

# The Lord is Good

Community Group Discussion Guide

Psalm 100:1–5 • “The Verse That Changed My Life” Series • Cross Community Church

*“For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.” — Psalm 100:5*

## Getting Started

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Ben opened with Vince Lombardi’s famous line to his championship-caliber Packers: “Gentlemen, this is a football.” His point wasn’t that the players didn’t know the game — it was that greatness is built on the fundamentals.

1. Think of a sport, hobby, or job where mastering the basics made all the difference for you. What “fundamental” took you the longest to actually appreciate?
2. When you hear the word “fundamentals” applied to your faith, what comes to mind — and does it feel encouraging or exhausting? Why?

## The Big Idea

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Psalm 100 lays out four fundamentals of the Christian life: Sing Joyfully, Serve Gladly, Know Certainly, and Enter Thankfully. But Ben was careful to flip the order of cause and effect. These four actions aren’t how we earn anything — they’re the fruit. The root is verse 5: God is good, his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness reaches every generation. We do these things in response to who God is.

**Root, not fruit:** Our actions are the fruit of belief in God through Jesus; faith in who God is, is the root; the Gospel is the source. Keep this in front of the group all night.

### 1. Sing Joyfully (v. 1)

*“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the Earth!”*

Singing is a command for everyone, not just the gifted singers — and it’s a joyful noise that’s called for, not a beautiful voice. Ben reminded us that “you believe what you sing, and you sing what you believe,” so doxology shapes our theology. And joyfully doesn’t mean perfectly.

1. Ben asked whether our singing is “a shout” or closer to “a mumble or mime of the words on the projector.” Honestly — which is yours most Sundays, and what tends to get in the way?
2. “You sing what you believe.” How does the posture of your heart in worship reveal, or even shape, what you actually believe about God?
3. The verse asks for a joyful noise, not a flawless one. Where does perfectionism (about your voice, or about anything) rob you of joy in worship?

**This week:** Pick one song and sing it as a genuine “shout for joy” — in the car, at home, at church — paying attention to your heart, not your pitch.

## 2. Serve Gladly (v. 2)

*“Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!”*

Service requires humbling yourself and putting others’ needs above your own — which runs against a culture where every favor expects something in return. Ben almost said no to leading a 6th-grade small group because he wanted to be “selfish with his time” (he’s already around middle schoolers 40 hours a week). It became one of the most encouraging ways he’s ever served. As he put it, we don’t serve to be seen.

1. Ben nearly missed out on something rich because saying yes felt inconvenient. Where have you said yes — or no — to serving, and what came of it?
2. “We don’t serve to be seen.” What’s the difference between serving for recognition and serving gladly, and how can you tell which one is driving you?
3. Serving gladly means putting others’ needs above your own. Where do you feel the pull to only serve when there’s something in it for you?

**This week:** Pick one way to serve gladly — even somewhere inconvenient — and do it without telling anyone you did.

## 3. Know Certainly (v. 3)

*“Know that the Lord, He is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.”*

God is Lord over all things and sovereign over everything we face — and we are his, not our own. We come to know him both through his Word (“all Scripture is breathed out by God”) and through deeply personal experience. Ben pointed to moments like a labor room, an unexpected healing, a scene in nature, or being met by God in the valley.

1. Ben admitted he sometimes thinks his problems are “too miniscule” to bother God with when the world has bigger needs. Do you ever feel that? What does 1 Peter 5:7 — casting all your anxieties on him — say back to that?
2. Share a time you “knew certainly” that the Lord is God. What happened, and how did it change you?
3. “We are his ... we are not our own.” How does remembering you were made by God, for God, change the way you carry a hard week?

**This week:** Before anything else each morning, read a short passage of Scripture and ask God to show you who He is through it.

## 4. Enter Thankfully (v. 4)

*“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him, bless his name!”*

Those gates once meant the temple — but now our own bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, so we’re always in God’s presence. Ben’s red-and-blue object exercise made the point: the blue objects were there the whole time; what changed was what you set your mind on. Problems are easy to find when you’re looking for them — and so is gratitude. Set your mind on things above (Colossians 3:2).

1. Where in your life have you been counting the “red objects” (problems) and completely missing the “blue” (things to be thankful for)?
2. Ben said leading the day with thankful prayer changes the way you pray. What would it look like to start tomorrow morning with gratitude instead of requests?
3. Setting your mind on things above isn’t being “delusional about your circumstances.” How do you hold honesty about hard things and real thankfulness at the same time?

**This week:** Each morning, before bringing any requests to God, name three specific things you’re thankful for.

## Bringing It Home

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Why do any of this? Not to be a good person, not for warm fuzzies, and not to tip some heavenly scale. These fundamentals are the response of a heart that knows God is good, that his love endures forever, and that he is faithful to all generations. The root is grace, not performance.

1. Which of the four — sing joyfully, serve gladly, know certainly, enter thankfully — is the Lord most inviting you to grow in right now? Why that one?
2. How does it change your motivation to know these are a response to who God is, rather than a way to earn his approval?

## Praying Together

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- Thank God for who He is — good, steadfast in love, and faithful to every generation (Psalm 100:5).
- Confess any place you’ve been serving to be seen, or singing and entering with a divided heart.
- Ask the Spirit to reorder what you set your mind on, so that thankfulness comes first.
- Pray for one another by name in the fundamental each person named above.

## Leader Tip

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A guide like this can quietly turn into a checklist of four things to try harder at — and that’s the exact opposite of Ben’s point. Keep returning the group to “root, not fruit.” If the conversation drifts toward self-improvement or guilt, gently steer it back to Psalm 100:5 and let gratitude for who God is — not pressure — be the engine. End by sitting with verse 5 together.

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**Memory verse:** Psalm 100:5