October 25, 2026

Community Group Sermon Notes

The God Who Keeps His Word – Pastor Kevin Flannery
Series: *Guard the Gospel & Adorn the Truth: The Pastoral Epistles*

Ice Breaker

Share a time when someone kept a promise they made to you. How did that make you feel, and how did it shape your relationship with that person?

Read & Reflect on the Scripture Passage – *Titus 1:1-4*

As Paul begins his letter to Titus, he introduces three important truths that shape how we live as followers of Jesus: 1. Let God's truth shape the life you live. 2. Anchor your hope in the God who cannot lie. 3. Live from the grace that God has given.

Sermon Application Discussion

1. **Let God's Truth shape the life you live** – Titus 1:1

Pastor Kevin shared the story of a woman he led to Christ who began experiencing immediate changes in her life. First, her speech changed as she stopped swearing. Then her family became more open to the faith she had discovered. The gospel does more than change what we believe; it transforms how we live.

- Has what you know about God begun to shape how you live? Give practical examples.
- Where has the gospel not yet fully shaped your attitudes, reactions, words, or relationships?
- When you are under pressure, what tends to come out of you? What might that reveal about the work God is doing in your heart?
- Pastor Kevin described godliness as "the perfume of Christlikeness." If your life leaves an aroma wherever you go, what might others experience? What would you like them to experience?

2. **Anchor your hope in the God who cannot lie** – Titus 1:2-3

Christian hope is not the certainty that everything will happen the way we want. It is confidence that God is faithful and that His purposes will ultimately prevail, even when our circumstances are painful or confusing. Pastor Kevin shared the story of George Whitefield, who believed his son would become a great preacher and publicly expressed that expectation. Tragically, his son died four months later. This story reminds us of the importance of distinguishing God's revealed promises from our own interpretations, expectations, and impressions.

- How can we distinguish between God's promises in Scripture and our subjective impressions of what God might be telling us?
- Why is it important to test what we believe God is telling us against Scripture rather than relying solely on our feelings and impressions?
- What fear, disappointment, or uncertainty has grown so loud in your life that it has become difficult to hear or trust God's promises?
- What specific truth about God's character or promises do you need to hold on to this week?

3. **Live from the grace God has given you** – Titus 1:4a

Paul, a Jewish believer, addresses Titus, a Gentile believer, as his true son in their common faith. Their relationship transcends ethnic, cultural, and social differences because they belong to the same spiritual family through Jesus Christ.

Pastor Kevin shared how he immediately felt a sense of family with a believing sister from Vietnam. Their shared faith in Christ created a bond that went beyond cultural and linguistic differences.

- If this applies, tell about a time when you shared faith with someone very different from you that bridged cultural, racial, generational, or language barriers. How did you come to see that person as family?
- How does remembering that we have received grace help us extend grace to people who are different from us?
- Who in your church or community might God be inviting you to welcome, know more deeply, or treat more intentionally as family?

4. **Grace before Peace** – Titus 1:4b
Paul greets Titus with "Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior."
The order matters. Grace comes before peace. Through God's grace, we are reconciled to Him. As we receive His grace, we can experience His peace within and become people who extend that peace to others.

- How has God's grace brought peace between you and Him?
- How has God's grace helped you experience peace in the midst of anxiety, conflict, disappointment, or uncertainty?
- How has God's grace led you to share His peace with others as a peacemaker?
- How might remembering God's grace change the way you respond when someone disappoints or hurts you?

Going Deeper

Read Hebrews 6:17–19.
This passage reminds us that God's promises are trustworthy and that the hope we have in Him is an anchor for our souls.

- What does this passage teach us about God's unchanging character and the certainty of His promises?
- How can God's promises serve as an anchor when your circumstances feel uncertain or frightening?
- What is one area of your life in which you need to rest more fully in God's faithfulness?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for being faithful to Your promises and for the grace that unites us as family in Christ. Help us to live out Your truth, trust You in every circumstance, and extend Your grace and peace to those around us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Faith in Action

Identify one practical way to build a deeper relationship with a fellow believer who is different from you, demonstrating that your shared faith in Christ makes you family.

Discipleship Process

LOVE GOD – Gather regularly for Sunday worship.
LOVE OTHERS – Community Groups: Week 7 of 12.
SERVE THE WORLD – Look for opportunities to demonstrate Christ's love through practical service, generosity, and sharing the gospel with others.

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