

# **YEAR OF GROWTH**

## **GODLINESS**

### **WEEK 2**

#### **EXAMPLES**

##### Old Testament:

There are many examples of men and women of godliness or ungodliness in the Old Testament. We will focus on several who help us to understand the nature and action of godliness.

##### Day One – Sunday

Reflect on the definitions of the words that God used to describe godliness. Think back over the previous lessons. Read again the passages that you have written. Recall the verses you have memorized. Focus on the meaning of godliness and prepare to explore important Bible examples.

##### Day Two – Monday

###### **Psalm 1**

The blessed man does not seek counsel from nor follow the advice of those who are ungodly. Instead, his heart is God-ward – he allows God to guide his life. This is accomplished by meditating upon the Word of God both day and night. However, this study must be motivated by delight – a willingness driven by a longing for and a pleasure in Truth. Godliness begins with knowing God and His will.

##### Day Three – Tuesday

###### **Psalm 4**

The godly man finds joy and peace even in times of trouble. Because his heart is toward God, he stands in awe and does not sin. He trusts in the Lord and continues to offer to Him the sacrifices He deserves. He knows that he is set apart and belongs to the Lord. Thus, he is confident that the Lord hears his prayers. This allows him to sleep in peace. Truly, David was a “man after God’s own heart.”

Day Four – Wednesday**Psalm 32**

This psalm illustrates an important concept related to godliness. It is a record of David's confession of his sin and his prayer for forgiveness. He understood that God was willing to forgive him even though he had done terrible things. Notice that he refers to the godly. While he was lost in sin, his heart was toward God. Thus, he repented, turned from his sin, and turned his life back to God. Being forgiven, he remained godly – with a heart toward God. He could trust in the Lord and know that he would be surrounded by God's mercy.

Day Five – Thursday**1 Samuel 24:1-7**

On numerous occasions David demonstrated godliness in his interactions with King Saul. Though the king was seeking to kill him, David acted in such a way that he sought to turn Saul back to the Lord. At this time, David had the opportunity to kill Saul and to rid himself of the constant threats to his own life. Yet, he chose to spare the wicked king. His motive for his behavior was the understanding that King Saul was the Lord's anointed – he had been chosen by God. David's heart was toward God, not seeking his own will. Thus, his actions were godly.

Day Six – Friday**Ezekiel 3:1-9**

Ezekiel was to preach to the Israelites who had been taken into Babylon as captives. He was told that they would not listen to him because they refused to hear God. Yet, he was to preach to them anyway. In fact, he was to be more stubborn in his godliness and faith than the Israelites were hardheaded in their rebellion! The prophet devoted his life to exemplifying and proclaiming the Word of God. Thus, he lived a life of godliness.

Day Seven – Saturday**Genesis 18:16-33**

Abraham begged for God to spare the cities of the plain, including Sodom and Gomorrah. He did not deny that the wicked deserved punishment for their sins. However, he was concerned about the righteous being slain with the wicked. Yet, his motive was not selfish. Abraham was concerned with the character and reputation of God. He asked, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Because his heart was toward God, Abraham prayed for the deliverance of the righteous. His heart was aligned with God's own! Abraham truly was the "friend of God" (James 2:23).