

Small Group Discussion Guide

The Abundant Life: For the week of May 15 - 21, 2022

Main Thought and Scriptures:

(Break into groups of 3-4. Discuss for 30-40 minutes)

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10 ESV)

While the Devil came to rob humanity of the abundant life that God designed, Christ came to restore it. God’s definition and path to true abundance are very different from the World’s. The Bible teaches that true abundance isn’t found in possessions and earthly riches but through growing in “godliness” or Christlike character. As we grow in godliness through God’s grace and our effort, we will experience an abundant life amid life’s trials and ultimate abundance and blessing in heaven. In the book of 2 Peter 1, the Apostle Peter explains what is needed to experience abundance in Christ.

1. Abundance comes from knowing Jesus Christ as Lord (v. 2)

“May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.”

- Grace, God’s empowering presence, and peace, a sense of contentment and well-being, come from knowing Jesus as Lord, not just as Savior.
- “Lord” implies that we faithfully follow Him and obey His Word.

2. Knowing Jesus as Lord enables us to grow in godliness. (v. 3-4)

*“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who **called us to his own glory and excellence**, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them **you may become partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.”*

- Christ calls us to become like Him in “his own glory and excellence” and be “partakers of the divine nature” or character.
- The Holy Spirit in us provides the power we need to grow in godliness and receive His promises.

3. Growing in godliness is a partnership with the Holy Spirit (His “divine power”) and our own effort. (v. 5-9)

*“For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸**For if these qualities are yours and are increasing**, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.”*

- We must partner with the Spirit to grow in godliness. It requires effort on our part.
- God desires progress, not perfection. While we will never be perfect on this side of heaven, we should see Christ’s character “increasing” in our lives.

Discussion Questions:

(Break into groups of 3-4 to discuss. Select those that best apply)

- As you reflect on the main thoughts and scriptures above, what is the Lord highlighting to you and why?
- How have you seen growth and progress in your character so far? How have you become more like Christ and grown in godliness since you started following Jesus? Explain.
- What areas of your life do you still struggle to live with godly character? How can you “make every effort” to grow in that area?

Prayer:

(Break into groups of 2-3 to pray for 10 minutes)

- Pray for one another to grow in godliness in one specific area of character.
- Who is one person that God is calling you to love and bless this week? Take time to pray for one person each.