



BOOK CLUB  
DISCUSSION  
GUIDE

## INTRODUCTION

What are some things you put your faith in every day?

Think of a time you put your faith in someone or something that turned out to not be trustworthy. How did that shape your understanding of the situation or person?

Read the following passage a couple of times. What word or phrase stands out to you? Is there anything, at first reading, that you resist in these verses?

*His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

*2 Peter 1:3-4*

Looking towards the abundant life that faith in God offers, what “supplement” are you most looking forward to exploring: goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, and love?



## **CHAPTER ONE | GOODNESS**

Can you think of a time when shifting your perspective actually reshaped a situation for you? What was the specific perspective shift and how did it transform your attitude, relationship, or outcome?

As a parent, or child, how does this statement ring true for you: 'You can have freedom, and with it love, or you can have control. You can't have both.'?

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was not a random morality test but rather a beautiful example of relationship over coercion from a good God who longs to give us freedom. Has this divine setup for our good been challenging for you to receive and if so, why?

Is there any area of your life where you have settled into thinking "This is just the way it is"? How does trusting the goodness of God shift that perspective?

Take some time this week to read and reflect on the creation story as well as the goodness of God in Genesis 1-2.



## **CHAPTER TWO | KNOWLEDGE**

People learn in different ways. In what way do you learn best? Are you a visual, auditory, verbal, or physical learner? Do you learn best in a social or solitary context?

How do you think your learning style shows up in your faith?

"Follow your heart" is a familiar adage in our culture. But Jeremiah 17:9 say, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" What are some other common expressions that sound like wisdom but contradict God's spiritual truths?

Duplicity is when we know something to be true, at some level, but we act contrary to that truth. Several examples are given on page 35. Discuss these examples and any others that show up in your own life and have led you to resignation.

"Knowledge without action is pointless and powerless." What actions can you take this week in light of the promises from Scripture listed on page 39?

In partnership with God, how can you pursue knowledge this week?



### **CHAPTER THREE | SELF CONTROL**

Reflect on the areas in your life where you have knowledge but lack self-control. What resources or disciplines are available to you to strengthen your self-control?

Think of a time when you resisted acting on something you knew wouldn't be good for you. What were the pay-offs for exercising that self-control?

How does self-control usher in more freedom?

The final paragraph of the chapter asserts that 'self-control is doing the right things repeatedly and seeing our lives transformed as we maintain a connection with Jesus.' Spend some time in prayer this week asking for His Holy Spirit to fill every area of your life as you submit to His will. Ask for His help building self-control in the areas where you are seeking growth.

*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23*



## **CHAPTER FOUR: PERSEVERANCE**

In your desire to persevere and work through a challenge or trial, what circumstance comes to mind? For whatever challenge you face, what is the vision that is driving your desire for stick-to-it-ness?

How do you connect suffering with perseverance? Can you think of an example in your own life where it has been worth it...maybe a degree you worked towards, an instrument or language you learned, a relationship you pursued?

Looking back on your life, how has God protected you, with His very presence, through trials and times of suffering? (See Isaiah 43:1-2)

Looking at the list of hindrances on page 67, what do you need to throw off to embrace perseverance?



## **CHAPTER FIVE: GODLINESS**

Who has been an example of godliness in your life? Can you think of ways they have persevered through storms that have come their way?

How does persevering, rather than just enduring, through life develop godliness? Can you think of specific examples?

God is not interested in our performance. He is interested in our character. In what ways has He worked to develop your character into His divine image....have you grown in compassion, patience, gentleness, joy, etc?



## **CHAPTER SIX: MUTUAL AFFECTION**

Mutual affection orients our godliness outward, however, when we mentally set up boundaries for who we are willing to love, we limit the scope of the godliness that God is developing in us. Do you have a love-limit, a person or group of people that you are not willing to love?

We live in, what is called, cancel culture. Have you experienced the results of a culture that says "If we don't agree, we can't be in relationship"?

How do you respond to the word 'submission'? What feelings does it bring up for you?

What are some tangible areas in your life where you can resist the default posture of human nature (self-focus and impatience)?

How do grace and forgiveness move us away from operating on the offensive?





## **CHAPTER SEVEN: LOVE**

How does having a misplaced identity (in our work, the things we do or accomplish) stifle our ability to love well?

If love is our highest calling, and God designed each of us to be uniquely who we are, then how are you stepping into that calling on a daily basis?

Luke 6:32-33 says, "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that." Who comes to mind as difficult to love? Take a moment and pray for God's perspective on that person. Are you willing to allow Him to shift your heart?

After reading this chapter, how would you explain that "agape love is the anti-venom to the soul-poison of fear"?

## **CONCLUSION**

What is God prompting you to engage or to set aside as you pursue goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, and love?

God has set us up for freedom and has given us the resources to successfully embrace the divine image He created in us. So, in light of that, what vision for your life are you committed to?