

LIVING A LIFE THAT PLEASES THE LORD

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Small Group Study Guide

“Living a Life That Pleases the Lord”

Text: Luke 3:21–22

Big Idea

God is not hard to please, but He’s not pleased by popularity, prosperity, or performance. He is pleased by a life that is saved, Spirit-led, surrendered, and selfless.

Key Scripture

“And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, ‘You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.’” — Luke 3:22

Icebreaker: Let’s Get Real

- What’s something you’ve done recently that brought you joy, and why?
- Growing up, what did you think it meant to please God?

Discussion Questions

1. God Tells Us When He’s Pleased

Read Luke 3:22 and Hebrews 11:6

- Why do you think God publicly declared His pleasure in Jesus at His baptism?
- How does God tell us today when He’s pleased with our lives?
- What role does faith play in pleasing God?

Key Point: God is pleased when we put our faith in Christ—salvation is the starting point.

2. God Tests Those He's Pleased With

Read Luke 4:1–2 and Romans 8:28

- Why do we often equate hardship with God's displeasure?
- Can you recall a time when you were being faithful but still went through a tough test?
- How can we shift our thinking to see trials as signs of God's trust, not punishment?

Key Point: God doesn't test us to break us but to build us. Testing is often a sign of God's approval, not His anger.

3. God Thrusts Out Those He's Pleased With

Read Luke 4:14

- What does it mean for God to “thrust you out”?
- Have you ever felt God pushing you into new territory after a difficult season?
- How can we be more obedient when God calls us to step out?

Key Point: God often uses our pain as the platform for our purpose.

4. God Teams You Up When He's Pleased

Read Matthew 4:18–20

- Why do you think Jesus immediately started gathering a team?
- Why is community essential to spiritual growth?
- How has God used people in your life to help you grow?

Key Point: God doesn't call us to walk alone. He places us in community to strengthen and send us.

Life Application

Ask each group member:

1. Which of the four ways to please God do you need to focus on right now?
 - Salvation in Christ
 - Being Spirit-led
 - Being Sold Out
 - Sharing with Others
2. Which of God's responses (telling, testing, thrusting, teaming) are you currently experiencing?

Prayer Focus

- Thank God for loving us enough to tell us when we please Him.
- Ask for strength to remain faithful during testing.
- Surrender to God's push—ask Him to use your pain for His purpose.
- Pray for unity and strength in your small group community.

Optional Midweek Challenge

- Daily Reading Plan: Luke 3–4 and Colossians 1:9–14
- Journal Prompt: “Lord, I want to please You more than anyone else. Show me where I'm living for the applause of others instead of Your approval.”