

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE



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Welcome

HIGHER CHARACTER — Living by the Spirit, is a small group Bible study exploring the Fruit of the Holy Spirit. In a world that often pulls us in every direction, this study is an opportunity to slow down, dive into God's Word, and discover how love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control can transform your daily life.





Session 1

ICEBREAKER

Introduce yourself and then go around the room and ask everyone to share their name and a little about themselves. Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to today's session.

VIDEO

In this week's video, Ps Mary Capper shares with us what is required to live a life that bears fruit, beginning with love.

DISCUSSION

- Today's message emphasized that the Fruit of the Spirit is Spirit-produced but human partnered. What does this partnership look like in practical terms in your daily life?
- What would your spiritual garden look like if you let Him pull the weeds? What weeds in your life might be hindering the growth of spiritual fruit?
- The passage from 1 Corinthians 13:7-10 describes love in very specific ways. Which aspect of this description challenges you the most?
- How might cultivating that description of love change your relationships?

CLOSING & PRAYER

Encourage everyone to participate in homework and devotionals weekly. Pray for the Holy Spirit to minister to each group member as they study the fruit of the spirit.

HOMEWORK

See the HOMEWORK & DEVOTIONS section of the Participant Workbook for this week's assignment & 5-day reading plan.



Homework

KEY SCRIPTURE

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23 NIV



QUESTIONS

Read Galatians 5:16-18. How do you experience the conflict between the flesh and the Spirit in your daily life?

Paul lists nine fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. Which of these do you find most challenging to cultivate, and why?

Jesus says in John 15:16 that He chose and appointed us to bear fruit that remains. What do you think it means for spiritual fruit to 'remain', and how can we ensure our impact lasts?



Session 2

WELCOME

Welcome everyone and discuss their engagement with homework this week. Include the following questions:

- What stood out to you in this week's homework?
- Have the members share a scripture that resonated with them from the devotionals this week.

VIDEO

In this week's video, Isaac Pyo shares how Christian joy is not based on circumstances but on our relationship with Christ.

DISCUSSION


- How would you define joy? How does the sermon's definition of Christian joy differ from the world's understanding of joy?
- Share a time when you experienced joy during a difficult circumstance. How did your faith play a role in that experience?
- How does the promise of heaven as our true home affect the way we live our lives on earth? Does it change our priorities or perspectives?
- In light of the message on joy, how can we as Christians better demonstrate and share this joy with others in our daily lives and interactions?

CLOSING & PRAYER

Encourage everyone to participate in homework and devotionals weekly. Thank God for the gift of joy through the Holy Spirit. Ask for His help in cultivating and sharing this joy in your daily lives.

HOMEWORK

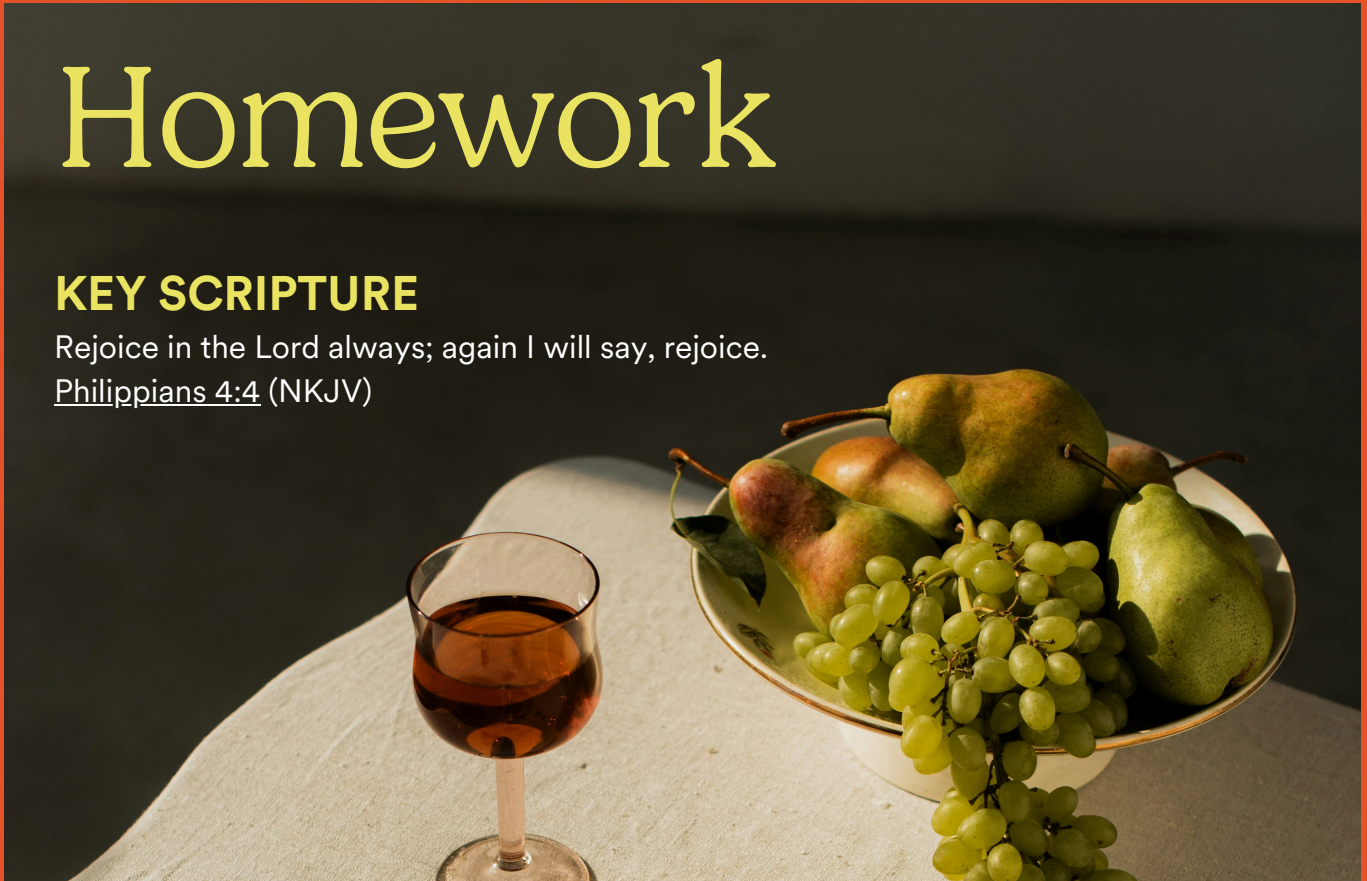
See the HOMEWORK & DEVOTIONS section of the Participant Workbook for this week's assignment & 5-day reading plan.



Homework

KEY SCRIPTURE

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.
Philippians 4:4 (NKJV)



QUESTIONS

How does the concept of Christian joy as 'a deep delight in the soul' differ from worldly happiness? In what ways have you experienced this type of joy in your own life?

Reflect on Paul's command to 'Rejoice in the Lord always'. What practical steps can we take to obey this instruction, especially during difficult times?

What role does the Holy Spirit play in producing joy in our lives? How can we be more open to His work?

A large, empty white rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for writing answers to the questions.



Session 3

WELCOME

Welcome everyone, and discuss their engagement with homework this week. Include the following questions:

- What stood out to you in this week's homework?
- Have the members share a scripture that resonated with them from the devotionals this week.

VIDEO

In this week's video, Patrick Lander shares how to live peace-filled in a chaotic world.

DISCUSSION


- How does the idea that peace is a fruit of the Spirit, rather than something we create ourselves, change your perspective on finding peace?
- The message distinguishes between being peaceful and being peace-filled. How do you see these two aspects of peace playing out in your own life?
- Can you share an experience where you felt peace despite challenging circumstances? What helped you maintain that peace?
- How might our peace serve as a testimony to others, especially in difficult situations?

CLOSING & PRAYER

Encourage everyone to participate in homework and devotionals weekly. Close in prayer by asking God to cultivate the fruit of peace in our lives and to help us be both peace-filled and peaceful in our daily interactions and circumstances.

HOMEWORK

See the HOMEWORK & DEVOTIONS section of the Participant Workbook for this week's assignment & 5-day reading plan.



Homework

KEY SCRIPTURE

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7 (NIV)



QUESTIONS

How might your perspective on troubles and conflicts change if you truly embraced Jesus' words in John 16:33 that 'In this world you will have trouble'?

How does Paul's example of finding peace amid extreme hardships challenge or inspire your own approach to difficulties?

What does it mean for you personally to experience 'the peace of God, which transcends all understanding' (Philippians 4:7), and how might this impact your daily life?



Session 4

WELCOME

Welcome everyone, and discuss their engagement with homework this week. Include the following questions:

- What stood out to you in this week's homework?
- Have the members share a scripture that resonated with them from the devotionals this week.

VIDEO

In this week's video, Nathan Rainey shares how to cultivate patience, the fruit of spiritual endurance.

DISCUSSION


- In what ways can trials and testing produce perseverance in our lives? Can you share a personal experience where a challenge led to spiritual growth?
- Reflecting on Saul's impatience, what are the consequences of acting hastily instead of waiting on God's timing in our own lives?
- In what ways does humbling ourselves under God's hand relate to developing patience? How might pride hinder our ability to wait on God?
- How does the hope of Christ's return influence our patience in daily life? In what areas do you find it challenging to maintain this perspective?

CLOSING & PRAYER

Encourage everyone to participate in homework and devotionals weekly. Close in prayer by asking God to help everyone apply the concept of biblical patience in their lives.

HOMEWORK

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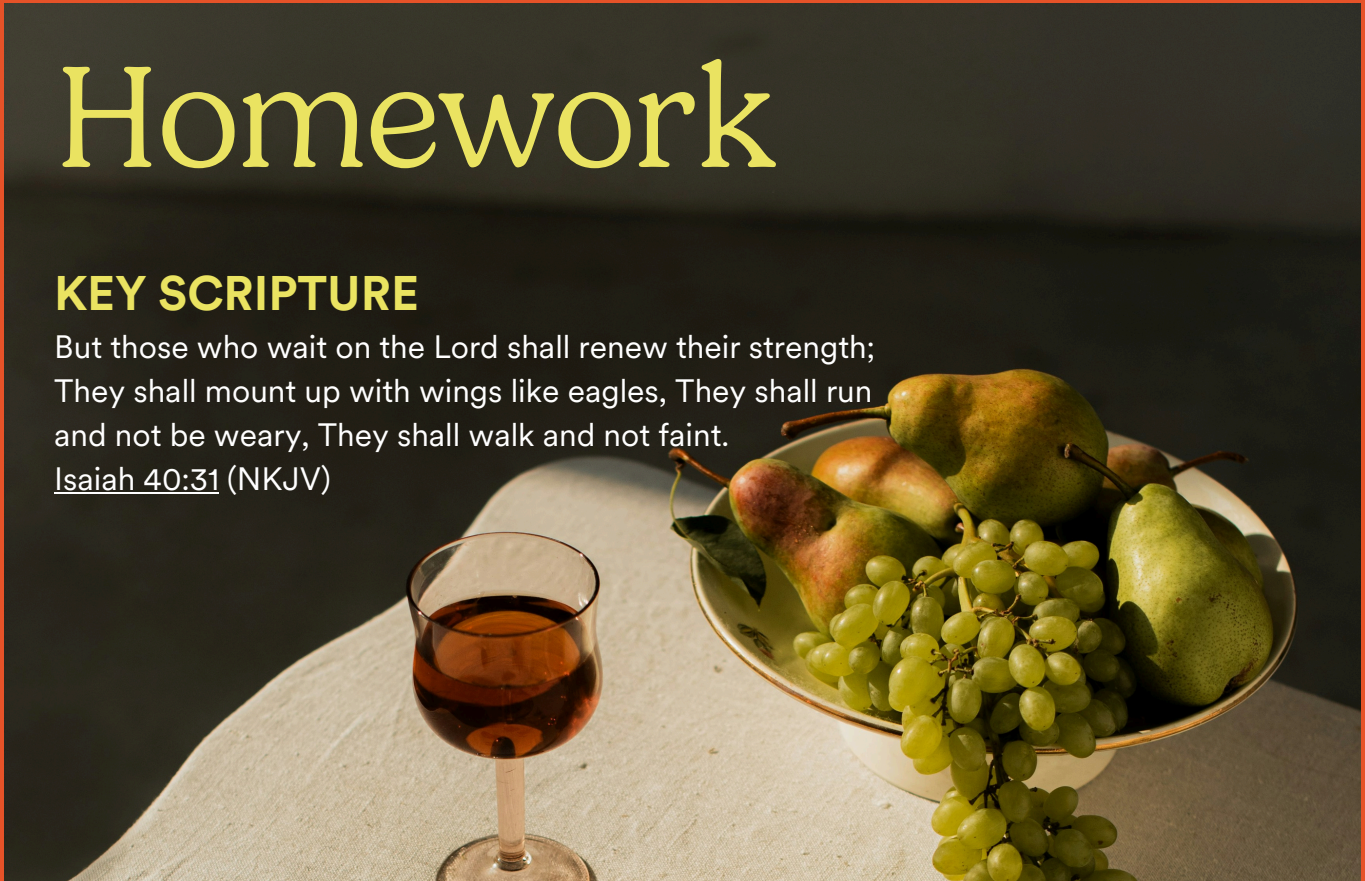


Homework

KEY SCRIPTURE

But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run
and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)



QUESTIONS

Read Exodus 34:6. How does God's patience (long-suffering) impact your view of His character?

Read James 1:2-4. How can trials produce perseverance in our lives?

How does humbling ourselves before God relate to patience? (1 Peter 5:6-7)

Read the story of Saul's impatience in 1 Samuel 13. What lessons can we learn from his mistake?



Session 5

WELCOME

Welcome everyone, and discuss their engagement with homework this week. Include the following questions:

- What stood out to you in this week's homework?
- Have the members share a scripture that resonated with them from the devotionals this week.

VIDEO

In this week's video, Abby Lee shares how God's kindness should lead us to action.

DISCUSSION


- What stood out to you most from the sermon on kindness?
- Reflect on a time when someone showed you unexpected kindness. How did it impact you?
- What are some barriers that prevent us from showing radical kindness in our daily lives?
- In what areas of your life do you find it easiest to show kindness, and where do you struggle the most? How can you grow in showing kindness in those challenging areas?

CLOSING & PRAYER

Encourage everyone to participate in homework and devotionals weekly. Close in prayer and thank God for His kindness in our lives and ask for His help in cultivating and expressing kindness to others this week.

HOMEWORK

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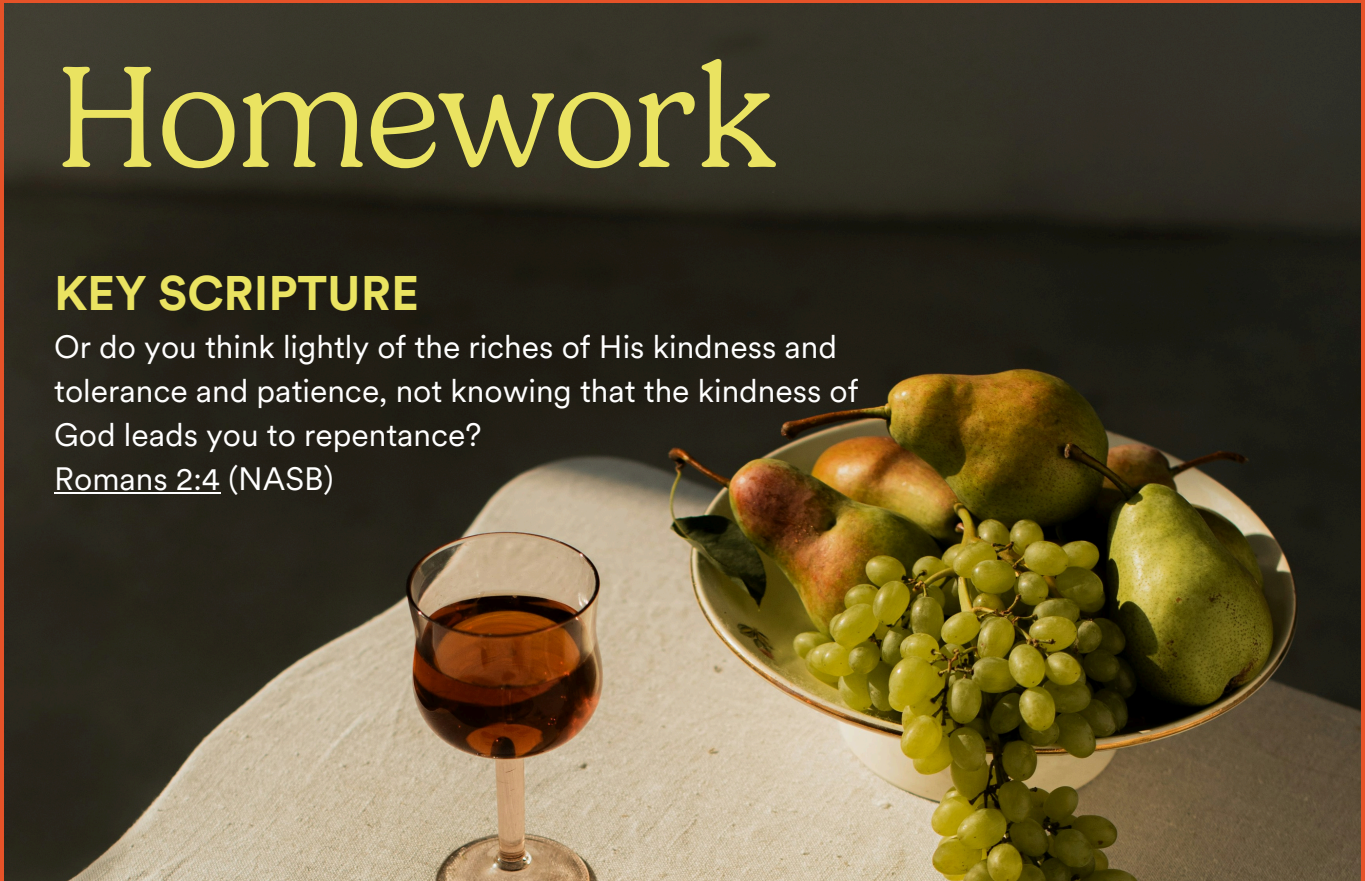


Homework

KEY SCRIPTURE

Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

Romans 2:4 (NASB)



QUESTIONS

How has God's kindness led you to repentance ?

Read the story of the Good Samaritan found in Luke 10: 25-27. In what ways do you find yourself relating to the priest or Levite in the Good Samaritan parable? What obstacles prevent you from showing radical kindness in your daily life?

Can you think of a situation in your community where God might be calling you to step in with radical kindness? What's holding you back, and how can you overcome those barriers?



Session 6

WELCOME

Welcome everyone, and discuss their engagement with homework this week. Include the following questions:

- What stood out to you in this week's homework?
- Have the members share a scripture that resonated with them from the devotionals this week.

VIDEO

In this week's video, Ashley Self shares how to cultivate the fruit of goodness.

DISCUSSION


- What comes to mind when you hear the word "goodness"? How has your understanding of goodness changed after today's message?
- How might our pursuit of 'greatness' sometimes hinder our development of true 'goodness' as defined by God?
- The message suggests that goodness is cultivated in relationships. How have your relationships helped or hindered the development of goodness in your life?
- How might our church community better demonstrate goodness to 'outsiders' in a way that wins their respect and points them to God?

CLOSING & PRAYER

Encourage everyone to participate in homework and devotionals weekly. Close by praying Ephesians 2:10 over the group, asking God to help each member cultivate goodness and do the good works He has prepared in advance.

HOMEWORK

See the HOMEWORK & DEVOTIONS section of the Participant Workbook for this week's assignment & 5-day reading plan.



Homework

KEY SCRIPTURE

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)



QUESTIONS

In what ways can you distinguish between actions that merely appear good and those that truly reflect God's goodness through you?

Read Ephesians 2:10, how does the idea of being 'created for good works' impact your view of your purpose and daily activities?

The message emphasizes maturity in the Spirit. What practical steps can we take to grow in spiritual maturity and produce more consistent 'fruit'?



Session 7

WELCOME

Welcome everyone, and discuss their engagement with homework this week. Include the following questions:

- What stood out to you in this week's homework?
- Have the members share a scripture that resonated with them from the devotionals this week.

VIDEO

In this week's video, Adriane Brown shares how to cultivate the fruit of faithfulness in our lives.

DISCUSSION


- The message mentions that faithfulness is rooted in God's character. Can you share an example from your life where you've experienced God's faithfulness?
- How do you typically respond when you don't see your prayers being answered or when God seems silent? What challenges do you face in remaining faithful during these times?
- The speaker shared personal examples of choosing faithfulness in difficult situations (e.g., business challenges, financial debt). Can you share a time when you had to choose faithfulness despite challenging circumstances?
- How does the Holy Spirit help us develop faithfulness? What role do we play in cultivating this fruit?

CLOSING & PRAYER

Encourage everyone to participate in homework and devotionals weekly. End the session by thanking God for His faithfulness and asking for His help in developing this fruit in our lives.

HOMEWORK

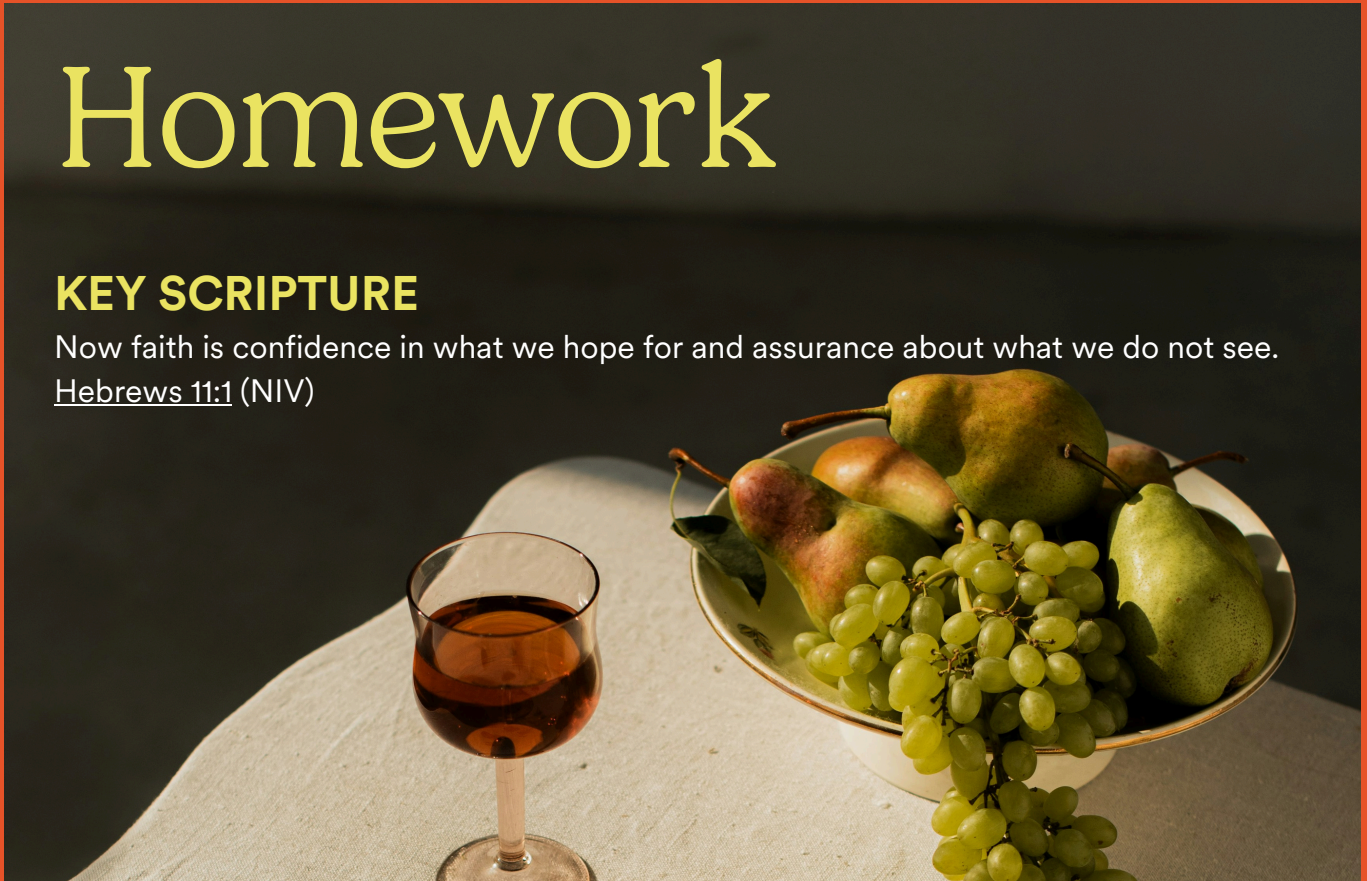
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Homework

KEY SCRIPTURE

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.
Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)



QUESTIONS

How does the concept of 'seeing it to believe it' conflict with the biblical definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1, and how can you overcome this worldly perspective?

How does the process of suffering producing perseverance, character, and hope (Romans 5:3-5) relate to developing faithfulness in your spiritual walk?

In what ways can your faithfulness serve as a witness to others, similar to the examples in the 'Faith Hall of Fame' in Hebrews 11?



Session 8

WELCOME

Welcome everyone, and discuss their engagement with homework this week. Include the following questions:

- What stood out to you in this week's homework?
- Have the members share a scripture that resonated with them from the devotionals this week.

VIDEO

In this week's video, Ps Ken DeHart shares about the quiet power of gentleness.

DISCUSSION


- What's your initial reaction when you hear the word "gentleness"? Do you tend to view it as a strength or a weakness?
- The pastor mentioned that gentleness is linked to self-control. How have you seen this connection in your own life?
- Share a time when someone's gentleness made a significant impact on you. What made their approach effective?
- How might practicing gentleness serve as a witness to non-believers in our lives?

CLOSING & PRAYER

Encourage everyone to participate in homework and devotionals weekly. End the session by thanking God for His gentle and loving nature. Ask the Holy Spirit to give us the strength to respond with gentleness in difficult situations and to reflect His character to those around us.

HOMEWORK

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Homework

KEY SCRIPTURE

Let your gentle spirit be known to all people.

The Lord is near.

Philippians 4:5 (NASB)



QUESTIONS

How does the idea of gentleness as 'strength under control' challenge your previous understanding of this trait? In what areas of your life might you need to cultivate this kind of controlled strength?

Read Matthew 11:29.
How does Jesus describe himself?
How can we cultivate these qualities in our own lives?

How does understanding gentleness as part of God's nature impact your view of Him and your relationship with Him? Has this changed your perception of how God relates to you?

Reflecting on Proverbs 15:1 and 15:4, how might practicing gentleness in your speech transform your relationships and conflicts? Can you share an experience where gentle words made a significant difference?



Session 9

WELCOME

Welcome everyone, and discuss their engagement with homework this week. Include the following questions:

- What stood out to you in this week's homework?
- Have the members share a scripture that resonated with them from the devotionals this week.

VIDEO

In this week's video, Jeremy Self shares about cultivating self-control and aligning with God's purpose.

DISCUSSION


- What's your initial reaction to the topic of self-control? Do you tend to see it as restrictive or freeing?
- The speaker mentioned that self-control isn't about being "in control" but being "under control." How does this perspective change your understanding of self-control?
- The speaker shared a personal example about family road trips. What situations in your life tend to challenge your self-control the most?
- How have you seen a lack of self-control impact relationships, purpose, or your representation of Christ to others

CLOSING & PRAYER

Encourage everyone to participate in homework and devotionals weekly. End the session by praying for the Holy Spirit to have full control over our lives and to remain aligned to God's purpose.

HOMEWORK

See the HOMEWORK & DEVOTIONS section of the Participant Workbook for this week's assignment & 5-day reading plan.



Homework

KEY SCRIPTURE

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, Titus 2:11-12 (NIV)



QUESTIONS

In what area of your life do you most need to 'surrender daily' to the Holy Spirit's guidance, and what might that look like practically?

Read Galatians 5:22-23. How does seeing self-control as a fruit of the Spirit, rather than a personal achievement, impact your approach to growing in this area?

Considering the closing challenge, what specific area of your life feels 'out of control' right now, and how can you invite the Holy Spirit to bring alignment with God's purpose in that area?

