

# GOODNESS / Week 4

A heart that reflects the excellent character of God



*“A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.” LUKE 6:45*

## PARENT DEVO

*(Parents, this is for you to do ahead of time as you prepare your hearts to lead your kids.)*

**READ** Luke 22:54-62 & John 21:15-19. What similarities do you see in these two events? How does Jesus continue to pursue and love Peter despite his denial and sin? What very important job does Jesus give Peter despite his failure? What qualified Peter for the job?

**DID YOU KNOW?** The scene in John was familiar to Peter. He first met Jesus when fishing and he betrayed him three times over a fire. There is debate whether John used two different Greek words for love (*agapao* and *philo*) in this conversation intentionally or just stylistically.

**REFLECTION:** If you were Peter, how would you feel in these two events? Is there anything in your past that the enemy tries to get you to believe disqualifies you from service? What good truth can you remind yourself of when tempted to believe this lie? Can you see God's goodness flowing out of your life and onto others?

**PRAY:** Thank God for His excellent character and love. Ask Him to fill you with His goodness so you can't help but overflow with goodness in all areas of your life.

## HELPFUL HINTS BEFORE YOU START:

- The Finish Line is the key teaching point of the lesson
- Everything in **BOLD** is meant to be read out loud. The rest is either answers to questions, instructions, or suggestions for supplies
- You will need a Bible, a sheet of paper, pen or marker

## FINISH LINE: OUR GOODNESS IS AN OVERFLOW OF GOD'S GOODNESS TO US

*Peter was one of Jesus' 12 disciples. He followed Jesus for three years, learned from Him and saw Him do amazing things. The very night Jesus was going to be arrested, Peter promised he would never deny or abandon Jesus. Jesus knew what was going to happen and told Peter that he would deny Him (Jesus) three times before the night was over. Let's see if Peter or Jesus was right.*

## **READ LUKE 22:54-62**

- **After Jesus was arrested, where did Peter go?** He followed Jesus and the people who arrested Him at a distance.
- **What did three different people say about him?** Three different people said they thought he was one of Jesus' disciples.
- **How did he respond to each person?** Peter denied it.
- **Why do you think Peter did that? How do you think he might have felt? Scared? Anxious? Sad?**
- **What happened when the rooster crowed?** Jesus looked at Peter and Peter realized he had sinned by saying he didn't know Jesus. Peter was sad and he left crying.

*Later that day, Jesus was crucified, died, and buried in a tomb. But, the most unbelievably wonderful thing happened! Jesus didn't stay dead! On the third day, He came back to life! That's really GOOD news! He visited His disciples, including Peter, several times. Let's look at one of the times Peter saw Jesus again.*

## **READ JOHN 21:15-19**

- **What question did Jesus ask Peter? Do you love me? How many times did He ask it?** Three times
- **How did Peter respond each time?** He said, "Yes Lord, you know I love you."

- **Was Jesus angry with Peter? Did He yell at Peter and tell him how badly he had messed up?** No. Jesus was kind and responded with gentleness.
- **How did Jesus show GOODNESS to Peter?** Jesus continued to love Peter and forgave him for denying him three times. Jesus didn't give up on Peter even though he had sinned.
- **What did Jesus tell Peter to do?** Feed my sheep.
- **What do you think that means?** Jesus was telling Peter to take care of the people who believed in Him. Jesus wanted Peter to teach, lead, and care for the other believers.
- **EXPLAIN:** Peter knew that Jesus, out of His goodness, forgave and loved him. He understood that because Jesus loved him, he could love others. Because Peter had been forgiven, he was able to forgive others. Jesus gave Peter a new heart, a good heart, so Peter could show God's goodness to others by what he said and did.
- **Does anyone know some of the good things the book of Acts tells us Peter did because of God's goodness to him?** He healed people, preached the good news about Jesus boldly, and was a leader in the church.

### WRAP UP QUESTIONS

- **Does God need us to be perfect in order for Him to use us? Why not?** No! None of us are ever perfect. BUT God is! His goodness can shine through imperfect people like Peter and like us! We can share His goodness with others.
- **How can God start changing your heart so that it's one that reflects His excellent character?** Just as Jesus loved and forgave Peter, He loves us and wants to give us forgiveness for our sins. When we accept His forgiveness, He gives us a new heart!
- **Once God gives you a good heart, do you still have a responsibility to take care of what you put in it? Yes! Do you have to do this on your own?** No! God is always there to help.
- **EXPLAIN:** Every day we choose to put either good things or bad things into our hearts. What we choose to put into our hearts will determine what will come out of them.

### ACTIVITY – In & Out

Just like our memory verse says, what comes out of a person comes from what is in their heart. What is in our heart depends on what we choose to put in it. If a person has a GOOD heart, then GOOD things will come out. Talk with your kids about some of the things we can choose to put INTO our hearts and how it would affect what comes OUT. (EX: TV shows, video games, people we're friends with, what we read, music choices)

**Supplies:** paper and coloring supplies

**Directions:** Draw a picture of a heart. Look up and read these three verses and decide if it is talking about what we put IN our hearts or what flows OUT.

**Psalm 119:11**

**Luke 6:45**

**Colossians 3:16**

**Ephesians 3:17**

**Wrap up:** Talk about what GOOD things we can put into our hearts so that GOODNESS flows out of us. Inside your heart, write down things that you put into your heart. Around the outside, write down things that can come out of your heart. Plan another time this week when your family can intentionally put good things into your hearts together! Examples: memorizing a verse, singing worship songs, reading from the Bible, praying together, etc.