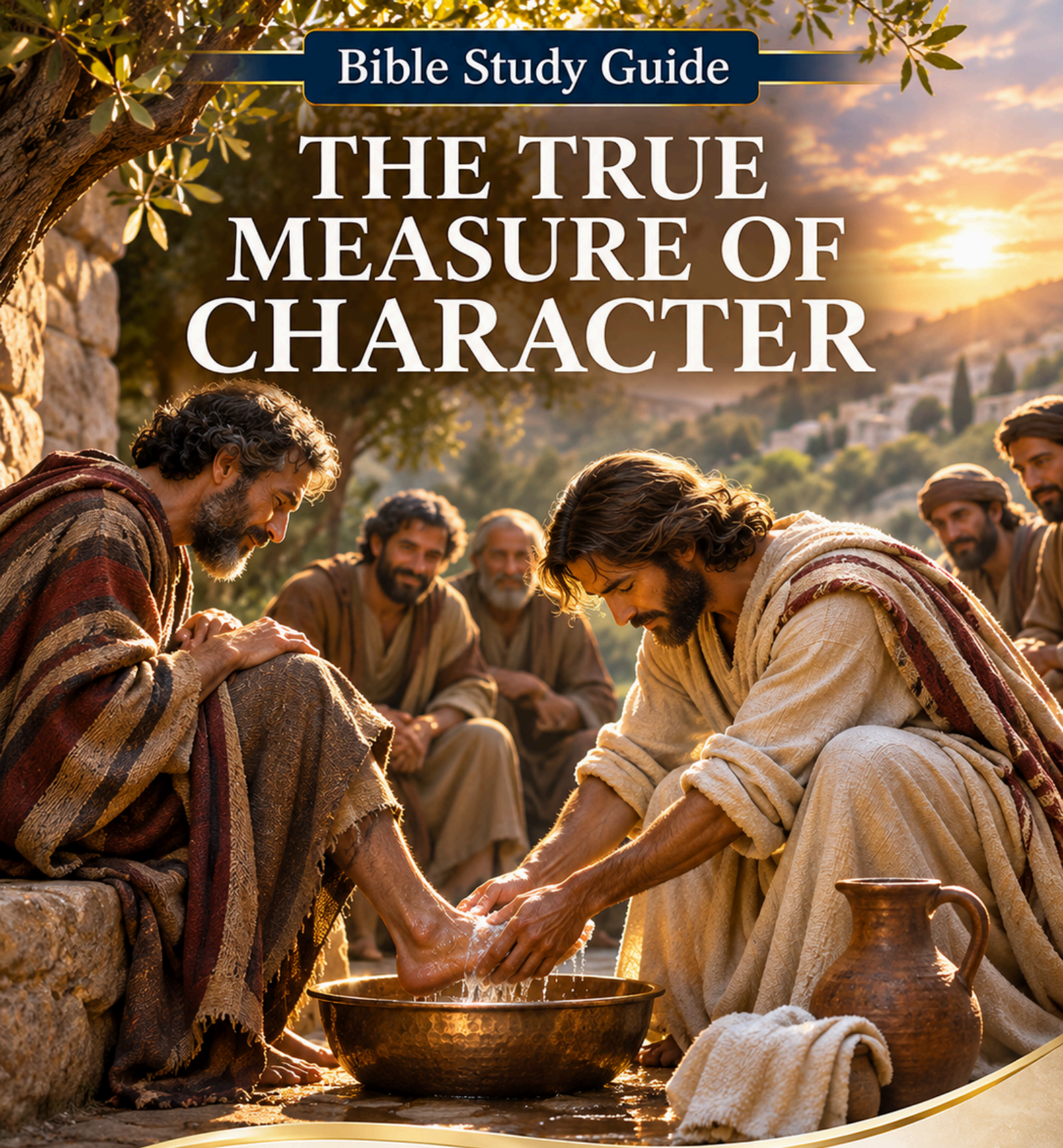
Bible Study Guide

THE TRUE MEASURE OF CHARACTER



A Bible Study on Christlike Character, Integrity, and the Test of the Heart

Introduction

When Jesus asked a Samaritan woman for a drink, He crossed a social boundary that many religious people regarded as unthinkable. He did not compromise truth, but He also did not treat her as a person beyond His concern. His approach reveals a vital measure of character: how we treat people whose background, failures, or beliefs differ from our own.

Fill in the blanks from the KJV text, then read the brief explanation.

Bible Study Questions

1 **From what inner source does a person's speech arise?** (Luke 6:45)

"… for of the abundance of the _____ his mouth speaketh."

Words reveal what the heart treasures. Character is seen in our response to people, particularly under pressure.

2 **What did the psalmist want to be acceptable before God?** (Psalm 19:14)

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my _____, be acceptable in thy sight,"

God's work encompasses both inner motives and outward speech.

3 **Why did Jesus say the Son of man had come in contrast to destroying people's lives?** (Luke 9:55-56)

"But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to _____ them."

The purpose of Christ's mission is salvation. Zeal for truth must be governed by His redemptive spirit.

4 **In what spirit should we restore a fallen believer?** (Galatians 6:1)

"restore such an one in the spirit of _____; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

The purpose of correction is restoration, with humility and compassion.

5 **How should we treat our enemies?** (Matthew 5:44)

"_____ your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"

Christ's disciples seek the good of those who oppose them rather than returning injury for injury.

6 **What did the people serve alongside their professed fear of the Lord?** (2 Kings 17:33)

"They feared the LORD, and served their _____, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence."

Religious profession can be mixed with contrary practices and motives. God calls for wholehearted loyalty.

7 **What does love for Jesus lead us to do?** (John 14:15)

"If ye love me, keep my _____."

Loving obedience is the response of a heart that trusts its Saviour.

8 **How did the Samaritan woman describe the relationship between Jews and Samaritans?** (John 4:9)

"Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have _____ with the Samaritans."

Prejudice can prevent us from recognizing the needs and dignity of other people. Jesus crossed this barrier without abandoning truth.

9 **What warning does Jesus give about judging others?** (Matthew 7:1)

"Judge not, that ye be not _____."

Discernment must not become a self-righteous, condemning spirit.

10 **How are we commanded to love our neighbor?** (Matthew 22:39)

"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as _____."

The law of love calls us to seek another person's good with the care we desire ourselves.

11 **How long did Jesus remain with the Samaritans after they invited Him?** (John 4:39-40)

"And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman... So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there _____."

Jesus made time for people who were often excluded. His presence helped open hearts to the gospel.

12 **How did Jesus view the multitudes?** (Matthew 9:36)

"he was moved with _____ on them,"

Christ saw the needs of people rather than merely their outward failures.

13 **Whose interests should believers consider besides their own?** (Philippians 2:4)

"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of _____."

The mind of Christ notices another person's need instead of interpreting everything through self-interest.

14 **How do believers fulfill the law of Christ?** (Galatians 6:2)

"Bear ye one another's _____, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

Practical sympathy is one expression of Christ's love.

15 **What does the Lord require of us?** (Micah 6:8)

"to do justly, and to love _____, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

True religion joins justice, mercy and humble fellowship with God.

16 **What evidence of knowing God does John emphasize?** (1 John 4:7)

"… for _____ is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God."

The love that comes from God makes faith visible in our treatment of others.

17 **How should God's forgiven people treat one another?** (Ephesians 4:32)

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, _____ one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Receiving mercy changes how we respond to others' mistakes.

18 **What did Jesus tell the lawyer after the good Samaritan?** (Luke 10:37)

"Go, and do thou _____."

True neighbor-love is demonstrated in merciful action rather than religious identity alone.

Appeal

Will you let Jesus correct the spirit in which you respond to people, holding faithfully to truth while seeking their restoration?

Commitment

I choose to seek the character of Christ, reject prejudice and contempt, and serve others in His spirit of love.

_____

Signature

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