

Wednesday *We are created in Christ Jesus for good works.*

Read Ephesians 2:8-10

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. How have you experienced God's saving grace as a gift of God?
2. Are your good works a response to God's grace or a way to earn God's grace?

Prayer Focus

Pray that the goodness of God might be reflected in the good works of your daily discipleship.

Thursday *Let us not grow weary in doing what is right....Whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all.*

Read Galatians 6:7-10

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Is there a time when you have grown weary in doing what is right? Why? What caused the weariness?
2. How is God calling you to work for the good of all?

Prayer Focus Ask God to refresh you where you feel weary in your work. Listen for God's call to the good work God desires of you.

Friday *I feel confident...that you are full of goodness*

Read Romans 15:14

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. God is confident that you are full of goodness, knowledge, and the ability to model for others. How does it feel to hear that God is confident in your goodness and ability?
2. Empowered by God's confidence in your goodness, how are you called to live out the fruit of goodness at this time in your life?

Prayer Focus

Praise God for God's confidence in you. Claim that confidence and seek God's guidance for living the fruit of goodness in your life.

Fruit of the Spirit

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

Each [hu]man has inside him/her a basic decency and goodness. If s/he listens to it and acts on it, s/he is giving a great deal of what it is the world needs most. It is not complicated, but it takes courage for a [hu]man to listen to his/her own inner goodness and act on it. Do we dare to be ourselves? This is the question that counts. Pablo Casals

Message Notes:

Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *How have you experienced and expressed the fruit of goodness this past week?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on James 4:1-3.

- Have someone read **James 4:1-3**.
- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?*
(This is a weekly question – it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

October 21, 2018

Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness

The fruit of goodness is not only about right actions, but is about right actions that stem from just motives. How do we tend to this fruit of goodness in our thoughts as well as deeds?

Monday *The Lord weighs the spirit.*

Read Proverbs 16:2

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Think of actions that might be pure in the eyes of the doer, but not in the eyes of God.
2. Do you consciously consider your motives before acting, or do you assume that what you do is automatically “pure” in the eyes of God?

Prayer Focus

Examine your motives for recent actions. Seek forgiveness for less-than-pure motives. Ask God to keep you focused on pure, godly motives.

Tuesday *Conflicts come from cravings at war within you*

Read James 4:1-3

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Consider current conflicts in our society. What cravings might spur these conflicts? Contrast these cravings with the craving for goodness.
2. What is the difference between pleasure for pure enjoyment/enhancement of life and pleasure pursued out of envy or jealousy?

Prayer Focus

Confess any “cravings” that may contribute to conflicts with others. Ask God to grant you pure motives for all actions.

