

Do, Love, Walk

Bible Study • Study Guide

Opening Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, we gather here today to discover what it means to walk a Christian life. You give us many instructions in Your Word about how we are to live. Guide our hearts and minds today, as we touch on just a few Scripture verses that point out the way You would have us live. We pray in Your dear Son's name. Amen.

Theme Verse: *He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?* (Micah 6:8). This Old Testament verse gives us three areas to uphold for Christian living. Let's break each of them down and see how we can apply them to our everyday life.

Do Justice

Justice is defined as "just behavior or treatment." (*Dictionary.com.*) We are called by God to behave fairly toward everyone. We are all sinful, but we are not to judge another's sinfulness as greater than or worse than our own.

Read John 8:2–11.

What did Jesus tell the woman to do? _____

Jesus called on her to repent of her sinfulness and to change her life.

In the Bible, the word justice means "to make right." God is just. It is part of His character; He cannot be unjust. God is righteous and fair in dealing with all His children and He calls us to be the same to one another. God's work "to make right" ultimately happens at the cross where Christ grants us forgiveness through the shedding of His blood, justifying us by His grace. In Christ, we are blessed, not to receive what we deserve, but what God graciously gives, namely, the forgiveness of sins and the assurance of life in the kingdom of God (see Ephesians 2:1–10, Romans 3:24, and Titus 3:7 as examples).

In Scripture, justice is also a relational term—people living in a right relationship with God and one another. As God is just and loving to His creation, so we are called to be just and live in love.

And the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, saying, “Thus says the Lord of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart” (Zechariah 7:8–10).

The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love (Psalm 33:9).

Today, God still calls us to come before Him and seek His forgiveness through repentance, so that He can show us His mercy and offer us forgiveness. *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).*

Love Kindness

Kindness is defined as: “1) the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate; 2) a kind act.” (*Dictionary.com.*) God Himself modeled for us how to be kind.

Read Ephesians 2:4–7.

Many times throughout the ages, God could have given up on us. However, thankfully, He never has deserted us because of the kindness and love He has for us. Even in our sinfulness, He was merciful, providing His saving grace to us in Jesus Christ and delivered in the “means of grace.”

Jesus calls us to show kindness as disciples.

Read Ephesians 4:31–32.

Read 2 Timothy 2:22–25.

Which words in these verses demonstrate a lack of kindness? _____

It is best that we avoid the negative list so that we continue to build each other up as the body of Christ with Jesus as our example of love and kindness.

The Beatitudes include a number of blessings for those who follow His example.

Read Luke 6:32–36.

In these verses, to whom are we to be kind, expecting nothing in return? _____
Why do we do this? _____

“They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love” is a song written by Peter Raymond Scholtes in the 1960s. The words are not just to make us feel good; rather, they implore us to **go** and to **do**. Then the world sees that Christ is active in our lives as we step out to do good works by the power of the Holy Spirit. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we cannot help but want to love and serve others with kindness.

Walk Humbly

Humility can be defined as “a modest or low view of one’s own importance.” Exhortations to practice humility are found in Scripture.

Ephesians 4:1–3.

Philippians 2:3.

God looks for the humble in Isaiah 66:2.

What type of spirit does the Lord wish to see in us? _____

What is a contrite spirit? _____

Read 1 Peter 5:6–7.

Who is worthy of our humility? _____

Why does God want us to humbly come to Him? _____

When we kneel before God in humble prayer, we submit to Him and His authority as our Father and Creator. He sees our repentant heart and forgives us our sins because of His unending love for us through Christ’s redemptive work on the cross.

Digging Deeper

Let us look at how our Lord calls us to live, with an example from the Old Testament.

Read Deuteronomy 10:12–13a.

In the New Testament, the Pharisees asked Jesus about the greatest commandment in the law.

Read Matthew 22: 36–39.

Christian living, when based on the guidance in Scripture, has several simple steps to follow:

- Act justly towards others. Do not judge.
- Be kind. Treat others as you want to be treated.
- Walk humbly each day. Do not brag or gossip.
- Put God first in all that you do.
- Look for ways to be of service to others.

Based on this study, what else would you add to this list? _____

To complete our study about Scripture's guide for Christian living, let's read again Micah 6:6–8. *The Lutheran Study Bible* (*The Lutheran Study Bible*, ESV, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri, page 1,495) states, "The Lord has clearly revealed in His Word what He requires of us. Our problem is not a failure to know but a failure to do. *We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23). God showed His steadfast love for us by the sacrifice of His Son on the cross. We are *justified by His grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus* (Romans 3:24). The Holy Spirit leads redeemed sinners to walk in justice, kindness, and humility."

Closing Prayer: Dear God, Your Word contains a wealth of information for our everyday living. We thank You for the guidance that You provide to us to show us how to live. Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, so that we can be a shining light to all who witness our Christian walk with You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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