



GOODNESS – WEEK 3

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 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. 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 has you in right now.

Finish Line:

We can trust God’s goodness!

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

John 18-19

Jesus’ arrest, trial, crucifixion

LESSON MATERIALS:

- Domino set (or Legos, Jenga, etc.)
- Paper
- Tape
- Writing utensils
- Jesus Storybook Bible
- Story Board (printable)

How to use this lesson:

- Everything that is **bolded** is meant to be read out loud. The rest is either instructions, answers to questions or suggestions for supplies.
- The Finish Line is the key point for the lesson.
- Watermark Kids uses the New Living Translation (NLT) Bible. You can find this translation at www.biblegateway.com.

Activity 1

Let's play a game to practice our memory verse! Parents, help your kids write out words and/or phrases of the memory verse onto strips of paper. Tape the pieces of paper onto dominoes. Pass out the dominoes to the kids making sure everyone has at least one. Then put the dominoes in order, standing each one up on its end and forming a train. It might be helpful to use the table instead of trying to balance them on the carpet! Once all of the dominoes are in place, say the verse together then allow one child to knock down the first domino and watch them tumble! Do this a few times, encouraging them to change up the pattern to make it fall in different ways.

If you do not have dominoes, here are some other options:

- Use Legos or Jenga blocks instead of dominoes
- Hide the pieces of paper around the room. Have the kids find the paper, and then put the paper in order.

Way to go! Before we read the story, I have a few questions. Is God always good? Yes! Does God ever make a mistake? No! Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them." God is always working for our good, and in our story today we are going to learn that we can trust God's goodness.

Storytime

Read **"A Dark Night in the Garden"** from the Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones on pages 294-301. If you don't have the Jesus Storybook Bible, this story comes from **John 18-19** in the NLT Bible. You can read it and paraphrase with your kids.

- **How did Jesus feel knowing that He was going to have to suffer and die?** Sad, upset, troubled.
- **How did Jesus show that He trusted God's goodness, even though it was going to be hard?** He said, "I trust you, Papa. Whatever you say, I will do." (pg. 296)
- **When Judas led the soldiers to Jesus, what happened?** Jesus didn't try to run away or hide, Peter cut off a soldier's ear, Jesus healed him, Jesus was arrested and put on trial.

Additional story options:

- Read **The Garden, the Curtain, and the Cross** by Carl Laferton and Catalina Echeverri
- Watch “**The Story of Easter (Jesus’ Sacrifice)**” by Saddleback Kids or “**God’s Story: Easter**” by Crossroads Kids Club on YouTube.

Activity 2

After Jesus was arrested and put on trial, He was nailed to the cross where He died. That doesn’t sound good, but there’s more to the story. Even though it didn’t seem like anything good would come from Jesus dying on the cross, God was still at work. In fact, this was part of God’s special rescue plan all along! Jesus trusted God’s goodness and died in our place! Jesus died to forgive us and rescue us from the punishment and power of sin when we believe in Him.

To help us see how Jesus trusted God’s goodness, we are going to create a story board. Each box represents a different part of Jesus’ journey to the cross. We are going to read them together, and you will get to illustrate each box. Give each kid a blank story board. Each Scripture will coincide with one box. Read the Scripture and allow the kids the opportunity to draw a picture representing that part of the story. In the last box, have them write or draw about how God is working for their good right now.

Parents, for this activity you can print out the storyboard activity page or create one yourself by drawing 6 boxes on one piece of paper. Do what works best for your situation!

- 1. Jesus trusted God’s goodness when He cried out to God in the garden. (Mark 14:32-36)**
- 2. Jesus trusted God’s goodness when He was betrayed and arrested. (Matthew 26:47-50)**
- 3. Jesus trusted God’s goodness when He was on trial. (John 19:9-16)**
- 4. Jesus trusted God’s goodness when He was nailed to the cross. (Luke 23:32-35)**
- 5. Jesus trusted God’s goodness when He died. (Mark 15:37-39)**
- 6. We can trust God’s goodness. (Romans 8:28)**

Can anyone tell me one more good thing that happened in this story?

Answers may vary. **Jesus didn’t stay dead! He came back to life 3 days later!!! That is some really GOOD news! Let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus and ask God to help us trust His goodness.**

DEFINITION:

A heart (palms over heart) **that reflects** (point to palm then point away) **the excellent** (two thumbs up) **character of God** (point up).

MEMORY VERSE:

A good (thumbs up) **person produces good** (thumbs up) **things from the treasury of a good** (thumbs up) **heart, and an evil** (thumbs down) **person produces evil** (thumbs down) **things from the treasury of an evil** (thumbs down) **heart. What you say** (point to mouth) **flows from what is in your heart** (palms over heart).

Luke 6:45