



# **DISCOVERING GOD'S TREASURE: WHO I AM IN CHRIST**

## **Family Discussion Guides**

School Year 2022-2023

Unit 2

## Family Discussion Guide: A Life That Pleases God

### **UNIT 2: The Perfect Life We Could Not Live**

Jesus lives a perfect life of obedience to God that we could never live up to ourselves. Jesus accomplished all that God asked him to do. Jesus gives us his perfect record of obedience so that God's pleasure for Jesus could extend to us and we can live our lives in thriving relationships with God and with others.

**Read** the Bible passage aloud, and then answer the questions together. Be sure everyone has a chance to speak.

One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them.

“God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth. God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied. God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.”

“God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.” *Matthew 5:1-12, New Living Translation*

### ***To Discuss***

- Based on this Bible passage, what kind of life is pleasing to God? Are you surprised by what God says about this? Why or why not?
- Do these characteristics talk about people's outward actions or their heart (who they are as a person)?
- Who do you know that lives in this kind of way?
- Do you think it is possible to live a life that is pleasing to God?
- Does the kind of life that pleases God sound easy or difficult? Does it sound worthwhile?

## Family Discussion Guide: Empowered To Obey

### **UNIT 2: The Perfect Life We Could Not Live**

Jesus lives a perfect life of obedience to God that we could never live up to ourselves. Jesus accomplished all that God asked him to do. Jesus gives us his perfect record of obedience so that God's pleasure for Jesus could extend to us and we can live our lives in thriving relationships with God and with others.

**Read** the Bible passage aloud, and then answer the questions together. Be sure everyone has a chance to speak.

“Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.” *Matthew 26:36-46, New Living Translation*

### ***To Discuss***

- Why was Jesus feeling troubled and sorrowful here?
- What was God the Father asking Jesus to do here?
- Was it easy for Jesus to obey God here? How can this encourage us when we have to do something right that might be difficult or challenging?
- Looking at Jesus's experience in the garden, how can we find the strength to obey?
- Where do you need Jesus's help to obey?

## Family Discussion Guide: Obedient From The Heart

### **UNIT 2: The Perfect Life We Could Not Live**

Jesus lives a perfect life of obedience to God that we could never live up to ourselves. Jesus accomplished all that God asked him to do. Jesus gives us his perfect record of obedience so that God's pleasure for Jesus could extend to us and we can live our lives in thriving relationships with God and with others.

**Read** the Bible passages aloud, and then answer the questions together. Be sure everyone has a chance to speak.

Then God gave the people all these instructions: "I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. You must not have any other god but me. You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands. You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name. Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy. Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you. You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely against your neighbor. You must not covet your neighbor's house. You must not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor." *Exodus 20:1-17, New Living Translation*

"Then the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain. Stay there, and I will give you the tablets of stone on which I have inscribed my instructions and commands so you can teach the people." *Exodus 24:12, New Living Translation*

"And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within them. I will take away their stony, stubborn heart and give them a tender, responsive heart, so they will obey my decrees and

regulations. Then they will truly be my people, and I will be their God.” *Ezekiel 11:19-20, New Living Translation*

“This is the new covenant I will make with my people on that day, says the LORD: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” *Hebrews 10:16, New Living Translation*

### **To Discuss**

- God’s commandments (also known as God’s law) were once written on a stone. Where does God say he will write his commandments now?
- What makes a tender, responsible heart different from a stony heart? What kind of heart do you have? What kind of heart would you like to have?
- What makes it difficult to obey?
- Why do you think God gives us these commands?

## Family Discussion Guide: Strong Against Temptation

### **UNIT 2: The Perfect Life We Could Not Live**

Jesus lives a perfect life of obedience to God that we could never live up to ourselves. Jesus accomplished all that God asked him to do. Jesus gives us his perfect record of obedience so that God's pleasure for Jesus could extend to us and we can live our lives in thriving relationships with God and with others.

**Read** the Bible passage aloud, and then answer the questions together. Be sure everyone has a chance to speak.

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.” *Matthew 4:1-11, New Living Translation*

### ***To Discuss***

- Who is the tempter? What did he try to get Jesus to do?
- How did Jesus respond to Satan's temptations?
- Have you ever been tempted to do something wrong or unwise? How did you respond?
- Think of a time when you gave in to temptation and made the wrong choice. What could have helped you make a different choice? Who is qualified to help you overcome temptation?
- Do you feel ashamed when you face temptation? Why or why not? Does knowing that Jesus faced temptation change your mind about this?