

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Spring 2025 - Trained By The Gospel (Titus) - "Grace & Good Works"

Monday, Feb. 17 - Sunday, Feb. 23 (Week 3)

EMPHASIS FOR THE MONTH: *Laying the Foundation*. As we kick off this month, let's be intentional about building strong relational foundations in our groups. Whether it's getting to know new members or catching up with returning ones, take time to foster connection. A simple question, sharing food and/or drink, or an extra moment to listen can go a long way in cultivating trust and belonging. Healthy groups start with strong relationships. Let's lead with intentionality and care. I would love to hear how it's going. Feel free to share any wins or creative ideas!

ICE BREAKER: Share a time when someone did a "good work" for you that made a significant impact on your life. How did it make you feel, and how did it influence your view of good works?

CAB ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. This past Sunday we highlighted our volunteer teams at Step Up Sunday. If you would like to find a team to serve with, contact our Connections Director, Jackie Levesque:
jackie.levesque@churchatbergen.org
2. We hope you will join us every Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM for our weekly corporate prayer gathering.
3. This Saturday, February 22 at 6 PM the Prime Timers will be joined by the CAB Youth Group for a potluck dinner, a testimony by Jim Moylan, and then a friendly generational challenge of wits! Prime Timers, please sign up and indicate what dinner item you will bring by contacting Kris Rienstra:
kgrienstra@gmail.com
4. On Sunday, March 9th directly after the morning gathering, there will be a baptism class for any and all interested in being baptized. This is not necessarily a commitment but a great way to learn more about what baptism is and means and how we practice it here at Church at Bergen. Please email Pastor Dave if you are interested in attending: dave.levesque@churchatbergen.org

PRAYER FOR DISCUSSION: Leader or Co-Leader prays for the discussion time. Pray that the The Holy Spirit would assist in the conversing, processing, and listening of the discussion.

SERMON DISCUSSION TIME: Have someone read the passage: Titus 3:8-15, and then read this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

In this sermon, Pastor McKinney concludes our series in the Book of Titus, focusing on the significant theme of good works within the Christian life. He emphasizes that good works are the result of salvation, not the reason for it, reinforcing the core message that believers are saved by grace alone through faith in Christ. Pastor Mike highlights the fact that, although good works do not earn salvation, they are an essential aspect of a Christian's response to receiving God's grace, urging the congregation to live a life filled with acts of kindness and service toward others, all done in obedience to God.



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He goes on to share four crucial truths about good works, warning against distractions that can derail our pursuit within the church community. He encourages believers to be mindful of their energy and focus, avoiding internal disputes that detract from the mission of spreading the gospel and serving those in need. As he concludes, Pastor McKinney invites us to reflect on these truths and consider our personal contributions to the church, particularly in terms of generosity and support for the church's mission. By cultivating a passion for good works, he calls upon the church to be unified in our dedication to serving others and advancing the gospel.

QUESTIONS:

1. Good Works and Salvation:

- a. How does the sermon explain the relationship between salvation and good works?
- b. Why is it important to understand that good works are the result of being saved, not the reason for salvation?
- c. Are there any areas where you might be relying on good works for your sense of salvation? How can you shift your perspective to align with the gospel of grace?

2. Generosity and Good Works:

- a. How does the sermon connect generosity with the ability of the church to perform good works? Why is this connection important?
- b. Think about the ways you are currently being generous within the church. What changes can you make to better support the church's mission and the good works it seeks to accomplish?

3. The Four Truths of Good Works:

- a. Which of the four truths about good works mentioned in the sermon resonated most with you, and why? *(1 - Good works are the result of being saved, not the reason you are saved, 2 - Good works should be what disciples give their lives to, 3 - Good works can be derailed by sideways energy, 4 - The Church must contribute to the good work of the church)*
- b. Share with the group one area where you feel challenged to grow in your understanding or practice of good works. How can we as a group support you?

PRAY TOGETHER: Spend time taking **and recording** prayer requests and then pray together as a group (*I strongly encourage you to send out the prayer requests weekly to your group to keep everyone informed and in the loop on how to pray for one another throughout the week. This also makes it easier to check-in with people who have shared requests to see how the Lord has been working in their lives*).



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