans 14:1).

God Time: Day 5



Read Romans 14:17-19

¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. ¹⁹ So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.



Circle "righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

In verse 18 the word "thus" points to the criteria you just circled in verse 17. When it serves Christ, the pursuit of this criteria "makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding" (verse 19).



What is something new you can do this week that "thus serves Christ" and "makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding?"

WEEK 5 – ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER

Group Time

LOOK BACK:



1. Each participant shares one praise and one prayer request. (Commit these to prayer for the coming week.)

2. ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

Y / N	Y / N	_____
_____	_____	

3. Point: *When we serve one another, God is made famous (glorified).*

Review the previous lesson. How did you serve the church – the body of Christ – this past week?

LOOK UP:

Good News: *You are free to follow Jesus however He leads. He will always lead you to use your freedom to build up others.*

As Baptists we are often judged, or judge other denominations, by the perceived do’s and don’ts. In other words, we may judge by the rules of one denomination versus another. Often these perceived rules are called “extra-biblical” as they are not found in the Bible.

This is not a new problem. People have always judged others by the clothes they wear, what they eat and drink, which days they worship, and so on. But God offers something better. He wants us to welcome and accept one another.

Becoming a follower of Jesus changes people, not because you make them change, but because they pursue Jesus. We need to make sure that we accept one another, not by our standards, but by Jesus’. Our freedom should not be a stumbling block to others. At times we need to curb our freedoms so others can find their freedom.

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

Read: Romans 14:13

- Do you have an example of when extra-biblical judgements led to a fractured church or broken fellowship?
- What are possible examples where we might be a *stumbling block or hindrance* to a fellow brother?
- Read Romans 14:17-18. How should we judge others?

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *We must accept the freedom others have to follow Jesus how He leads them. Our focus should be on righteousness, peace, joy, and sacrificing to help others follow Jesus.*

- Based on Romans 14:13
 - What extra-biblical judgement of others do you need to stop?

 - What stumbling blocks do you need to remove?

- Read Romans 14:17-19
 - How can you know if others are finding *righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit*?

 - How can you serve to help someone follow Jesus?

 - Who can you begin to do that with this week?

 - How will you do it?

Pray for one another to take these steps. Be ready to share with your group what God does with your obedience.

Family Time



Big Idea: Christ calls us to love one another, and that begins with accepting other people regardless of their differences.

**Key Verse: Romans 14:13a**

Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer.

Think about an interaction between two very different people who know nothing about each other. What happens when one of them judges the other without knowing the whole story.

**In such a situation, ask:**

- Why might someone get upset?
- Do you think the way they look at each other might make them react the wrong way?
- If they looked more like each other, do you think they would respond in a different way?
- How do you think you would respond to someone who looks different and is from a different culture?

Encourage:

- Each of us has a story to tell based on our life experiences. When the runner thought he was being ignored, he probably felt angry that the girl was thinking she was better than him. Have you ever felt this way?
- Have you seen anyone at your school being treated this way? If so, think through some ideas of how you could help if you saw someone being judged or mistreated.

**Challenge: Clothe yourself with kindness.**

- Who do you know that needs to be treated with love and kindness because of their circumstances or disabilities?
- Is there anyone that you have been frustrated with or unkind to without finding out the story behind why they act a certain way? Do you need to seek them out to ask forgiveness?

**Family Activity:**

There are many things we can do to spread the love of Jesus and show others that we accept them unconditionally. Think through some ideas that you can do as a family to love those that may feel misunderstood. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

1. Pack some blessing bags for homeless individuals. Include toiletries, snacks and other non-perishables, along with a note to express your love for them. Keep them in your car to pass out any time.
2. Contact your local CASA office or Child Advocacy Group to prepare birthday boxes for foster children. They can give your ideas on what to pack and how to bless a child who desperately needs to feel loved.
3. _____
4. _____



Gear Up: Submit to One Another

Submit is not a word most of us like. Submission means we place ourselves under someone else's power or authority. That can seem scary, depending on the situation. Yet throughout the Bible, God tells us to submit. That sounds ok if we are only asked to submit to Him because He is completely trustworthy. But He also asks us to submit to one another.

Read Ephesians 5:21.

Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Submission is a Life Focused in the Right Direction

Read Philippians 2:3-4.

³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Paul tells us in this passage not to live with selfish ambition or conceit. This is our nature. We want what we want and life is all about us. We can easily place ourselves and our ambitions at the center of the universe. Paul tells us instead to practice humility. This means to lower ourselves, and the implied meaning is that we do it to lift up others! It doesn't mean that we don't matter or our lives are not as important as someone else's. It doesn't mean we think less of ourselves, it just means that we think of ourselves less. Then, we can look better to the "interests of others," taking care of their needs.

Submission Is a Life of Strength

Read Philippians 2:5-11.

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being

found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This passage is rich! In it, Paul tells us that Jesus is God. This means He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-present. Yet, He emptied Himself. This means He set aside everything that made Him instantly recognizable as God in order to take the form of a servant—a human being. Jesus humbled Himself becoming obedient to the point of death. Yes, He gave His life as a sacrifice. He submitted to God the Father trusting the Father to raise Him from the dead.

Submission is Trusting God to Take Care Of You

Why are we afraid to submit? It is often a lack of trusting God. We are afraid that if we lower ourselves, placing ourselves under the authority of another, that we will be run over, taken advantage of, or hurt. Sadly, this is true.

Yet, God is completely trustworthy. He promises to lift us up when we humble ourselves in His sight. (1 Peter 5:5-7) He can heal our hurts and restore us and our circumstances. He will take care of His children! (Matthew 6:25-27)

When we submit to our fellow Christian (as Paul told us in Ephesians 5:21), we demonstrate trust in God. He tells us to do this, and so we obey. We can show submission to God and others by counting them more significant than ourselves, serving them like Christ (Matthew 20:28), and taking care of their needs. Who will you serve this week?

God Time: Day 1



Read Ephesians 5:21

Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

The Merriam-Webster definition of “submit” is “to yield oneself to the authority or will of another, to surrender.”

The Merriam-Webster definition of “reverence” is “honor or respect felt or shown, a profound adoring awed respect.”

Knowing this, rewrite Ephesians 5:21 in your own words:



Put this verse into practice today! What’s your plan?

God Time: Day 2



Read 1 Peter 5:5-7

⁵ Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

The Merriam-Webster definition of “humble” is “reflecting, expressing, or offered in a spirit of deference or submission.”



What do you think it means to “clothe” yourself “with humility toward one another?”

If we do this, we are given two promises in verses 6 and 7:



- 1) *So that at the proper time He may _____ you.*
- 2) *Cast all your anxieties on Him, because he _____ for you.*

How awesome would it be to be exalted and cared for by God?

God Time: Day 3



Read 1 Peter 5:5-7

⁵ Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

List three practical ways you can show humility towards another.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____



Challenge yourself to use all three ways this week. To whom will show humility?

How will you do it?

God Time: Day 4



Read 1 Peter 5:5-7

⁵ Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.



Circle the words *exalt* and *cares for*.

The Merriam-Webster definition of “exalt” is “to raise in rank, power, or character; to elevate by praise or in estimation; to glorify.”

The Merriam-Webster definition of “care for” is “to do the things that are needed to help and protect; to look after.”



Rewrite Read 1 Peter 5:6-7 in your own words:

God Time: Day 5



Read Philippians 2:3-11

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be held on to for advantage, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

List some things that you do out of simple selfish ambition:



Circle, "count others more significant than yourselves."

Rewrite Philippians 2:5 in your own words.





Reread Philippians 5:6-8. Make a list of ways Jesus submitted, or humbled, Himself.

Philippians 5:9-11 says that because of Jesus' submission, "God has highly exalted Him." What parallels can you draw from this and what we read in 1 Peter 5:5-7 on days 2-4 this week?

Submitting pays well ;-)

Group Time

◀◀ LOOK BACK:



1. Each participant shares one praise and one prayer request. (Commit these to prayer for the coming week.)

2. ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

Y / N	Y / N	_____
_____	_____	

3. **Point:** *When we serve one another, God is made famous (glorified).*

Review the previous lesson. How did you serve someone seeking peace this last week?

⬆️ LOOK UP:

Good News: *Submission brings life to your life and the life of those around you.*

In our society, “submit” is often a bad word. Yet, throughout the Bible there is this concept of submission. We’re okay with it when we are the leader, parent, husband or boss, but when we’re on the other end, it’s not as appreciated.

Paul wrote that we should submit to one another. This is how we show reverence for Christ (Ephesians 5:21); we submit because He submitted. Submission shows a life focused in the right direction. It doesn’t mean I think less of myself, but it does mean I’m willing to value others more than myself. It is a life of strength where I’m willing to lift up others at my expense, trusting that when I do, God is going to take care of me.

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

- Today, the word “humble” is often revered, but “to submit” or to “be submissive” is often vilified. What’s the difference?

Read: Philippians 2:3-4

- Biblically, “submit” and “humble” are pretty much the same. Read Philippians 2:3 again, replacing “*humility*” with “*submission*.” Compare other Bible versions. How can we live out this verse?
- What does it mean to look “*to the interests of others?*” What might we have to submit or sacrifice to do this?

▶▶ LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *Submission is a life focused on sacrificially serving others and trusting God to take care of you.*

- Make a list of things you do simply out of selfish ambition (activities, hobbies, trips, etc.).

- Is there anything on the list above that you are willing to sacrifice so that you would have more time or resources available to serve others?

- Is there someone God is placing on your heart to serve? If not, how can you find someone? (care@cbcbastrop.org) (This can be confidential and does not have to be shared with the group.)

- Commit to serve them once a day for a week. How, when, and what will you do?

Pray for one another to do these. Be ready to share with your group what God does with your obedience.



Family Time



Big Idea: Follow Jesus' example of service to others and lead a life that is strong enough to lift others up.



Key Verse: Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.



Ask:

- Can you remember a time when someone made fun of you, or you felt worthless? How about a time when you needed a friend? How did it feel?
- Can you remember a time when someone stuck up for you, or put you first? How about a time when someone helped you when everyone else left you alone? How did it feel?



Encourage:

- The Bible tells us that Jesus did not come to be served, but He came to serve. Read Matthew 20:28 together and discuss three ways Jesus came to serve us here on earth.
- When Jesus was serving mankind in these ways, did it make Him seem weak or strong?
- When you submit to others, you are showing great strength of character in being like Jesus and serving those around you.



Challenge: Are you serving or waiting to be served?

1. Who and how are you serving in your life?
2. Where and when can you serve at church?
3. How and who can you serve in your work or school?



Family Activity:

Google the following words and write definitions for each one.

Humility:

Submission:

Selfish:

Conceit:

Which of these words do you want others to use when they think of you?



Gear Up: Stir Up One Another

Most of us have people in our lives who bring out the best in us. Sadly, we also have people in our lives who bring out the worst in us. Either way, we must

admit: we are more affected by the people in our lives that we admit.

We are the sum of the five people that we spend the most time with—according to some researchers. What does that mean on a practical level? It means that if you want to be better, surround yourself with really great people!

Bring Out the Best in Each Other

What would it look like if we all set the goal of bringing out the best in each other? After all, that’s what the church is supposed to do.

Read Hebrews 10:24-25.

²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

The author of Hebrews tells us to “*consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.*” This means that we need to think about how to sharpen one another (Proverbs 27:17), spur one another’s faith, and get others moving in the right direction... and then do it.

What do we stir others to do? We are supposed to encourage others to “*love and good works.*” Love is more than a feeling; it is action...wanting the best for another. This is what Jesus did for us on the cross. This means we encourage one another to love each other sacrificially. This love is exemplified in helping, accepting, and submitting to our fellow Christians.

We also stir up good works. What are these good works? These are the things we see when we see people living like Jesus. It’s demonstrated in love (like we just talked about) but also service, acts of compassion, and so on, so that God is glorified, and we show an active faith. (James 2:17) As people called to follow Jesus and share Him with the world, our presence in this world should bring out the best in others.

How Can You Stir Someone Up?

So how can you “stir someone up?” Be together. That’s where it starts. Whether in large or small groups, just spending time with other Believers is beneficial. It opens the door for encouragement. So, who do you spend time with? Who do you need to spend time with?

Encourage others. (1 Thessalonians 5:11) We probably all have people that we need to thank. Expressing gratitude to a person who has poured into you, helped you, or shown you kindness is a great way to offer encouragement.

Live with urgency. We aren’t promised tomorrow, so we all need to make today count. When we live with urgency, stirring others, it motivates them to live godly lives, making today count for them, too!

Start Stirring

Think through these questions before you start stirring up others to love and good works. How much time do you spend on isolating activities? We tend to isolate ourselves, but stirring up others is social; stop isolating yourself in order to do it. Who can you thank for bringing out the best in you? Once you identify them, go thank them!

How can you encourage love and good works in someone? Think through it, and then take a Jesus-step and start stirring!

God Time: Day 1

List four reasons why it is important to meet with other Believers:



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Read Hebrews 10:24-25



²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.



Circle "to love" and "good works."

List four ways you can show *love* to encourage another believer:



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

List four *good works* you could do to, or with, another believer:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Choose two from each list and do them this week:

- Love:**
1. _____
 2. _____

- Good Works:**
1. _____
 2. _____

God Time: Day 2



What does it mean to "lift up" someone?





Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!

Verse 10 says, "For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow." What is a real example of this?



Consider the rest of verse 10. What is a real example of someone you know who tried to go it alone and failed?

God Time: Day 3



What does “two heads are better than one” mean?



Read Hebrews 3:13

But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

The Merriam-Webster definition of “exhort” is “to give warnings or advice; to make urgent appeals.”



According to Hebrews 3:13, How often should we *exhort one another*?

For how long should we *exhort one another*?



Why should we *exhort one another*?



God Time: Day 4



Read Romans 14:19

So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.



Circle the words “*pursue*,” “*peace*,” and “*mutual upbuilding*.”

What does it mean to “*pursue*?”



To define *peace*, type the following underlined words into your search engine (Google, Bing, etc.) and watch the short video: The Bible Project Word Study: Shalom – Peace

According to the video, Biblical *peace* is not just the absence of conflict, but taking what is broken and...



How are your chosen activities from God Time Day 1 helping you to bring *peace* and *mutual upbuilding*?

God Time: Day 5



Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

List the ways your chosen activities from God Time Day 1 are stirring up or *encouraging* you?



List the ways your chosen activities from God Time Day 1 are stirring up or *encouraging* another?



What has been your biggest blessing from this week?



WEEK 7 – STIR UP ONE ANOTHER

Group Time

LOOK BACK:



1. Each participant shares one praise and one prayer request. (Commit these to prayer for the coming week.)

2. ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

Y / N	Y / N	_____
_____	_____	

3. **Point:** *Submission is a life focused on sacrificially serving others and trusting God to take care of you.*

Review the previous lesson. What did you give up to serve someone this past week? Whom did you serve?

LOOK UP:

Good News: *We can bring out the best in one another.*

We all have people in our lives who bring out the best in us and others who bring out the worst. We warn our children to be careful about who they pick as friends. But do we hold ourselves to the same standards? It is said that, “we are the sum of our top five friends.” This is why the Bible emphasizes discernment when choosing friends.

What if we all made it our goal to bring out the best in each other? Hebrews 10:24 calls us to “stir up one another in love and good works.” To *stir up in love* is not to create a feeling but to actively and passionately bring out the best in one another. To *stir up in good works* is to actively and passionately do for one another and others.

To *stir up* is a call to live in such a way that you pursue what is best in attitude and action for yourself and those around you. We do this by encouraging one another with a sense of urgency. It requires that we spend time with one another so that our actions can speak as well.

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

Read: Hebrews 10:24-25

- Share about someone in your life (past or present) who brought out the best in you. Who has stirred you up?
- How do “isolating” activities (social media, phones, video games, etc.) affect our ability to stir up others in love and good works?
- What are ways we can stir up others in love and good works? How do the people you are spending time with affect you?

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *Bring out the best in one another; stir them up!*

- What “isolating” activities do you need to stop or decrease so you have more availability?

- How can you create more opportunities to be around people in order to encourage and stir up one another?

- Who can you get together with this week? Encourage them while doing, or by doing, good works together.

What will you do and when will you do it?

Pray for one another to do these. Be ready to share with your group what God does with your obedience.



Family Time



Big Idea: What would it look like if we made it our goal to bring out the best in each other?



Key Verse: Proverbs 27:17

Iron sharpens iron, as one man sharpens another.

Set it Up: What is a real friend? Is it someone who tells you what you want to hear? Is it someone who does what you say?



Ask:

- What were some words used to describe a real friend? (brings out the best in you, always there for you, trusting, forgiving...)
- What does a “fake” friend look like?
- “if we worry too much about being liked by others, we may just settle for less.” What do you think this means?
- Do you worry about being liked by others?



Encourage:

- Consider how friends in your life impact you. We can either stir up our friends to do good things or encourage them to do the wrong things.
- Are you a friend that stirs up others to do good things?



Challenge: What kind of friend are you?

Make a list of the characteristics you would like most in a friend. Things like kindness, helpfulness, etc.

Of these characteristics, how many of them would be used to describe YOU as a friend?

You will often attract the kinds of people that are most like you. Be sure you are asking Jesus to develop good character that will attract the right kind of friend. This way you can bring out the best in them as they bring out the best in you.



Family Activity:

Look up the following verses and discuss how these apply in stirring up our friends to bring out the best in each other.

Proverbs 27:17

Iron _____ iron, as one man _____ another.

Philippians 2:4

Let each of you _____ not only to his _____ interests, but also to the interests of _____.

Hebrews 10: 24

And let us consider how to _____ one another to _____ and _____ works.

Proverbs 18:24b

...there is a _____ who sticks closer than a _____.

Who do you think that friend is?



Gear Up: Bear With One Another

Sadly, the Church isn't always a nice place.

Sometimes, Christians have been known for “shooting their wounded” (kicking people while they're already down). Perhaps you have experienced this scenario: you made a mistake or went through a difficult time and lost your way. Then, those who were supposed to come alongside you hurt you more than they helped. Pain caused by good intentions still hurts.

When Someone Messes Up, We Bear With Them

What does it mean to *bear with* someone? Perhaps you've said it yourself: “Hey, bear with me a minute.” If you said it, you were simply asking someone to be patient. That's what it means in the Bible, too. *Bear with* means to be patient, endure, or tolerate.

In Bible times, tolerance did not mean celebration or acceptance of sin. No, this kind of tolerance means understanding that we are all sinners... so, we patiently endure together as we build each other up. It means that we put up with others even when they mess up, and we remain ready to help, forgive, and encourage.

Read Colossians 3:12-13.

¹²*Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,*
¹³*bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.*

Paul tells the Believers to put on compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and—there it is!—patience. Putting these things on will help us to bear with one another! They are Christlike attributes, and when we are full of Jesus, we can keep our hearts in check.

But, sometimes being patient with others is especially hard, like when someone is simply suffering the consequences of their sinful actions. Why should we have to bear with them? After all, it's not our fault they did whatever they did!

But our entire faith is built on someone else carrying the consequences for our sin. Like Jesus, we love others sacrificially, “picking up our cross” and following His example.

Learn to Bear With Others

God has chosen you. He wants you to be holy, like He is holy. You are beloved and precious, and even though you have nothing to offer God, He values you so much. Remember who you are! This helps us bear with others.

Remember what you wear and who forgave you. You wear compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. These things are not natural in our world. No, they are given to us by God who forgave us by sending Jesus to pay the penalty our sin deserves.

When we remember who we are, what we wear, and who forgave us, we can be more patient with others when they struggle.

Bear Because Jesus Bore

Read 1 Peter 2:24.

²⁴*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*

We should bear with others because Jesus bore our sins on the cross. We are called to “die to self” so that we can live righteously, like Jesus did—obeying God and not ourselves. This helps us have grace, patience, and forgiveness with others. Is there anyone in your life you need to forgive? Is there someone who needs your love or help? Bear with them; be patient and loving like Christ!

God Time: Day 1



Read Colossians 3. Reread Colossians 3:1-4
¹ *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*



Helping to bear one another’s burdens requires that we also deal with our own burdens. How are you seeking “the things that are above?”

God Time: Day 2



Reread Colossians 3. Reread Colossians 3:5-11
⁵ *Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.*



It doesn’t matter your lineage, background, or issues. God looks at all of us the same: we’re either in Christ or not in Christ. Rewrite Colossians 3:9-10 in your own words:

Are you being honest with yourself and fellow believers, or are you struggling? If you are struggling, please ask for help!

God Time: Day 3



Reread Colossians 3. Reread Colossians 3:12-17
¹² *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*



According to Colossians 3:12, what is your status with God?

How does Colossians 3:12 describe the types of attitudes and emotions you need to “put on”, or exhibit, in this status?



When “bearing with one another,” verse 13 says your first step is to:

How and why will you do it?



Is there a brother or sister you need to forgive or ask for forgiveness? If so, write their name here and pray for them.

Colossians 3:14 say is the ultimate attitude to be “put on....”



Reread Colossians 3:15-17 and circle these words: “peace, thankful, teaching, wisdom, singing, thankfulness, word, deed, thanks.”

God Time: Day 4



Galatians 6:1-2

¹ Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.



Circle the word "transgression."



To define transgression, type the following underlined words into your search engine (Google, Bing, etc.) and watch the short video:

The Bible Project Word Study: Peshah - Transgression

According to the video, *transgression* is the breaking of trust **with** someone you should be able to trust. It breaks our relationship.

How does Galatians 6:1 say we should respond to one another's transgressions and what should our attitude be?

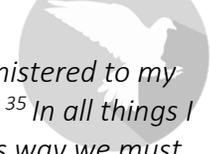
If we do this, we will fulfill Galatians 6:2

God Time: Day 5



Read Acts 20:34-35

³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵ In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'



Circle the words "to my necessities and those who were with me," "working hard in this way," and "we must help the weak."



List some persons you know who are experiencing weakness in their body, mind, or faith:



How can you minister to them?

Are you experiencing weakness in body, mind, or faith?

If you answered yes and have not done so, please ask for help!

WEEK 8 – BEAR WITH ONE ANOTHER

Group Time

LOOK BACK:



1. Each participant shares one praise and one prayer request. (Commit these to prayer for the coming week.)

2. ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

Y / N	Y / N	_____
_____	_____	

3. Point: *Bring out the best in one another; stir them up!*

Review the previous lesson. How did you get together with others to do good works and encourage each other?

LOOK UP:

Good News: *You are not alone.*

The church has not always been perceived as a place for those who are not very church-like, especially for those who supposedly should “know better.”

The church should be a family that cares for and wants the best for one another. But what happens when a fellow Believer messes up? How should the church react? We need to ask, “How did God react to our messing up?”

God just didn’t just ignore sin or pretend like it was no big deal. God paid for our sin at a great cost. Our entire faith is built on someone else carrying the consequences for our bad choices. While there are consequences to my brother’s “messing up,” rather than adding to the consequences, I must seek to carry them with him.

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

Read: Colossians 3:12-13

- Verse 12 says we are “God’s chosen.” What does that mean?
- “Put on” is like getting dressed. What are we supposed to wear?

- Verse 13 says we need to be “bearing with one another.” What does it say is the first step?
 - Why? (Hint: 1 Peter 2:24)

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *We bear with one another because Jesus bore us.*

- Is there anyone in your life you need to forgive?
 - How will you forgive them this week?
- Is there someone you know who is struggling, who needs to hear, “I love you?”
 - How will you tell them this week?
- Is there someone in your life asking for help?
 - How will you help them this week?
- Do you need help to do any of these? _____
Ask for help NOW!
- Struggling? Do you need help? _____
Ask for help NOW!
 - How will you get help this week?



Family Time



Big Idea: Bearing with one another means holding someone up when they are falling and not giving up on someone even if they give up on themselves.



Key Verse: Colossians 3:12

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Set it Up: We all know someone who may be struggling with something in their life that makes them feel different and alone. Just a little bit of compassion and kindness can change the lives of others around us.



Ask:

- Have you ever felt like the only one who is different? Explain how you felt around others.
- Has anyone ever gone out of their way to make you feel included?



Encourage:

- Our first instinct is often to turn away from someone who is struggling or to push them out of our lives because we don’t want or don’t think we can help. Yet Jesus kept his eyes open for others who were different and made a point of searching them out to help them.
- Can you think of anyone in the New Testament that was suffering or different from others? How did Jesus show compassion to that person?
- Can you think of anyone around you who is different or feels left out? What is one thing you can do to show kindness the next time you see them?



Challenge: Are you ready to change a life?

Choose from one of the examples below, or come up with your own, and commit to making a difference for someone this week.

1. On a slip of paper, write a kind note to a lonely classmate. Make a point to say something nice about the way they look, how smart they are, or something else that you’ve noticed about them. Put it on their desk or slip it into their bookbag. Watch their face light up when they read it and wonder who wrote such kind words about them.
2. Add your family’s name to the **care@calvary** email list. Whenever an email comes through about someone needing help or falling ill, send them a sweet message to tell them that you are praying. Then pray for them each day.



Family Activity:

- The following Bible passages share a story about someone who was suffering. Read each passage, then fill in the blanks to tell who the person was and how Jesus reached out to them in compassion.
- Make it a fun evening of studying together if your children are older! Have each person take one passage and fill in the blanks, then take turns telling the Bible story in your own words and teach each other about Jesus’ kindness.

Scripture Passage	Who Was Hurting?	How did Jesus Show Compassion?
John 4:1-42		
Luke 8:43-48		
John 11:1-44		
Luke 19:1-10		
John 19:17-30		

The 3-Step “Encouragement 1-on-1” Process

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:23-25

1. Choose partners: Partners should be of the same gender. If there is an odd number, triplets are OK, but you need to work swiftly.
2. Partners ask each other these five questions:

	1) “Did you spend specific personal time in the BIBLE <u>each day</u> this past week?”	These are “Yes” or “No” questions.
	2) “Did you spend specific time in PRAYER <u>each day</u> this past week – not just for meals?”	Any hesitations or “Well...” responses are circled “No.”
	3) “Did you do something specific to show Godly LOVE to someone this past week?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, the partner briefly shares the encounter(s) with their partner and, on the provided line, writes the name(s) of the person(s) they showed love to, shared the gospel with, or disciplined. • If not, leave the line blank.
	4) “Did you intentionally share the GOSPEL with anyone this past week?”	
	5) “Did you DISCIPLE anyone this past week?” (Sharing with others from any of the Gathering, God, Group, or Family Times)	

3. To finish, each partner prays for the other: No matter how or what the partner has done over the past week, this is an intentional prayer of **encouragement** for the coming week!