



## **LESSON 5: GOD'S LOVES CHANGES US | TITUS 2: 11-15**

We continue our look into Titus tonight with the second part of Titus chapter two. Here we read Paul's theology of why, as Christ followers, we do good works. In the words of Paul, it all has to do with our response to grace. God's grace is a free and undeserved gift from God, we don't earn it or deserve it, yet God freely gives it to us who choose to believe and accept it. Paul goes even further to say that our acceptance of this free gift of Grace is the power that changes our lives. According to Paul, grace arrives in our lives and it's almost like it comes with instructions, like a piece of furniture you have to assemble or a new toy, grace has instructions; to run away from anything that leads us away from God. Tonight we are going to look at how God's love and grace changes our lives.

### **LESSON OBJECTIVE**

In this lesson, we want students to learn of God's grace and how that free gift has transformational power in our lives. That we choose to do good because we are forgiven people, not to earn any love, but to seek God's way in our lives.

### **LESSON OVERVIEW**

In this lesson, we will look at Paul's instructions to Titus for why we should live godly lives. That it is a response to grace that produces a life that runs from evil and wants to do good. That as Christ followers we are called to love in community with others who seek to be on the same path of life, doing good a forgiving other because that is what Christ did.

## BIBLE PASSAGES

The following passages will be covered in this lesson. Read through them, and use the margin to take notes.

### **Teaching Group 1: Matthew 5:16 (NLT) & Colossians 3: 23 (NLT)**

16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

23 Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

### **Teaching Group 2: Matthew 7:15-23(NLT)**

15 “Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. 16 You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? 17 A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. 18 A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. 19 So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. 20 Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

21 “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22 On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ 23 But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’

### **Small Group Passage: Titus 2: 11-15 (NLT)**

11 For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. 12 And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, 13 while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. 14 He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

15 You must teach these things and encourage the believers to do them. You have the authority to correct them when necessary, so don’t let anyone disregard what you say.

## PAUSE AND REFLECT

### TEACHING FROM THE HEART

After reading these passages, I feel God is teaching me, challenging me, convicting me...

**Teaching Group 1: Matthew 5:16 (NLT) & Colossians 3: 23 (NLT)**

**Teaching Group 2: Matthew 7:15-23 (NLT)**

**Small Group Passage: Titus 2: 11-15 (NLT)**

Is your heart ready to teach this lesson? If no, what will it take to get your heart right to teach?

Now that you're done, look through your above thoughts and make which ones you feel may be appropriate (should the opportunity arise) to teach, communicate or share with your small group.

# TEACHING GUIDE

## Starting Out

Begin the lesson by helping your students generate some thoughts about the theme of the lesson. Use the following fill-ins to assist you. Feel free to allow some discussion.

Have you ever helped assemble a new piece of furniture, the kind that comes in a box? Or got a new complex toy and it came with **instructions**. What did you do? Did you follow step by step or did you look at the picture and say, “I can make that” and try to put it together without the instructions? Unless you work for NASA, you probably haven’t been successful if you went without the instructions. You probably missed a step or got completely **lost**. Instructions are important; they guide us, and help us be not only successful but also efficient. Tonight we are going to look at Paul’s instructions to Titus on why we **do good works**.

## Teaching Groups “Study”

This is the time for you to break your C-group into two different groups. Make the groups “random” and see to it that these groups change each week. Give the following instructions to your C-Group:

As you break into groups, don’t sit with the groups - LET YOUR STUDENTS DEAL WITH THE PASSAGE ON THEIR OWN. After a couple of minutes, you should walk around to check on and help each group.

## Teaching Groups “Teach”

Have each group give their “presentation” and summary; don’t let the other students in the group be disruptive. Since you may experience a degree of CHAOS once the TEACHING GROUPS are done sharing. I suggest you take a few moments to wrap up each passage (you can either do this after each group is done, or after both of them have finished). This will allow you to highlight the important points from each passage and relate them to the theme of the night’s lesson.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

Use your small group time to a) discuss the Bible passage and answer any questions, b) make personal applications, and c) share prayer requests and pray.

### Bible Study and Discussion

#### Read Small Group Passage: Titus 2: 11-15 (NLT)

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people.<sup>12</sup> And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God,<sup>13</sup> while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.<sup>14</sup> He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

<sup>15</sup> You must teach these things and encourage the believers to do them. You have the authority to correct them when necessary; so don't let anyone disregard what you say.

## CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. Does anything in this passage seem weird or doesn't make sense?
2. What does "the grace of God has been revealed" mean to you? What do you think Paul is talking about?
3. What is salvation? Give a definition.
4. According to verse 12, what three things should we live with in this evil world?
5. According to the text, what did Jesus do for us?
6. How do you encourage other believers? Verse 15 says to encourage others to do the same, how do we do that?
7. What last instruction does Paul give to Titus in this passage? What does disregarded mean?
8. What does it mean to correct someone? How do you do it?

## .APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What is your definition of grace? Describe it? What has it looked like in your life?
2. Paul writes “bringing salvation to all people” what do you think that means? Does he really mean all people?
3. What does good deeds look like in your life? Verse 14 says we should be totally committed to doing them, what are good deeds? And how? How do we commit to doing them?
4. What does Wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God look like? Is that something you see in your life? Have you sought after that in your life? Which of these three ways we should live do you need to seek after?
5. Why do you do good deeds? Is there a reason behind your actions? Do you feel you need to do more good deeds?
6. Look back to verse 14, why should we be totally committed to doing good deeds? Do you believe Jesus did all three of those things? Is there an area you need to work on?
7. Do you need forgiveness in your life? Jesus gave his life to free us from EVERY kind of sin. Do you need cleansing? Not just forgiveness but a life change, from a lifestyle of sin in your life? Or do you need to commit to be more apart of God’s people, to keep you on the path or doing good?
8. As a group, how do you encourage one another? How can you as a group work better to encourage one another to live out your faith by your actions? What steps can you take to love one another and build each other up?
9. Lastly, in your opinion, how do we correct one another when we need correcting? Is there a loving way to do that? Is there a wrong way to do that? How can you as a group commit to not only correcting each other but do it in love?