

THE ART OF  
SKILLFUL  
LIVING

The title is rendered in a technical, blueprint style. 'THE ART OF' is in a simple sans-serif font. 'SKILLFUL' is in a tall, condensed font with various textures and construction lines. 'LIVING' is in a large, bold, 3D block font. The entire title is surrounded by a complex network of blue lines, including dashed lines, solid lines, and arrows, suggesting a technical drawing or a design process. There are also small symbols like a plus sign in a circle and a circle with a plus sign scattered around the text.

THE WISDOM PSALMS

# THE ART OF SKILLFUL LIVING

## GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Everybody wants “the good life.” What do the psalms have to say about a life well-lived for the people of God? The Art of Skillful Living sheds light on a biblical perspective of happiness, wisdom, worry, and blessings. Each lesson contains the following sections:

### MAIN POINT

Discussions often take on a life of their own, but they typically lack power when they lack focus. The discussion leader ought to use the Main Point to keep everyone on the same page. To do this, you might say something like, *“That is very interesting and a good topic for another discussion, but today’s study is about...”* and ask a question that brings people back to the topic of discussion.

There will be times when it makes sense to ignore the Main Point, for example, when someone in your group experiences a significant crisis. If you decide to move away from the lesson’s Main Point, you want to do so on purpose and not by accident.

### LEAN IN | BREAK THE ICE

These questions will help kick-start your discussion time. The main goal for this time is to get everyone talking and prepare them for the more focused conversation to follow.

### LOOK DOWN | LOOK AT GOD’S WORD

The goal for this section is to let the passage speak for itself and stand on its own. This isn’t easy! During this time, you will read the passage out loud (twice) and answer questions focused on the details of the biblical text.

### LOOK IN | APPLY GOD’S WORD TO YOUR LIFE

Transformation comes from renewing your mind (Romans 12:2). The goal for this section is to look inward to allow God’s Word to change you from the inside out. Use this time to discuss how your thoughts and feelings are affirmed and/or challenged.

### LOOK OUT | IDENTIFY THE RELEVANCE OF GOD’S WORD IN THE WORLD

Jesus calls us to love others, just as He loved us. Based on your understanding of the text and how God is transforming your heart, how will you treat others? How will you apply this teaching to all of your relationships, to everyone you will see this week and beyond?

### Discussion Leader Notes

Where needed, each lesson may have several Leader Notes. This material will provide insight on how to steer the conversation and care for your people. Additionally, these notes will provide greater context to help you understand a difficult word, phrase, or verse.

# Prayer

Be sure to close your time together in prayer. You can take requests from the group, invite others to lead, and bring God the needs that stood out to you in your group time.

## **SOME THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND**

Remember that you aren't in this alone! God will help you prepare and lead your group discussion. Make it your goal to keep in step with the Holy Spirit!

Pray and read the passage a few times on your own. Take a few minutes to identify what makes an impression for you and how the passage might impact your group.

Once you've taken some time to read the passage on your own, read through the entire discussion guide. Make sure you understand the Main Point. Identify which questions you want to use in your group time, and rewrite them in your own words.

Once your group time is over, take a few minutes to evaluate the discussion. What went well? What could have been different? If you had a "bad night," DON'T GIVE UP! Everyone has tough nights. There were times that even the disciples didn't get what Jesus was talking about!

# THE ART OF SKILLFUL LIVING

## GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

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### WEEK 1: CHECK YOUR INFLUENCES

Group Discussion Guide for: THE ART OF SKILLFUL LIVING  
Psalm 1

#### MAIN POINT

- ❑ The ultimate influence for skillful living is the Word of God.

#### LEAN IN | BREAK THE ICE

- ❑ How does the pursuit of studying the Bible compare and contrast to other fields of study?
- ❑ If someone asked you why reading the Bible is important, what would you say?
- ❑ Why do you think it's a challenge for many of us to read the Bible consistently?

**Leader Note:** *Transition to this week's passage by saying, "mastering any skill takes time and energy—this is also true for the art of skillful living. While it's no surprise that the Bible has something to say about our lives, exactly what it says may be a happy surprise."*

#### LOOK DOWN | LOOK AT GOD'S WORD

Read Psalm 1. Choose two people to read the passage aloud (verses 1-3 and 4-6).

- 1 How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers!
- 2 Instead, his delight is in the LORD's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.
- 3 He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams that bears its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.
- 4 The wicked are not like this; instead, they are like chaff that the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand up in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

6 For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked leads to ruin.

□ How would you summarize the main theme of Psalm 1? Why might it have been positioned first in this book of the Bible?

**Leader Note:** *Thinking about context and summary are important steps in understanding any passage of Scripture rightly and fully. Help your group see the big picture by saying, “Psalm 1 helps us see the importance of God’s Word because it’s through God’s Word that we experience God’s revelation of Himself. That’s why those who follow Jesus delight in His Word. There are two ways to live, to choose wise influences or to surround yourself with those who will lead to your fall. Check your influences! The ultimate influence for skillful living is the Word.”*

□ What two types of people are contrasted in this psalm? Why are these two people different?

**Leader Note:** *The psalmist presents a stark contrast between those who choose to follow the Word of God and those who choose a different path. The former are described as happy, for they avoid destructive spiritual and moral pitfalls and have full and productive lives. The freedom to choose how one will live comes with the reality that one’s choices have real consequences.*

□ Notice in verse 1 how the person goes from walking to standing to sitting. What does this progression show you about the nature of sin?

**Leader Note:** *Help your group recognize this pattern in the text. Later, they’ll consider their own lives. If they’re having trouble with the imagery, clarify by saying, “The way of the wicked seems innocent enough at first. It starts with something like apathy—just walking a little differently. But walking leads to standing, and then eventually, to sitting down in the midst of wickedness. Sin is like that. It progresses from something seemingly innocuous and fleeting to growing comfortable with something entirely more serious.”*

- ❑ Why is the righteous man blessed in this passage?

**Leader Note:** *Help people make connections. The blessed man in this psalm is the one who not only reads but delights in God's Word. He treats God's Word as His daily bread, seeking to get sustenance from it. Reading the Bible isn't only a matter of habit; it's something that is absolutely necessary and enjoyable for him on a day-to-day basis.*

## LOOK IN | APPLY GOD'S WORD TO YOUR LIFE

- ❑ Is reading the Bible currently more of an obligation or option for you? Is it a duty or a delight? What's the difference between just reading the Bible and delighting in it?

**Leader Note:** *This question transitions the group into personal evaluation before applying the truth to our lives. Lead by example, sharing honestly about times when you have been more or less motivated to spend time in God's Word. In keeping with the psalmist's imagery, we're doing some groundwork in our hearts—identifying dry or hard spots that need broken up and refreshed in order to flourish.*

- ❑ Why does delighting in God's Word lead to the kind of blessed life the psalmist is describing?

**Leader Note:** *The imagery in Psalm 1 is powerful. When we delight in God's Word, our roots will grow deep. We will have dwelt on the promises and character of God day after day so that when the season of difficulty comes, we won't find ourselves swept away by fear and doubt. We will still believe, standing firm in the midst of trouble.*

- ❑ When have you experienced God's blessing in moments or seasons of delighting in God's Word?

**Leader Note:** *Lead by example again, sharing the joy you've had in knowing God through his Word. Encourage others to share times that they've uniquely experienced God's presence, power, peace, provision, etc.*

❑ Does a person automatically delight in God's Word without effort? Why or why not?

❑ How can you grow in your delight in God's Word

**Leader Note:** *This question is a great time for group members to share best practices for learning God's Word. While Bible reading plans are popular and effective, get your group thinking about other ways to learn scripture as well—things like meditating on passages, praying through Scripture, reflecting on truth through music or art, etc.*

## LOOK OUT | IDENTIFY THE RELEVANCE OF GOD'S WORD IN THE WORLD

❑ What is the result during difficult times for those who delight in God's Word?

❑ Does this mean that those who delight in God's Word will always have an easy and comfortable life? How do you know?

**Leader Note:** *These final questions clarify the ultimate point of the psalm: delight and blessing are rooted in a relationship with God through His Word, not in personal opinions, cultural trends, or temporal circumstances. The art of skillful living is not a naïve happiness, nor a manipulative strategy for comfort and control.*

❑ Reread verse 1. Where do you recognize the slippery slope of conformity toward worldly standards?

❑ When you check your influences, what changes do you need to make for more skillful living?

**Leader Note:** *Help group members identify both negative and positive influences. Identify specific issues, environments, or relationships in which they are most vulnerable to "walk," "stand," or "sit" under the influence of advice, behavior, or attitudes contrary to God's Word.*

- Social media / news / entertainment / technology...
- Friends / coworkers / classmates / neighbors / family...
- Office / school / church / gym / neighborhood...
- Politics / finances / health / education / career...
- Bible / worship / group / serving / prayer...

*All Scripture references are from the CSB translation unless noted.*

# THE ART OF SKILLFUL LIVING

## GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

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### WEEK 2: FRET NOT

Group Discussion Guide for: THE ART OF SKILLFUL LIVING  
Psalm 37

#### MAIN POINT

- ❑ Skillful living is not a life filled with worries, envies, and agitation.

#### LEAN IN | BREAK THE ICE

- ❑ To begin your time together, play “Worries in a Hat.” Distribute a sheet of paper and a writing utensil to each person.
- ❑ Instruct them to anonymously write a fear or worry that they have. Tell them to be as specific and as honest as possible, but not in such a way that they could be easily identified. After everyone is done writing a fear or worry, collect each sheet into a large hat.
- ❑ Shuffle the sheets and pass out one per person. Take turns reading the fears aloud. Then discuss as a whole group what some of the common worries were.

**Leader Note:** Transition by saying, “Skillful living is not a life filled with worries, envies, and agitation. So, how can we “fret not?” The psalmist provides clear instructions in this week’s passage of Scripture.



## LOOK DOWN | LOOK AT GOD'S WORD

Read Psalm 37:1-11. Choose two people to read the passage aloud (verses 1-6 and 7-11).

- 1 Do not be agitated by evildoers;  
do not envy those who do wrong.
- 2 For they wither quickly like grass  
and wilt like tender green plants.
- 3 Trust in the LORD and do what is good;  
dwell in the land and live securely.
- 4 Take delight in the LORD,  
and he will give you your heart's desires.
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him, and he will act,
- 6 making your righteousness shine like the dawn,  
your justice like the noonday.
- 7 Be silent before the LORD and wait expectantly for him;  
do not be agitated by one who prospers in his way,  
by the person who carries out evil plans.
- 8 Refrain from anger and give up your rage;  
do not be agitated—it can only bring harm.
- 9 For evildoers will be destroyed,  
but those who put their hope in the LORD  
will inherit the land.
- 10 A little while, and the wicked person will be no more;  
though you look for him, he will not be there.
- 11 But the humble will inherit the land  
and will enjoy abundant prosperity.

How would you summarize the main theme of Psalm 37:1-11? What does it add to a biblical understanding of our series' theme: *The Art of Skillful Living*?

**Leader Note:** *Thinking about context and summary are important steps in understanding any passage of Scripture rightly and fully. Help group members with a brief overview of delighting in the Lord and fearing Him as true wisdom that leads to ultimate blessing.*

Take a closer look at the passage we just read. What different actions are believers to take when they are specifically tempted to fret or become agitated?

**Leader Note:** *The psalmist gives us several alternatives to worrying about the temporary success of evildoers. We're to trust in the Lord, delight in the Lord, commit to the Lord, and be still before the Lord. In short, we are to move our focus off the things that agitate us and put them on the sovereign Lord who reigns over all people.*

❑ How is trust an active thing we do, not just a passive thing we believe?

❑ What practical examples does the psalmist give to show that we are trusting God?

**Leader Note:** *The author says that we show our trust by doing what is good (verse 3). There is no better expression of faith or trust than obedience. In the same way that evildoers show a lack of faith by their actions, we must show our faith not only by not joining evildoers but through active obedience to God's Word.*

❑ What are some things (or who are some people) in which you delight? What does it look like to delight in the Lord?

**Leader Note:** *Offer personal examples to help conversation. The goal is to get people thinking beyond the abstract to what it truly means and feels like to delight in someone or something. Encourage people to share their favorite hobbies or experiences and how they feel in those moments.*

❑ In verse 4, what does the psalmist promise will happen if we delight in the Lord? What does this mean?

**Leader Note:** *If God is who He says He is, then nothing could possibly be more delightful to us than Him. And we delight in Him more and more as we spend time in prayer and in His Word. The promise to give us the desires of our heart is a promise He will give us what we are delighting in, namely, Himself.*

❑ How is committing oneself to the Lord different than obeying the Lord or delighting in Him?

**Leader Note:** *To commit to God is to give Him our burdens. It's what Peter was referring to in 1 Peter 5:7 when he commanded we cast all of our worries on the Lord. Because God is greater than all of our circumstances, He can manage anything that might come into our lives, so we can commit to Him.*

## LOOK IN | APPLY GOD'S WORD TO YOUR LIFE

**Leader Note:** *Offer personal examples for questions in this section to help conversation. Lead by example with appropriate vulnerability within this trusted community. Depending on your group, this may take a while to open up or may be hard to reign in. The goal is to expose our hearts in a humble act of trust before God and one another.*

- ❑ Where do you struggle with worry? How does Psalm 37 speak to you about that?
- ❑ What are some of the common sources of frustration or agitation for you?
- ❑ What are some of the things that you do to lower your stress level or calm yourself down when you are agitated?
- ❑ When is the longest you have ever sat in silence? What did you learn from that experience? What is unique about sitting silently “before the Lord” (verse 7)?

**Leader Note:** *There is more to the psalmist’s command to “be silent” than just meditating to lower our blood pressure or calm our rage, though such meditation is valuable. The emphasis here is twofold. First, we are to be silent “before the Lord.” In such times of silence, He is our focus. Second, this kind of silence has an element of expectation as we wait on God to do something about what unsettles us. There will come a time when evildoers will experience justice and the godly will be edified, but we have to wait for God to move according to His perfect timing.*

## LOOK OUT | IDENTIFY THE RELEVANCE OF GOD’S WORD IN THE WORLD

- ❑ Is there anyone in your life who is agitated or worried at the state of their world and God’s work in it? What kind of behaviors do they exhibit?
- ❑ How can you encourage them this week?
- ❑ What are some ways you can celebrate the goodness of God with fellow believers? How does celebrating God with others serve as an antidote to fret and worry?

**Leader Note:** *Be sure not to let the conversation derail into partisan politics this week especially, but don’t shy away from political stress—good or bad—or any other topic within reason that affects our daily lives. Encourage empathy, especially for those whose worries or frustrations aren’t similar to your own. Remind the group that we all face different stress, but we share the same Savior. In Christ, our hope is secure. Problems are temporary; our Lord reigns now and forever.*

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# THE ART OF SKILLFUL LIVING

## GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

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### WEEK 3: FEAR THE LORD

Group Discussion Guide for: THE ART OF SKILLFUL LIVING  
Psalm 112

#### MAIN POINT

- ☐ Fearing the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the foundation of happiness.

#### LEAN IN | BREAK THE ICE

- ☐ What comes to mind when you think of fear? Do you tend to think positively or negatively about fear?
- ☐ Fear is often described in different ways (healthy fear, crippling fear, etc.). What are the various ways you have experienced fear? What are some instances where fear is helpful? When is fear an obstacle that is unhelpful?
- ☐ What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “fear of God”?
- ☐ Are there wrong ways to fear God? If so, provide some examples.

**Leader Note:** *Transition to this week’s passage by saying, “This week’s lesson will build on last week’s foundation. We’ll see how delighting in the Lord begins with fearing Him in the right way. This kind of wisdom is needed for the art of skillful living.”*

## LOOK DOWN | LOOK AT GOD'S WORD

Read Psalm 112. Choose two people to read the passage aloud (verses 1-5 and 6-10).

- 1 Hallelujah!  
Happy is the person who fears the LORD,  
taking great delight in his commands.
- 2 His descendants will be powerful in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- 3 Wealth and riches are in his house,  
and his righteousness endures forever.
- 4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright.  
He is gracious, compassionate, and righteous.
- 5 Good will come to the one who lends generously  
and conducts his business fairly.
- 6 He will never be shaken.  
The righteous one will be remembered forever.
- 7 He will not fear bad news;  
his heart is confident, trusting in the LORD.
- 8 His heart is assured; he will not fear.  
In the end he will look in triumph on his foes.
- 9 He distributes freely to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever.  
His horn will be exalted in honor.
  
- 10 The wicked one will see it and be angry;  
he will gnash his teeth in despair.  
The desire of the wicked leads to ruin.

In verse 1, how can happiness and fear coexist? What is meant by “delighting in commands”? How do those things all work together in the art of skillful living?

How would you summarize the main theme of Psalm 112? How does it relate to Psalm 1 from last week’s lesson?

**Leader Note:** *Thinking about context and summary are important steps in understanding any passage of Scripture rightly and fully. Clarify that truly delighting in the Word of God will mean seeing and respecting the Lord’s awesomeness.*

What promises are there for those who fear the Lord? Which one stands out to you as particularly meaningful right now?

How does the “fear of the Lord” help you know what steps you can take to ensure you leave a powerful spiritual legacy for the next generation? What examples are provided in each verse?

**Leader Note:** *Help your group see the overflow of personal faith into relational effects.*

- ❑ Since not all righteous and godly people are wealthy, what does the Bible mean that God will shower them with “prosperity”?

**Leader Note:** Point group members to other parts of Scripture for clarity. The blessing that comes to those who live for the Lord extends far beyond their lives. God’s promises to Abraham, the father of the Hebrew people and faith, extend to all who have faith as Abraham did (Romans 4:23-24). Even Gentile believers are counted as Abraham’s children (Galatians 3:29)!

Material wealth and riches do not always come to those who follow God faithfully. The greatest example is Jesus, who once proclaimed He had no place to lay His head (Luke 9:58) and whose ministry was supported financially by others (Luke 8:2-3). At the same time, financial blessing often does come to those who pursue a work ethic based on biblical principles of integrity. The psalmist probably intended to describe both material and spiritual blessings.

## LOOK IN | APPLY GOD’S WORD TO YOUR LIFE

- ❑ To whom do you normally run if you are in fear? What do they do for you? Why do you keep going to them?

**Leader Note:** Every day, we place our trust in something or someone. We trust a chair to support us. We trust our cars to get us from place to place. We trust people who give us directions when we get lost. Ultimately, however, we must place our ultimate trust in the Lord. Chairs, cars, and people will eventually fail us. But God never fails us. Therefore, the godly person has confidence in the Lord and thus can remain steady in adversity. Indeed, God uses difficult times to strengthen our faith and build our character (Romans 5:3-4).

- ❑ On a scale of 1-10 (1 = non-existent, 10 = indestructible), how strong is your spiritual foundation? Does it feel stronger or weaker lately? Why might that be true?

- ❑ What circumstances continue to trouble your heart?

- ❑ Looking back to Psalm 112:6-9 and reading the characteristics of a godly person, which of them do you think is strongest in your life? Weakest? Why do you think that is true?

**Leader Note:** In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus described two men who built their homes (Matthew 7:24-27). The sensible man built his home on bedrock, but the foolish man built his on sand. When storms came, the first house remained firm because it had a sure foundation. The second house collapsed because it lacked a solid foundation. Jesus likened the owner of the first house to those who hear His words and keep them.

- ❑ If the fear of the Lord is evidenced by how much you delight in His Word, how are you doing?

**Leader Note:** *Godly people demonstrate their fear of God by giving Him top priority in their lives. They give Him His due in worship, time, talents, and financial resources. They also give Him priority by reading His Word and applying its teaching to their lives.*

## LOOK OUT | IDENTIFY THE RELEVANCE OF GOD'S WORD IN THE WORLD

- ❑ What is happiness to you? What is the distinction, if any, between secular morality and Christian righteousness?
- ❑ Why might the idea of fearing God seem perplexing to our culture?
- ❑ Many unbelievers think the church is full of people who are living in fear of God in a negative sense. How is that idea different than what the psalmist describes? What would it look like, then, for us to demonstrate the kind of fear described by the psalmist?
- ❑ What godly characteristic might a person develop as a result of the fear of the Lord? What might indicate this characteristic is the Holy Spirit's work rather than the result of a self-improvement effort?
- ❑ What steps can you take to cultivate more of the fear of God in your own life and worship?
- ❑ How can believers in today's world live so they consistently model an attitude of praise?

**Leader Note:** *Use these final questions as time allows to help your group identify ways that their own spiritual growth—though desirable and delightful—is not the end result of fearing the Lord. Skillful living in godly wisdom will always produce fruit in other people's lives too, not just our own.*

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# THE ART OF SKILLFUL LIVING

## GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

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### WEEK 4: WALK IN HIS WAYS

Group Discussion Guide for: THE ART OF SKILLFUL LIVING  
Psalm 128

#### MAIN POINT

- ☐ God promises a fruitful life for those who walk in His ways — not a perfect life but a life that matters and is blessed.

#### LEAN IN | BREAK THE ICE

- ☐ When you first came to know the Lord, what kind of life did you imagine you would experience with Him?
- ☐ How has your understanding of walking with the Lord changed over time?
- ☐ What ideas or images come to mind when you hear the word “blessed”? Why?

**Leader Note:** *Transition to the Scripture by saying, “In this final lesson of our series, the psalmist gives promises of a fruitful life for those who walk in the ways of the Lord — not a perfect life but a life that matters and is blessed. This is what the art of skillful living looks like.”*



## LOOK DOWN | LOOK AT GOD'S WORD

Read Psalm 128. Choose a person to read the passage aloud.

- 1 How happy is everyone who fears the LORD,  
who walks in his ways!
- 2 You will surely eat  
what your hands have worked for.  
You will be happy,  
and it will go well for you.
- 3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
within your house,  
your children, like young olive trees  
around your table.
- 4 In this very way  
the man who fears the LORD  
will be blessed.
- 5 May the LORD bless you from Zion,  
so that you will see the prosperity of Jerusalem  
all the days of your life
- 6 and will see your children's children!  
Peace be with Israel.

How would you summarize the main theme of Psalm 128? What does it add to a biblical understanding of our series' theme: *The Art of Skillful Living*?

**Leader Note:** *Thinking about context and summary are important steps in understanding any passage of Scripture rightly and fully. Help group members with a quick review of delighting in the Word of God, fearing the Lord as the root of all wisdom, and trusting Him to set us free from the worries and frustrations of this world.*

If the psalms and the Bible mention our happiness so frequently, why do you think Christians are often so unhappy?

Why is obedience a right response to God? How is it related to our happiness?

**Leader Note:** *Remind group members that to fear the Lord is to stand in awe of His great majesty, holiness, and infinite power. It is to recognize how big God is and how small we are in perspective. When we consider His authority to create and control all things, obedience is the only logical response (it may be helpful to read portions of Job chapters 38-42 to gain some perspective). Since we know that God is for us (see Romans 8:31), obeying Him is a joyful response, rather than a begrudging duty.*

- ❑ What were the blessings that the author of this psalm wished on its hearers?
- ❑ Why would each of the blessings mentioned by the psalmist be valued in that historical and cultural context? Are any of these blessings still hoped for today?
- ❑ Do you really believe that God desires to bless those who walk in His ways? Why or why not?
- ❑ Do you really believe that God desires to bless you, specifically? Why or why not?

**Leader Note:** *This psalm was meant to incite joy in its hearers as they sang about the blessings they hoped for. They fully trusted that they were being obedient and that God would reward them with the longings of their hearts. Of course, God is never obligated to give us anything. But as a loving Father, He desires to give us good gifts (Matthew 7:11).*

## LOOK IN | APPLY GOD’S WORD TO YOUR LIFE

- ❑ Take a few minutes to reflect on how great God is. Consider His acts of creation, the flood, or the plagues on Egypt. Consider the authority of Jesus over nature, sickness, and spirits. How should this understanding impact the way you view obedience to Him?
- ❑ List one practice that you can begin this week that will remind you of the greatness of God, which will enable you to walk in obedience despite your circumstances. How might that practice impact your relationships? Your witness?

**Leader Note:** *Take time to brainstorm ideas together as a group. If possible take notes on paper or somewhere visible for everyone.*

## LOOK OUT | IDENTIFY THE RELEVANCE OF GOD’S WORD IN THE WORLD

- ❑ What blessings do we—culturally or individually—value?

**Leader Note:** *The point here is not to “judge” or “rank” blessings but to identify what we as individuals and as a culture value. Help people brainstorm as many blessings as possible in this final time.*

- ❑ What are some blessings that you would wish for those around you right now? How might you seek to pursue those around you to be a blessing to them?
- ❑ What changes would take place in your life this week if you were to truly walk in the ways of the Lord? What fruit might come as a result?

**Leader Note:** *Help people identify specific action steps and hopeful results. Remind everyone of the theme of this lesson and series, saying: “God promises a fruitful life for those who walk in His ways — not a perfect life but a life that matters and is blessed.”*

This is the art of skillful living:

- delighting in the Lord and His commands,
- trusting and obeying God’s Word,
- fearing the Lord, not the opinions of mankind,
- patiently listening, knowing that God still speaks and acts,
- believing that He desires to bless you and those around you.