

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE PURSUIT OF GODLINESS
Make Every Effort — Week 4

ICEBREAKER: The zombie apocalypse is coming. Who are 3 people you want on your team?

OVERVIEW: The Bible has a lot to say about godliness. Not only does God want you to be godly, but He wants you to raise godly children (Malachi 2:15). We are commanded to pray for our political leaders so that we can be free to live in all godliness (1 Tim 2:1-2). Godliness pleases God (1 Tim 2:2-3). We must train ourselves to be godly (1 Tim 4:7). We must pursue godliness (1 Tim 6:11). We are instructed to live in a godly way in this present age (Titus 2:12). We are commanded to be people of godliness (2 Peter 3:11). Clearly godliness is essential for Christians. So what is godliness and how do we cultivate it in our lives?

1. **Read 2 Peter 1:3-5.** 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. The sermon mentioned two different definitions of godliness. What are they?
3. 2 Peter 1:3 says, "His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness." If God has given us everything required for godliness, then He obviously wants us to be godly. Why?
4. Godliness is God's will for us. Are you living a godly life? Explain. Are you pursuing godliness? Explain.

5. How does knowing that God has given you everything required for godliness help you to not get discouraged and give up?
6. Some Christian denominations teach that you need a second experience, subsequent to salvation, to be able to live a godly life. How does 2 Peter 1:3 answer this claim?
7. Read 2 Peter 1:4. The benefit of godliness is escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire. What are some examples of the corruption in the world that we can escape by living godly lives?
8. 2 Peter 1:4-5 says, "4 By these he has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith." The cultivation of godliness demands making every effort. Are you making every effort to grow in godliness? Explain.
9. Not only should we make every effort to grow in godliness, but we must. Without making every effort, we will not be able to overcome the flesh, the world, and the devil. What are some ways that you need to increase your effort in the pursuit of godliness?

The Last Word: Your flesh is so sinful, this world is so tempting, and the devil is so crafty that godliness requires making every effort. Becoming godly is not easy. It takes everything thing you've got.