

DISCUSSION GUIDE

GROWING IN GOODNESS
Make Every Effort — Week 6

ICEBREAKER: Is belief in God intellectual suicide? Why or why not?

OVERVIEW: The virtue of goodness is stressed throughout the Bible. Christians are commanded to be rich in good works, eager to do good works, ready to do good works, and devoted to good works. But cultivating goodness is not easy. It demands Bible Study, moral purity, and selflessness. In this discussion we will talk about how to grow in goodness.

1. **Read 2 Peter 1:5-7.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read Acts 9:36-39. Describe Tabitha's reputation, and how she was remembered after she died. How do you want to be remembered after you die?
3. The definition of goodness is "always doing good works and acts of charity." It is the quality of being helpful – always ready and willing to lend a helping hand. What are some ways that you can be more helpful to the people in your life?
4. Goodness can also be defined as the quality of servanthood – always looking to serve others rather than to be served. Describe the most servant-hearted person you know? What can you learn from them about servanthood?
5. Galatians 6:2 says, "Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Goodness can also be defined as carrying other's burdens – problems that are too heavy for them to carry alone. How does Jesus carry our burdens? How can you grow to be more of a burden-carrier?
6. What are some examples of good works and acts of charity?
7. The virtue of goodness is not optional; it is a command. The Christian's call to goodness can be summarized with four words: Rich (1 Tim 6:18); Eager (Titus 2:14); Ready (Titus 3:1); Devoted (Titus 3:8). We are to be rich in good works, eager and ready to do good works, and devoted to good works. What do each of these four words mean in relation to good works?
8. Why is it so important to God that we cultivate the virtue of goodness?
9. Read 1 Timothy 6:18-19. How does it benefit us to do good deeds?
10. Read 2 Timothy 2:21. How does moral purity help us to be more useful to God for good works?
11. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. How does knowing and understanding your Bible help you to grow in goodness?

The Last Word: People are much more likely to accept Christ if they see God in us rather than just hear about Him from us.