

Discipleship Group

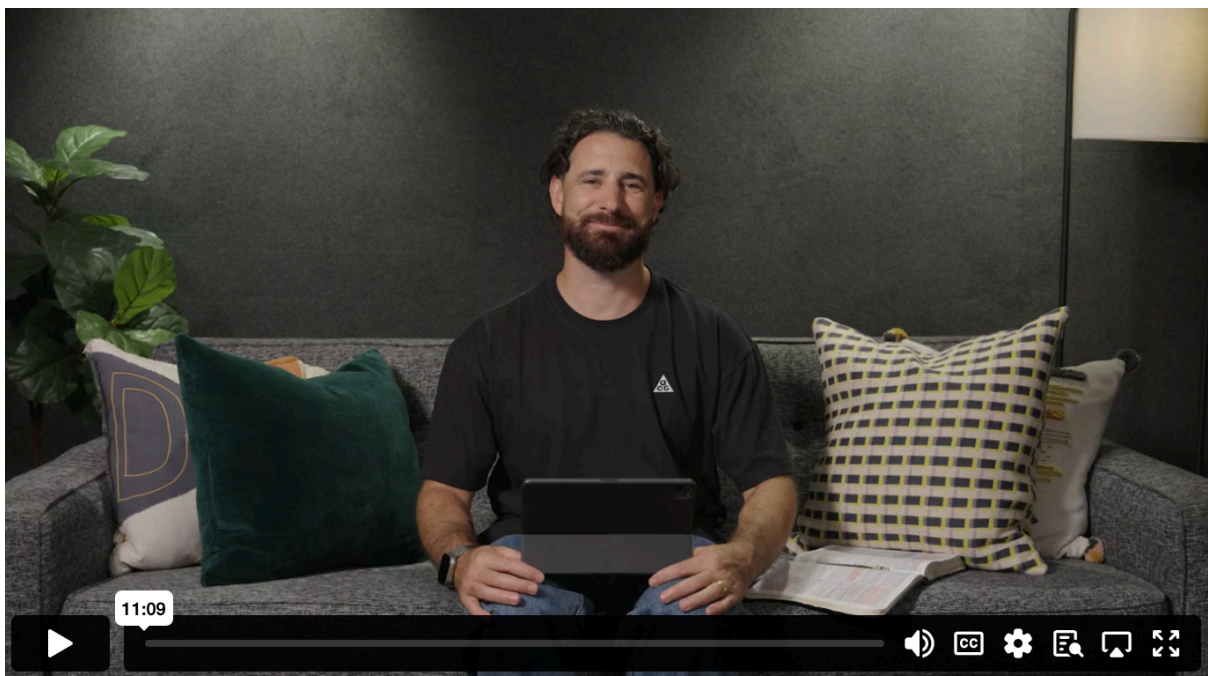
TEAR DOWN THE IDOLS – CONTROL Group Study

🔗 **WATCH TDTI CONTROL:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QY3fc4Y-xDg>

This week, we are joined by Ps Graeme Leske, as he continues our series ‘Tear Down the Idols’ as we look at how control can replace our trust in God. Control is a mere illusion, while God’s character and Word is sure.

SESSION OVERVIEW

This session explores how control can become an idol in our lives when we look to certainty, predictability, and self-management for peace instead of trusting God. It shows how even good things like planning, wisdom, and stewardship can become distorted when they move from being tools we use to masters we serve. At the heart of this study is a simple but searching truth: control often reveals a struggle to trust the goodness of God. Jesus invites us into a different posture—not clenched fists, but open hands. As we learn to live with faith, surrender, and honesty about our limits, we make room for the peace of Christ to shape us more deeply than certainty ever could.



🔗 **SHARE LINK** <https://vimeo.com/1177102067/2ecaa27084?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

KEY SCRIPTURES:

- **Proverbs 16:9** – We can make plans, but God is the one who ultimately directs our steps.
- **Matthew 6:25–33** – Jesus calls us not to be consumed by worry, but to trust our Father and seek His Kingdom first.
- **John 8:31–32** – Jesus teaches that truth, or reality as it truly is in Him, is what sets us free.
- **Luke 22:42** – Jesus models surrender in Gethsemane with the prayer, “Not my will, but yours be done.”
- **Romans 8:28** – God is at work for the good of those who love Him, even when life feels uncertain.

KEY POINTS:

- Control becomes an idol when we rely on certainty and self-management more than we rely on God.
- Planning, stewardship, and wisdom are good, but they must stay surrendered to the Lord.
- Anxiety, rigidity, over-planning, and white-knuckling life can reveal places where trust in God is weak.
- Freedom begins when we face reality honestly, hold life with open hands, and surrender again to God’s good will.

DISCUSSION & PRAYER POINTS:

Discussion Questions:

1. **Where in your life do you currently feel the strongest need to be in control?**
 - Follow up: What are you hoping control will give you in that area?
2. **When life feels uncertain, what do you usually reach for to feel safe or steady?**
 - Follow up: How can you tell when wise responsibility has started to become a need to control?
3. **Why do you think control can feel so comforting, even when it often leaves us more anxious?**
 - Follow up: What are some signs that the search for certainty may actually be stealing your peace?
4. **How do you respond to the idea that the opposite of faith is not fear, but control?**
 - Follow up: What does that reveal about the relationship between trust, surrender, and peace?
5. **What does it look like to live with open hands while still planning wisely and leading responsibly?**
 - Follow up: How can we navigate the tension between being diligent and being surrendered?
6. **What are you worrying about or white-knuckling right now that you need to release to God?**
 - Follow up: What might praying “Not my will, but yours be done” look like in that situation this week?

Tips for Discussion:

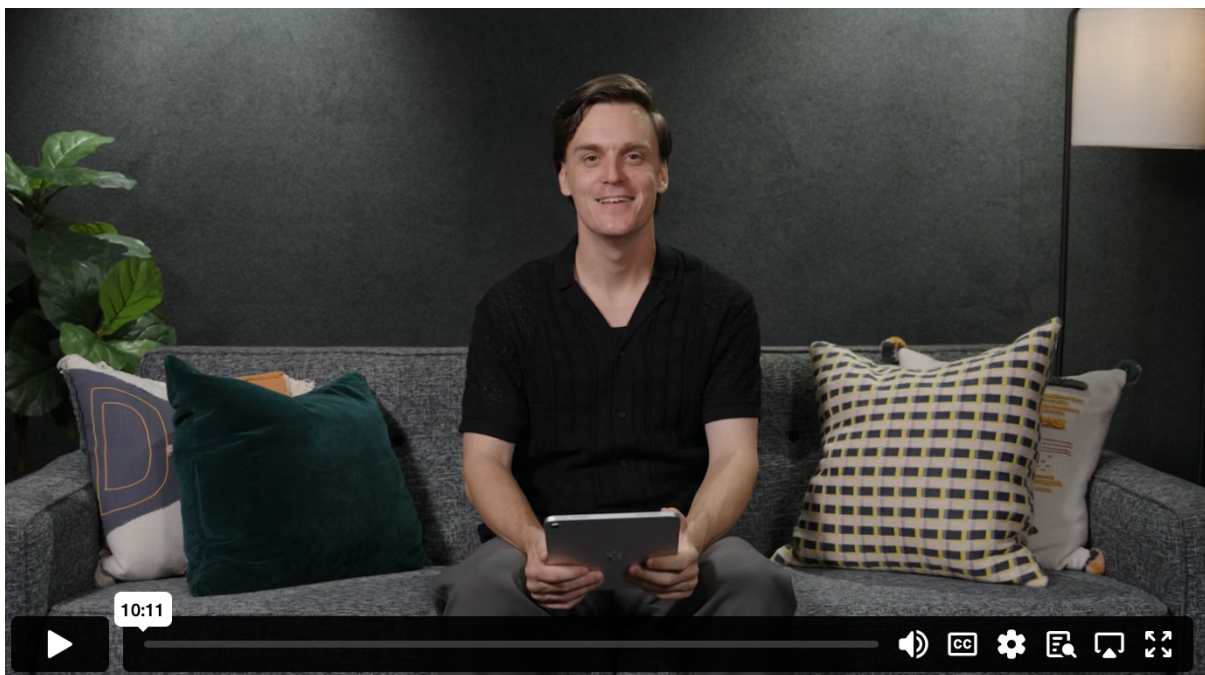
- **Create room for honesty**, especially where control has become a coping mechanism.
- **Let people share at their own pace**, and listen with compassion rather than trying to fix them quickly.
- **Keep bringing the conversation back** to the goodness and faithfulness of God.
- **Be careful not to shame planning or responsibility**; the issue is what our hearts are trusting in.
- **End with hope**, reminding the group that surrender is not loss in God's Kingdom, but freedom.

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TEAR DOWN THE IDOLS – Pleasure Group Study

SESSION OVERVIEW

In this session, we explore the idea that pleasure—while good in itself—can become an idol when it begins to direct our decisions and shape our lives more than God does. The tension isn't whether pleasure is right or wrong, but whether it has taken a place in our lives that belongs to God alone. Using the story of Samson, we see how something good can be pursued in the wrong way, leading to compromise, loss of clarity, and ultimately destruction. Yet alongside this warning is a hopeful invitation: that true and lasting joy is not found in chasing temporary highs, but in knowing God and living in alignment with Him.



 **SHARE LINK:** <https://vimeo.com/1177505158/25cc8af087>

KEY SCRIPTURES:

- **Judges 14:1–9** – Samson pursues what he desires, even when it leads him outside of God's boundaries.
- **Judges 16:4–21** – Samson's ongoing pursuit of pleasure ultimately leads to his downfall.
- **Philippians 3:18–20** – A warning about making our appetites our god, contrasted with our identity as citizens of heaven.
- **Psalms 16:11** – True joy and lasting pleasure are found in God's presence, not in temporary experiences.

KEY POINTS:

- Pleasure is not the problem—placing it above God is.
- What feels good in the moment can lead us away from what is truly good in the long term.
- When pleasure leads, clarity is lost and compromise follows.
- Lasting joy is found not in chasing experiences, but in walking closely with God.

DISCUSSION & PRAYER POINTS:

- 1. Where do you see the pursuit of pleasure showing up most in everyday life?**
 - Follow up: What are some examples that feel normal or acceptable, but could actually be shaping our decisions more than we realise?
- 2. Can you think of a time when something that felt good in the moment didn't lead to a good outcome?**
 - Follow up: What did that experience reveal about how you make decisions?
- 3. What makes it difficult to recognise when pleasure has become an idol rather than just something to enjoy?**
 - Follow up: What are some warning signs that pleasure might be taking too much influence in your life?
- 4. Samson repeatedly ignored boundaries in pursuit of what he wanted—why do you think it's easy to keep going even after warning signs?**
 - Follow up: What helps (or could help) you pause and realign when you sense you're heading in the wrong direction?
- 5. Philippians 3 talks about people whose “god is their appetite.” What does it look like to live differently as a “citizen of heaven”?**
 - Follow up: How might that identity practically shape your decisions, habits, or priorities this week?
- 6. Psalm 16 speaks about the joy found in God's presence. What might it look like to pursue that kind of joy in a real and practical way?**
 - Follow up: What is one area of your life where you could intentionally choose God's way over what simply feels good?

Tips for Discussion:

- Create a space where people feel safe to be honest about real struggles, not just give “right answers.”
- Gently guide the conversation from surface-level examples into deeper heart-level reflection.
- Avoid singling out behaviours—focus on the underlying pursuit and motivation.
- Keep bringing the group back to hope: change is possible, and God invites us into something better.
- Encourage practical next steps, not just reflection—help people leave with something they can act on.