

Do, Love, Walk

Bible Study • Leader's Guide

Please provide a Bible and a copy of this study for each participant.

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.

Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more" (John 8:2–11).

What did Jesus tell the woman to do?

Go and do not commit this sin again.

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.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus (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.

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you (Ephesians 4:31–32).

Read 2 Timothy 2:22–25

So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant[a] must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, (2 Timothy 2:22–25).

Which words in these verses demonstrate a lack of kindness?

bitterness, wrath, anger, slander, malice, and quarreling

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.

“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:32–36).

In these verses, to whom are we to be kind, expecting nothing in return?

Our enemies

Why do we do this?

The Scripture says that our reward will be great, but that is not why we act. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Galatians 5:14).

“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

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:1–3).

Philippians 2:3

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves (Philippians 2:3).

God looks for the humble in Isaiah 66:2.

All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word (Isaiah 66:2).

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

Humble and contrite

What is a contrite spirit?

A contrite spirit is repentant. It seeks forgiveness for its sinfulness and desires to change or turn around.

Read 1 Peter 5:6–7.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you (1 Peter 5:6–7).

Who is worthy of our humility?

God

Why does God want us to humbly come to Him?

We are His children. He cares for us.

When we kneel before God in humble prayer, we submit to Him and His authority as our God 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.

And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord (Deuteronomy 10:12–13a).

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

Read Matthew 22:36–39.

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (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?

Answers will vary.

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.

All quoted Scripture is from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers). Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Do, Love, Walk by Karen Morrison, Wichita, Kansas

Copyright © 2021, Lutheran Women's Missionary League. All Rights Reserved.

lwml.org