



How good is “good enough”? It depends on what you are trying to measure and whose perspective you value. In one situation, good enough might be defined as a quick swipe with a cloth and a quick sweep with a broom. In another situation, good enough will require the complete sterilization of everything. Kids have their version of what is good enough to eat. Moms and dads may hold a different understanding altogether.

What counts as good enough in our relationship with God? If we’re asking about what God requires of us in order for him to love us, the answer is absolutely nothing. Anything short of whole life perfection will never make the grade. We can devote as much time as we want to being nice to people. We can be charitable with our resources. We can focus on raising our kids. We can obey laws, forgive others, attend church, and wash our hands before dinner. Yet even if we did all these things, we wouldn’t be able to earn God’s love. When it comes to God’s love, we are completely dependent on his mercy and grace. Only Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross was good enough to secure God’s love for any one who would put their faith in him.

What counts as good enough once we’ve received God’s love and assurance? The answer depends on whose opinion we value. If we value the opinion of others, we might be tempted to define good enough relative to how others choose to behave. If we value the opinion of God, however, good enough is summed up by loving God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strengths and loving others as we love ourselves. It’s also defined by striving to be like Jesus in everything we do, especially in how we trust and depend on God and obey his teachings. Good enough is a lifetime journey that we can never accomplish on our own, but with God’s help, good enough is guaranteed. Let us set our sights on the only “good enough” that counts. “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.” (Hebrews 10:23)

Personal Reflection and Application

Keep a journal to address the following questions and topics.

AC Read the story of Solomon found in 1 Kings 1 -11.

AC Meditate on these five verses: 1 Kings 3:3; 6:38-7:1; 11:1-2.

Q Solomon has been remembered for his wisdom and for building a temple for God. What would you like to be remembered for? What are you willing to do about it today?

Q What words would you use to complete these three self-reflective questions?

- *I have followed in the paths of other faithful men and women, **except** in the area of _____.*
- *I have honored God with certain portions of my resources, **however**, I have honored myself more by _____.*
- *God has spoken clearly, **nevertheless**, I continue to _____.*

P *Loving God, make me like Jesus in every area of my life and keep me from trying to do it by myself.*



Small Groups

Opening Question: In what areas of life do you tend to be less particular and in what areas do you tend to be more particular? How has this pattern changed, if at all, over the years?

AC Examine these passages and the contexts of the stories around them: 1 Kings 3:3; 6:38-7:1; 11:1-2. What do you suppose Solomon’s motivations were for not destroying the high places, for putting more time and resources into his own palace than he did into God’s temple, and for marrying women whom God had specifically declared off limits? To what degree do these motivations influence your life?

Q What have you done (are you doing) in your life that has brought glory to God? (**This isn’t a competition!**) Humbly and authentically celebrate these things together as a group, maybe even joining in a prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

AC Ask if anyone is needing accountability and prayer for something that they know falls short of bringing glory to God yet still remains a part of their lives. Lift these concerns up to God together in prayer. Identify what effective accountability will look like.

P *Please don’t leave us to our own desires.*

One-on-One Relationships

“Follow me as I follow God” should be every disciple maker’s mantra. The statement assumes that the disciple maker is still learning and growing in his or her devotion to God. It assumes increasing obedience to God’s commands. The statement also assumes a need to depend on God. It communicates a willingness to be held accountable and to take responsibility. It communicates humility even as it communicates boldness.

As Christians we can fall into the trap of only playing to what comes easy. We might feel confident enough about our Bible knowledge such that we choose not to work on our ability to share the good news with others. Our satisfaction with using our hands for God can lead us to avoid developing a rich prayer life. Our generosity with money can lull us into thinking our reluctance to forgive is okay.

You might consider examining your life with your disciple. Be open about your victories and your struggles. Reveal how you are participating with the Spirit in learning to become like Jesus. Invite your disciple to pray for you. You shouldn’t have to make things up. Just tell it like it is.

The goal is to avoid traps like the ones that ensnared Solomon.

Families

Pick and tweak items below to fit your own family’s context.

AC Look at a drawing of the temple Solomon built for God. (Try a web search for “Solomon’s Temple.”) Use blocks, Legos, etc. to build your own version of Solomon’s temple. Talk together about how God’s temple is now in our hearts.

AC As a family, identify one thing you can do together this week that will bring glory to God. You might consider doing something for a neighbor, serving a meal at The Open Door Mission, shopping for a food bank, praying together for people to know God, reading the Bible together, memorizing a verse, befriending someone on your block, etc.

AC Use the story of Solomon and his 700 wives (1 Kings 11:1-13) to have a family discussion about dating and marriage. You might ask questions like, *Why would God set limits on who his people should marry? Why did Solomon choose to disobey these limits? What were the consequences? What challenges face Christians today if we choose to date or marry people who haven’t turned their lives over to Christ? How hard is it to let God’s opinion have more influence than our own desires in this area?*