

GOOD WORK

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a **good work** in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” (Phil. 1:6)

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Eph. 2:10)

“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has **faith** but does not have **works**? Can that **faith** save him?” (James 2:14)

Each week, make part of your group discussion about what you are going to do to take actionable steps toward growth, including circling back to what you previously committed to.

This *accountability* is crucial in our ability to **live out** our **faith** through not just what we say, but **what we do**. Consider good questions like: “What is one thing I can do today to work on XYZ?” and “What did I say I would do and did I do it?”

This must be done with:
BROTHERLY LOVE + TRUST + RESPECT + ENCOURAGEMENT + HONESTY

HUDDLE UP

What areas of my life need work? Where do others tend to see gaps or areas of struggle in my life? (Ps. 139:23-24)

What is **ONE** area that bothers you the most, that keeps you most frustrated or you feel like you just keep seeming to struggle with?

Why does it bother you so much?

GOOD WORK cont.

HUDDLE UP cont.

What do you think the Lord wants for you in that area? Find some Scripture passages about it.

Imagine this: that area of your life is *TOTALLY* redeemed. What do you think that would look like? How would you feel? How would others around you experience that in you?

CLOSING THOUGHT

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 says:

"But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

We know we are called to be serious about pursuing a holy life. And we also know that it is COMPLETELY the work of God's grace in our hearts to change us. Simply put: because of God's love poured out on us from Jesus, we know that His Spirit wants us to believe, think, speak, and act like Him more and more each day. You can do this.

Even if you don't have much confidence in yourself to grow, trust in the Lord. He can move mountains, parts seas, and make dead men come to LIFE!

You are not too far gone. You are not above learning and growth.

COME BE THE MAN WE NEED YOU TO BE!

GOOD WORK cont.

HEADS UP

Each week in the “Next Steps” section of your Group Time, we hope that your group will make the time to establish a plan for doing GOOD WORK.

Track your GOOD WORK on page 10 each week. This creates a single list where you can make note of what you plan to do, when you plan to do it, and follow up on whether you were able to do it or not.

It can be difficult to maintain efforts in doing what is good when there isn't much to show for it. And especially if we feel like nothing is changing.

But we know for sure that God is using all of things for our good and His glory (Rom. 8:28), that no devotion expressed or Scripture memorized will be in vain (Isa. 55:11), and that God is working even if we are not seeing immediate fruit (Rom. 8:24-25).

As you pursue GOOD WORK, think in terms of “this week” or “this month”, rather than “sometime” or “in 5 years”. Small progress in the right direction is how great achievements are made. A life of confidence, flourishing, and purpose means doing lots of little good works, consistently over time.

Be sure to CIRCLE BACK each week to check on “how did it go?” Be curious about each other's progress. Encourage each other to keep going. Pray for one another. If it's helpful, break up your small group into twos or threes to make it easier for everyone to share.

STEPS:

1. Identify the area of struggle you want to grow in.
2. Find 1 thing you can do this week/month to grow in that area. Make sub-tasks if needed and make sure it's “SMART”. (see Appendix B on page 31)
3. Write it down and commit to it with your group. (page 10)
4. Engage in those GOOD WORKS for that week.
5. Come back the next week and talk about how it went. Assess what went well, what was difficult, and what you felt as you made your efforts.
6. Repeat the process by either improving in that task or find a new approach in the next week.

