

GOODNESS / Week 3

A heart that reflects the excellent character of God



GOSPELS

“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 the story of Jesus’ arrest, trial and crucifixion in at least two of the Gospels. How does He show He is in control of what’s happening to Him and knows that what He’s going through is for our good? How would you feel if you were a disciple living through these events?

DID YOU KNOW? The torn curtain probably separated the Most Holy from the Holy Place in the temple and only priests could pass through it at certain times. Read Hebrews 10:19-22 for the significance of it tearing from top to bottom at Jesus’ death.

REFLECTION: Read Romans 8:28. Think about hard things you’ve gone through or are going through now. Have you seen any good come from them? What Scripture do you use to remind yourself about the goodness of God? Write those verses down and keep them handy.

PRAY: Thank God for being good, loving, and kind in any and all circumstances. Thank Him for His amazing sacrifice on the cross for you. Ask Him to help you trust His goodness in whatever circumstance He is walking with you through right now.

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 and markers or play-doh

FINISH LINE: WE CAN TRUST GOD’S GOODNESS

READ ROMANS 8:28

- **What does this verse tell you about God?** He is always working for the good of those who love Him.
- **What things in our life can God use for good? What about the really hard things?** Everything can be used for good.
- **Can we always see the good God is doing when we are in the middle of a really hard time?** No.
- **Can we still trust God’s goodness even when we can’t see it? Yes! Why do you think that?**
- **EXPLAIN:** Today we’re going to look at the hardest time in Jesus’ life. We celebrated the end of the story last week, but let’s look again to see how God, in His goodness, used something that seemed terrible for the greatest good ever.

Have kids look up the following verses in their Bibles ahead of time so you can be ready to read them when you get to each section.

READ JOHN 18:1-5, 12 – JESUS IS BETRAYED & ARRESTED

- **Who was Judas?** One of Jesus’ friends. **What did he do?** He led the soldiers to Jesus so they could arrest Him.
- **Look at verse 4. Did Jesus know this was going to happen?** Yes. It was God’s plan from the beginning.

READ JOHN 19:9-11, 16 – JESUS ON TRIAL

- **Had Jesus done anything wrong?** No, He lived a perfect life. **Did He try to defend Himself?** No. **Did He deserve to die?** No.
- **Look at verse 11.** Who had the ultimate power? (Pilate only had power because God gave it to him. God was in control.)

READ JOHN 19:16-18, 28-30 – JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

- **Imagine you were one of Jesus' disciples. Would it be hard for you to see anything "good" about Jesus dying?**
- **Did Jesus have the power to come off the cross and save Himself? Yes.**
- **Why was it good for Him to stay on the cross even though He had the power to save Himself?** If He saved Himself then all sinners, including us, would be separated from God forever. He was the only one who could take the punishment we deserved for our sin. He was willing to suffer because He loves us so much. He knew that what He was going through would be used for the greatest good ever. Because He suffered for us on the cross, we can be saved from our sin and have a relationship with God forever!
- **Reread John 19:30. Did Jesus finish what He came to earth to do? What was that? Yes.** He came to live a perfect life and be a sacrifice for us, taking the punishment we deserve.
- **Did Jesus stay dead? What did we celebrate on Easter?** Jesus came back to life 3 days later and He is alive today in Heaven!

WRAP UP QUESTIONS

- **Does God's excellent character change whether you're in an easy time or a hard time?**
No. He is always good.
- **Think about some of the hard times you have had in your life. They can be things you've gone through in the past or something you're going through right now. Is it easy or hard to trust that God is good when you're going through this? Why?**
- **What can you do to remind yourself about God's goodness when things are hard? How can you be reminded that God is always working for your good?** Read the Bible, talk to other believers, pray, listen to worship music, etc.

EXPLAIN: *Sometimes we have to go through really hard things, and we can't understand why. It's okay to have the emotions that come from these hard things. God wants you to talk to Him about how you're feeling, so be honest with Him. We can't see the end of the story but God is all-knowing and all-seeing so He knows how He is working for our good.*

ACTIVITY

Supplies: play-doh or paper and coloring supplies

Directions: Think about something that is or has been a hard thing in your life. Let everyone use the play-doh or coloring supplies to create something that represent the difficult things they have experienced. Go around and share this with your family and pray for each other.

Wrap up: *Once everyone is done sharing, remind your kids that God can take all of our hard things and use them for good. When we're in the middle of hard circumstances we might not be able to see how God is working, but we can trust Him because He is good all the time.*