

Forever Welcomed:

Quick Start Leader Guide

Welcome, Leader!

Thank you for guiding others through *Forever Welcomed: A Study on God's Impartial Love*. This study explores how God, as a generous host, extends a gracious welcome to all who come to Him and how He invites us, as His followers, to do the same for others.

Your Role: Foster a welcoming space where participants can encounter Scripture, be honest, and grow together in Christ:

- Pray over your group and ask God to work through you as you lead.
- Read the weekly lesson before each gathering.
- Use the discussion questions as a guide. Take the time your group needs, there's no pressure to cover every question. If you only make it through two, that's perfectly fine. Prioritize depth over quantity, and allow space for intentional conversation.
- Highlight a Scripture passage from the week that stood out to you. You can bring it into the discussion, use it as a prayer prompt, or close your time together with it.
- Review and communicate group expectations early on (see the expectations section) to help foster a balanced and respectful atmosphere.
- Be flexible. The Holy Spirit may lead your group in unexpected but meaningful directions.

Sample Group Schedule (60–90 mins)

0-15 min

Welcome & Connection Time

Casual check-in, light conversation, snacks

15-25 min

Prayer & Scripture Reading

Begin with prayer. Choose a verse or passage of Scripture to read aloud

25-60 min

Group Discussion

Discuss the study questions and podcast insights (if applicable)

60-75 min

Personal Reflection & Sharing

Allow space for testimonies, insights, or challenges

75-90 min

Wrap-Up

Close in prayer and preview next week's session

Group Expectations

Welcome Every Voice

Make room for every voice. Seek to honor each person's unique background and story. Be mindful not to dominate the conversation. When someone shares vulnerably, respond with kindness by saying, "Thank you for sharing."

Listen Well

Practice active, attentive listening. Try not to interrupt or plan your response while someone else is speaking.

Honor Confidentiality

What's shared in the group stays in the group. Treat each other's stories with care, respect, and discretion.

Be Fully Present

Be on time and engage with the material, even if you didn't complete the homework. Show up willing to grow and contribute.

Don't Feel Pressure to Perform

There's no need to have the "right" answer. This is a space for reflection, learning, and transformation not performance.

Stay on Topic

It's easy to drift into conversations about family, work, or daily life. While those things matter, remember this space is intentionally set aside for hearing from God and sharing fellowship around Scripture.

Pray for One Another

Each member should be intentional about praying for one another during group time and throughout the week. A simple text or check-in between sessions can go a long way.

Be flexible

The Holy Spirit may lead in new directions; be sensitive and responsive to His leading.

Expect God to Work

Believe that God is present and active, and that He desires to move in your life and in the lives of those you gather with.

Review our daily themes covered in this study:

Day 1 Made in God's Image

From the very beginning, God breathed life into the dust and formed humanity in His image, imparting immeasurable dignity and purpose (Gen. 1:26-27). The unfolding story of Scripture reveals a God who continually offers restoration to all who will receive His invitation.

Day 2 Included in God's Plan

Though undeserving, God continually draws His people back to Himself. He extends an invitation in spite of humanity's brokenness. His plan of redemption is not reserved for just a few; it is for everyone who receives by faith, regardless of background or past (Genesis 12:1-3; Acts 10:34-35).

Day 3 Independent of Culture

God calls His people to live set apart, not in isolation, but in holiness, resisting the cultural influences that oppose His will. Throughout Scripture, that call remains consistent: to live not as the world lives, but in accordance with God's commands.

Day 4 Identity Reimagined

The consequences of sin pull humanity away from God, leading us to embrace false identities. But God, rich in mercy, brings glory to Himself by restoring what is broken (Gen. 1:26-27). This present world can never define our truest identity; who we are is remade by God's impartial love and grace.

Day 5 Impartial Love

Impartially loved, that is who we are. This week, we've traced the thread of God's impartial love. It's a beautiful invitation, a wide-open door extended to all who will come, believe, and receive His welcome.

Here are a few things to consider praying over your group, in addition to praying with your group:

- **Revival.** Ask God to awaken your heart and breathe new life into the dry, weary places within each of you—areas in need of His renewing touch.
- **Openness.** Pray that your ears, heart, and mind would remain open, not only to the physical realities around you, but to the deeper spiritual truths God is revealing.
- **Your community and beyond.** Ask God to let the impartial work He's doing in you and your group overflow into your community, city, and beyond.

Week 1: Impartial Creation

1. Based on what we learned in Week 1, how does God's character contrast with the way other gods or worldviews approach relationship and worth?
2. What encourages you most about the truth that God is the living Creator of all things, including you? How might that reality speak into your current season, struggles, or questions?
3. In Genesis 3:20, Adam names his wife Eve, meaning "mother of all the living," immediately after the curse—which brought death—is pronounced. Why do you think he chose a life-affirming name in the middle of a scene marked by death? How do our words reflect or distort our trust in God's promises?
4. Being made in God's image—*imago Dei*—means we reflect His nature. But we're also called to imitate Him (*imitatio Dei*). How does understanding both our identity as image-bearers and our calling to imitate God shape the way we treat others and live in the world?
5. How might the names or labels we speak over others or ourselves reveal what we truly believe about being made in God's image, even in seasons marked by loss or disappointment?
6. Eve was tempted to seek a knowledge of good and evil that God had not given her. Where in your life do you feel tempted, like Eve, to believe that God is holding out on you through what He says or doesn't say, does or doesn't do?
7. If God were to ask you, as He asked Adam in the garden, "Where are you?" how would you honestly respond in light of your current spiritual, emotional, or relational season?
8. What is one takeaway from this week's study that helped you see God's character in a new or fresh way?

Week 2: Impartial Covenant

1. How old were you when you first experienced someone breaking a promise or covenant with you? How did it make you feel, and how did you respond?
2. As we'll continue to observe, much of Scripture was written in a communal culture, unlike the individualistic one many of us live in today. How does that reality shape the way you read the Bible and respond to God's call to love, serve, and live out His commands in community?
3. Take a moment to consider the kinds of people God chooses to make covenants with: the flawed, the unlikely, and those often overlooked by the world. How does this slightly alter, noticeably shift, or even completely change your understanding of God's welcome?
4. We often assume David was overlooked because of his outward appearance, but Scripture tells us he was actually handsome (1 Samuel 16:12). The real issue wasn't his looks but the way others judged his status and worth. How does this help you better understand God's call to reject partiality and not judge others based on appearance, including, but not limited to, social standing?
5. Think about someone from your past or present you may have judged based on outward traits such as age, status, accomplishments, appearance, or even how much they seemed similar to you. As people in the group feel led, invite them to share their reflections and remind one another of the grace found in Psalm 145:8.
6. What is one takeaway from this week's study that helped you see God's character in a new or fresh way?

Week 3: Impartial Communion

1. Was there anything from this week's study or podcast that surprised you or felt new to your understanding?
2. Using one word, how would you describe what it might have felt like to live in a time when God's presence visibly dwelt among His people? As believers today, with God's Spirit dwelling within us, how does that truth encourage or challenge you in your current season?
3. In the season you're currently in, do you find it easy or difficult to believe that God desires to be with you? Why or why not?
4. The tabernacle was placed at the center of Israel's camp. What does that reveal about God's intended place in the daily lives of His people then, and in ours today?
5. Take a moment to be vulnerable. In this season, is God truly at the center of your life? If so, what has helped anchor Him there? If not, what might be getting in the way?
6. Which of the daily themes—Made in His Image, Included in God's Plan, Independent of Culture, Identity Reimagined, or Impartial Love—stood out to you the most, and why?
7. What is one intentional step you plan to take this week to draw near to the God who is already drawing near to you? (This could be setting aside time to pray for your child or a family member, going on a walk to reflect, journaling, reaching out to encourage someone, or inviting God more into your daily routine.)

Week 4: Impartial Call

1. As you read about the prophets this week, share what stood out to you or surprised you. Why do you think it captured your attention?
2. In Week 4, what similarities did you notice between the false prophets/teachers in Scripture and those we encounter in the world today?
3. Have you ever encountered false teaching—whether in church, online, or through media? How did you recognize it, and how did it affect your understanding of God or Scripture?
4. What does it look like to stay anchored in God's truth when you're confronted with false teaching? What practices or habits help you stay grounded?
5. In Isaiah 55, we see God extending a wide and gracious invitation of restoration through the prophet Isaiah. Earlier, in Isaiah 6, Isaiah had a personal encounter with God's holiness and mercy, an experience that led to his own call and commission. In one minute or less, share with the group when God first called you.
6. How does regularly remembering and rehearsing your own salvation story, the way God has redeemed you, influence how you welcome and include others?
7. When have you personally felt most welcomed—or most painfully excluded? Was it by someone who was well acquainted with their own story of redemption? What outward fruit led you to that conclusion?
8. What is one takeaway from this week's study that helped you see God's character in a new or fresh way?

Week 5: Impartial Christ

1. What stirred your heart most about studying Jesus Christ this week? Was it something He said, something He did, or the way He related to others? How might that impact the way you live or follow Him now?
2. How did the section on the parables challenge or confirm what you've previously understood about the stories Jesus told?
3. Jesus often began His parables with familiar cultural scenes, such as farming, family, and feasts. Why do you think He chose such ordinary imagery, and how did that reflect His mission? What does that reveal about God's ability to relate to our specific time and place, even today?
4. In the first century, rabbis typically reserved their teaching for those who actively sought them out. How does Jesus' choice to teach publicly through parables reveal His heart for all people, not just those in religious proximity?
5. In what ways did Jesus' parables redefine who was considered welcome or included in the kingdom of God, especially in contrast to whom the religious leaders believed were worthy of inclusion?
6. If Jesus were walking among us today, what kinds of people do you think He would spend time with?
7. Are those the same kinds of people you naturally welcome, or do you tend to avoid them? Why or why not?

Week 6: Impartial Church

1. As you reflect on this week's focus on the impartial Church, what has surprised or convicted you the most?
2. Before starting this study, how much did you already know about the historical and cultural background of James's letter? What new insights did you gain through this week's discussion?
3. Have you ever felt like an outsider in your faith community? How did you respond in that moment, and what effect did it have on your faith journey?
4. In light of this week's study, how is true biblical unity different from mere tolerance or surface-level inclusion? What makes it unique or set apart?
5. What does it practically look like for you to be a peacemaker in a partial world? (Encourage each person in the group to give an example.)
6. What would it look like to create a truly welcoming space in your everyday life? How can we reflect God's heart by living as hospitable representatives of the One who welcomes us?
7. As we end our time, invite each member to share: What does God's impartial love mean to me in this season?

Our study and group time have come to a close, but I want to encourage your group to continue the journey together. Invite each member to listen to the *Forever Welcomed* podcast, stay connected with one another, and prayerfully consider how the Holy Spirit might empower you to impact your community and city with God's impartial love.