



## **A Life Pleasing to God**

*Group Discussion Guide  
Week of April 28, 2024*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **WOMEN'S SUMMER HANGOUT**

*Saturday, May 4 | 10am  
The Ivy Place*

Join the women of Citizens Church at The Ivy Place for our summer hangout. We'll be cutting and making our own flower bouquets. There is no cost to join us, but bouquets cost \$15-\$25, so plan accordingly. Also, bring a picnic lunch for yourself, as we'll enjoy time eating together afterwards! Register online to let us know you're coming and be sure to mark if you need help finding a carpool!

#### **CITIZENS BASICS**

*Sunday, May 12 | 11am-11:45am  
Dowd YMCA*

We offer Citizens Basics on the 2nd Sunday of every month for anyone who is new to the life of our church. This is a great chance to get more information about who we are as a church, as well as meet some of our pastors and leaders. Snacks and childcare is provided, but please register in advance.

#### **FAMILY MEETING**

*Saturday, June 1 | 4pm  
Clanton Pavilion (3132 Manchester Dr, Charlotte, NC 28217)*

On Saturday, June 1st we will hold our semi-annual Family Meeting. This is a chance for us as a church to celebrate God's faithfulness, to commemorate what He is doing in our church, to worship together, and to look for what God might do in the months ahead.

This year, we are doing it church potluck style! Citizens will be providing pulled pork for dinner. If your last name starts with A-N bring a side, if O-Z bring a dessert to share!

## VISION FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

*Citizens Community Groups gather on a regular basis to help each other follow Jesus. When we gather for discussions like this one, our primary aim is not to simply talk about some good ideas or share our opinions, but to wrestle with the real state of our hearts and how to become doers of the Scriptures and followers of Jesus.*

*To that end, there are three ground rules that make for a good discussion:*

- 1. Be Earnest.** We're here to encounter God, so we are not satisfied with trite conversation.
- 2. Be Honest.** The gospel is good news for sinners, so we put aside false smiles or fake attitudes to share the real state of our hearts.
- 3. Be Humble.** We are all works in progress seeking to be formed into Christlikeness, so we lower our defenses, open to correction from the Scriptures and one another.

## STUDY THE SCRIPTURES

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12.

- ***What stood out to you from this text?***
- ***Was there something that comforted you or convicted you?***
- ***What does this text teach us about God?***
- ***What does this text teach us about ourselves?***

## DISCUSS THE SERMON

In Sunday's teaching, we saw that part of God's will for us as Christians, and what is pleasing to Him, is when we are sanctified -- that is, become more and more like Jesus over the long haul of our lives.

As pastor Luke Humphrey writes -- "When we say no to sin, and yes to righteousness, we do so as two-year-olds bringing their Father pleasure. God is not apathetic to our obedience; he has committed his own joy to it."

- ***What is comforting to you about the fact that our obedience, or disobedience, as God's people affects God's joy?***
- ***What is convicting to you about the fact that our obedience, or disobedience, as God's people affects God's joy?***

*Read Ephesians 5:8-10 and Psalm 139:23-24.*

**Ephesians 5:8-10** -- For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

**Psalm 139:23-24** -- Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

- ***On a scale of 1-10 (or some other metric you find helpful) how would you describe your eagerness right now to please God?***
- ***Why do you think that is and how can you take steps to grow your desire to please God?***

## **PRACTICE**

*Before moving on to the next part of this discussion, we invite you as a group to take time (we would recommend 5 minutes) for silent prayer, asking the Lord this question:*

***What thoughts, words, deeds, or desires in my life are not pleasing to you?  
What can I do this week to take a step to be sanctified in this area?***

After praying through these questions, take time to discuss.

**Leaders Note** -- This can be done in large group or as a part of your Care + Prayer Time.