

# A Trusting God

## Study Guide for Small Group Discussion and Personal Application Lynn Haven UMC – May 17, 2020 – Pastor Craig Carter

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According to the opening chapter in the Bible, “God created human beings in his own image...” (Genesis 1:27). One of the ways in which God made us to be like Him was by giving us a free will. Therefore, we can choose right or we can choose wrong, we can choose to live God’s way or we can choose our own way. Even though sin has dramatically affected our ability to choose correctly, God has still chosen to have faith in us, to trust us.

### Discussion Starters:

⇒ Think of a time when you were given a big responsibility, when someone trusted you to do something significant (in sports, at work, in a relationship, etc.), or to care for something valuable (a baby, a car, etc.). How did it feel to be entrusted with that responsibility?

### Key Sermon Points:

These are examples of some things God trusts us to do:

#### 1) God trusts us to be good stewards of His creation.

*“Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.” (Genesis 1:28 NLT)*

*The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. (Genesis 2:15 NLT)*

⇒ God expects us to be good stewards of His creation, but we haven’t always proven trustworthy in this regard. What one thing could you do to be a better steward of creation?

#### 2) God trusts us to take care of each other.

*Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.” (Genesis 2:18 NLT)*

*The Lord asked Cain, “Where is your brother? Where is Abel?” “I don’t know,” Cain responded. “Am I my brother’s guardian?” (Genesis 4:9 NLT)*

⇒ God expects us to take care of each other and, yes, you are to be your “brother’s keeper”. What person do you know in need, physical or spiritual? What could you do to care for them?

### **3) God trusts us to obey His commands.**

*The Lord God warned, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden – except the tree of knowledge of good and evil." (Genesis 2:16-17a NLT)*

*"If you love me, you will obey my commandments." (John 14:15 NLT)*

⇒ God's desire is that we chose to obey his commands, they are for our own good. If we choose to disobey, He does not shield us from the consequences. Think of a command you struggle to obey - can you see how it might be God's instructions for your own good?

### **4) God trusts us to pursue a relationship with Him.**

*So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. Then the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:8b-9 NLT)*

⇒ God created us to live in relationship with Him. Even though He loves us greatly, He does not force us to love Him. He calls out to us, and we must choose to walk with Him. What one thing could you do to deepen your relationship with God?

### **5) God trusts us to be fruitful and multiply.**

*"Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19a NLT)*

⇒ God expects that we will share the gospel with others and help them pursue a relationship with Him. Who could you introduce to Christ, or encourage them in their walk with Christ? Share their name with your group or an accountability partner and commit to reaching out to that person this week.

### **Application for the Week:**

⇒ God has trusted us with quite a lot - to be good stewards of His creation, to take care of each other, to obey Him, to pursue a relationship with Him, and to tell others about Him. Which one thing from your answers above will you focus on doing this week?