

# Christ-Like Character – Week 1: Group Study Handout

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## 1. The Struggle for Character

- Every person is made in God's image (Genesis 1:27)
- Sin damages this image in unbelievers (Romans 7:15,18-19)
- The world promotes selfishness (Ephesians 2:2-3)
- Discussion: How do you see the struggle for character today?

## 2. God Shapes Our Character

- Honorable character comes from God.
- 'Character' means something deeply shaped.
- Jesus is the exact image of God (Hebrews 1:3, John 14:9).
- God shapes us into Christ's image (Philippians 2:13, Romans 8:29).
- Reflection: Where do you see God working in your character?

## 3. Our Inner Image

- Everyone has a dominant self-image.
- Formed early in life — shaped by age 18.
- God transforms this image (Romans 12:2).
- Discussion: How has your self-image changed in Christ?

## 4. Character Requires Faith

- We need the Holy Spirit to live like Jesus.
- Live by the Spirit, not the flesh (1 Thessalonians 2:12).
- Follow Jesus daily — do the next right thing.
- Reflection: What's your next right thing this week?

## 5. Not About Rules

- Not just rule-keeping or trying harder.
- Jesus set an unreachable standard on our own.
- Let God live through you (John 5:19; 8:28-29; 14:10).
- Discussion: What does living through God look like for you?

## 6. Character Shapes Society

- Society reflects what it values most.
- Real virtue comes from God.
- We need virtue that changes us inside (Mark Rutland).
- Reflection: What virtues are lacking in today's culture?

## 7. Virtue is Strength

- • 'Virtue' means strength ('virtus').
- • Power flows through virtue (Luke 6:19).
- • God honors those who choose honorably (Romans 8:36–37).
- Discussion: Share a time you saw virtue lead to strength.

## 8. Reverence = Obedience

- • Fearing God = obeying Him fully.
- • Trust His Word over your own ideas.
- Reflection: Where is God calling you to obey today?

## 9. Faith + Virtue Work Together

- • Doing what's right takes faith.
- • Trust God with the results.
- Reflection: What step of obedience needs your faith?

## 10. Core Christian Virtues

- • Humility, Faithfulness, Forgiveness, Courage, Integrity, Loyalty, Diligence, Gratitude, Compassion, Patience.
- • Wrong behaviors destroy witness and success.
- Challenge: Choose 1 virtue to grow in this week.

## Final Group Challenge

- • Pick a virtue to work on.
- • Share a story (from life or Scripture) of strong Christ-like character.