

A SUMMER UNDER THE VINE

Discovering the Fruit the Spirit Grows

Study Guide Week Three

Five Weekly Sessions for Small Groups

Michael Kulwiec

asummerunderthevine.com

A SUMMER UNDER THE VINE

Discovering the Fruit the Spirit Grows

Copyright © 2026 Michael Kulwiec

This study guide is free. You may print, copy, and share it, and you may adapt it for your group, for non-commercial use in churches, small groups, classes, and personal study. Please don't sell it or include it in anything that is sold. If you adapt it, keep the credit line at the bottom of each page and the Scripture notices, and don't change the wording of the Scripture text.

This permission covers the study guide only. *A Summer Under the Vine* remains under full copyright. No part of the book may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without prior written permission of the publisher, except for brief quotations in reviews or articles.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. ESV Text Edition: 2025. The ESV text may not be quoted in any publication made available to the public by a Creative Commons license. The ESV may not be translated in whole or in part into any other language. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION® and NIV® are registered trademarks of Biblica, Inc.

First Edition, 2026

Published by

ALMOST SUPPERTIME

almostsuppertime.com
asummerunderthevine.com

WEEK THREE / THE EXTERIOR LIFE

Patience · Kindness · Goodness

King of the Promerama

Book Reading

Read Chapter Three before you meet (pages 57–82, about 25 minutes).

When prom season came around, a youth group decided to skip their school's dance and throw their own. They called it the Promerama. It looked a little ridiculous and completely wonderful. When the names were drawn for king and queen, the most unlikely kid in the room was crowned king, and everyone cheered. That night showed patience, kindness, and goodness, the fruit that can't stay private. They need someone else in the room.

Scripture Readings

Patience

9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

Kindness

1 And David said, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

7 And David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always."

2 Samuel 9:1, 7 (ESV)

Goodness

8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8 (NIV)

How They Fit Together

[12] Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, [13] bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Colossians 3:12–13 (ESV)

Between You and God

Take your time with these questions, as you read or after, before your group meets. You can write, pray, or simply sit with one. You won't be asked to share your answers.

1. Think of the one person who tests your patience most right now. When they get to you, do you go cold and shut down, avoid the conversation, or let the frustration build until something gives? What might it look like to talk with God about them, and about how you respond?
2. Is there someone you need to forgive, releasing the debt, even if trust can't be rebuilt yet and reconciliation may never come? Romans 12:18 says, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." What part depends on you?
3. For Jonathan's sake, David went looking for Mephibosheth, a forgotten man living in a nowhere place, with no standing and nothing to offer a king, and gave him a place at his table. In Christ, God has done the same for you. What rises in you when you realize you've been given a seat you didn't earn?
4. Where do you already know the right thing to do, but it would be easier to look away or stay quiet? Ask God for the courage to do it.
5. Doing good often means never seeing the result. Are you willing to obey and let the Spirit take the credit for whatever it accomplishes, even if you never find out what that was?

Free for non-commercial group use · asummerunderthevine.com/permissions · v05

What You Noticed

Last week you were asked to watch for patience, kindness, and goodness in the people around you. Who surprised you? Your time in Between You and God is yours to keep, but if something stood out, you're welcome to share it.

To Discuss with Others

The Story

1. A room full of teenagers rallied around Puck, a kid who had never fit in anywhere, the night his name was drawn as king. Nobody coached them to do it. What made them ready for that moment? Who in your world lives on the outside of everything?

Patience

Read 2 Peter 3:9

2. God's patience gives people room to turn. The chapter separates three things we often blur together. Patience restrains retaliation, forgiveness releases the debt, and reconciliation rebuilds the relationship. Why does it matter that these are different? What happens when we expect all three at once?
3. Scripture commands us to forgive, but trust has to be rebuilt over time. Joseph wept over his brothers, yet he still tested them before he revealed who he was (Genesis 42–45). What does his story teach about the difference between forgiving someone and trusting them again?

Kindness

Read 2 Samuel 9:1, 7

4. Mephibosheth was given a seat at the king's table for a promise he didn't even know had been made on his behalf. How is that a picture of what Christ has done for us? How does being given that seat change the way we treat people who have nothing to offer us?
5. Niceness wants to keep things comfortable. Kindness wants your actual good, even when it costs something. Has someone ever been kind to you in a way that wasn't comfortable at the time? What did it do for you?

Free for non-commercial group use · asummerunderthevine.com/permissions · v05

Goodness

Read Micah 6:8

6. Micah 6:8 sums up goodness as acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God. Kindness offers the cup of cold water. Goodness digs the well, even when it's slow and no one is watching. Where have you seen someone dig the well?
7. Lukewarm neutrality can pass for goodness. It looks like patience, or grace, or not being judgmental, right up until you notice nothing was risked and no one was helped. Why is it so hard to spot in ourselves? What would it look like in a group like ours?

How They Fit Together

Read Colossians 3:12–13

8. The chapter describes a sequence. Patience creates the space, kindness fills it with something good, and goodness makes sure what fills it is true. Where have you seen all three at work in the same moment? Why can't any of us produce them by trying harder?

Close in Prayer

The Week Ahead

Next week looks at the fruit that shows up when life gets hard. This week, notice someone who keeps showing up when it would be easier not to, or who stays gentle under pressure. What do you think is holding them steady? When you meet again, share what you noticed if you'd like.

Before you meet again, read Chapter Four, "It's Not How I Planned It" (pages 83–114, about 30 minutes).

Find the book and the complete study guide at asummerunderthevine.com, or scan the QR code.