

**The Virtue Driven Life**  
**Fr. Benedict J. Groeschel, C.F.R.**

**+ A Paladin Supplemental for Small Group Discussions +**

*The Virtue Driven Life* helps us understand and thus live the virtues. Our basic journey to God revolves around growing nearer to God through prayer and growth in the virtues, thus the study of these is of the utmost importance. While most prefer studying apologetics, Marian apparitions, or some such thing, nothing is more important than prayer and the virtues for growing nearer to God, the purpose to everything we do. Thus we must make a point of having a series on the virtues.

*The Virtue Driven Life* includes “Questions for Meditation” on each chapter. I recommend using these as your discussion questions and supplementing them with the additional questions below. Each chapter also ends with a relevant prayer that would make a good closing prayer. The introduction is worth discussing in itself; five discussion questions are included below.

A typical model for small group gatherings:

- Welcome
- Opening Prayer
- Read Summary of Chapter
- Ponder chapter for a minute or two
- Discuss Chapter using questions
- Wrap up Discussion
- Closing Prayer
- Our Father
- Announcements and Other Community Concerns
- Social Time (including snacks)

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION

1. Does the common person speak of virtue these days? And if he does, what does he often mean by "virtue"?
2. How has behaviorism and other theories of psychology undermined the concept of virtue in past decades? [Discuss before going on] How do these theories describe humanity? What is your response to this?
3. What is the "Revolution in Psychology"? What kind of "new" concepts has it introduced to psychology? What will be the effect of all this on society?
4. What is virtue? What is the difference between natural and supernatural virtues?
5. What is the difference between the virtue of religion and the virtue of faith? How is this connected to the theological virtues?

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### Additional Discussion Questions: CHAPTER 1: PRUDENCE

1. While it is naturally prudent to avoid “unnecessary” confrontations, how do we know when God wants us to speak up against something? And how we are to do so?
2. What things do people commonly seek in the pursuit of happiness?

### Additional Discussion Questions: CHAPTER 2: JUSTICE

1. What exactly is the difference between the natural virtue of religion and the supernatural virtue of faith?
2. Even religious people seem reluctant to give God His due reverence. How should we reverence God? How will this be reflected in the way we live?

### Additional Discussion Questions: CHAPTER 3: FORTITUDE

1. What is “selfism” and how does it make one uninterested in courage?
2. Americans believe everyone has the right to be happy. What is the Christian response to this? What does this have to do with fortitude?

### Additional Discussion Questions: CHAPTER 4: TEMPERANCE

1. “Part of temperance is taking care of ourselves.” What kinds of things is the author speaking of here? How can we do better in this area?
2. How does the author define addiction? What kinds of things in a person’s life might fit this definition yet never be actually labeled “addiction”? Please discuss.

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Additional Discussion Questions: CHAPTER 5: FAITH

1. If faith is truly a gift from God, how can anyone be held accountable for their lack of faith? [Discuss before going on] What does the author mean by “True Christian faith, true supernatural faith, is absolute”?
2. Love is the greatest virtue; however, “we never get to love unless the door is opened by faith.” What does this mean? Why does “the virtuous man live by faith” rather than some “generalized kindness”?

Additional Discussion Questions: CHAPTER 6: HOPE

1. “No one is more dangerous than those who set out to make a perfect world.” Why is this true? What are examples of this? What did they put their hope in to seek this goal?
2. “Out of evil freely committed by men God brings good, but this will never be understood unless we look beyond this world and see a heavenly hope.” What does the author mean by this? How do we find hope in the midst of evil and suffering?

Additional Discussion Questions: CHAPTER 7: LOVE

1. Re-read the three principles of selfism on the bottom of page 134. What is the point of mentioning this here in this chapter? [Discuss before going on] Do not even practicing Catholics often put the goals of selfism ahead of the spiritual goals of Christ and His church?
2. Why do many mistake “feelings of benevolence and kindness” for people in general as charity? [Discuss before going on] Recall the author’s story about loving ones enemies. Do you think the nun had warm feelings for the woman? Was this charity wasted on this bitter and unrepentant “witch”?