



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? How?

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.

Finish Line:

**Our goodness is an overflow of God's goodness
to us!**

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

Luke 22:54-62
John 21:15-19
Jesus forgives Peter

LESSON MATERIALS:

- Object to play hot potato
- Toy microphone (optional)
- Bible
- Black and red hearts made from construction paper
- Heart cards (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

Who can tell me the memory verse without looking? Let one or two kids say the verse. **Today is the day we get to say our verse to our family! We have a few fun ways to practice.** Choose from the following activities, or feel free to come up with other fun ways to practice the verse.

- Hot Potato – Have your family sit in a circle. The first person will say the first word of the verse, then pass the object to the next person. Each child will say one word until the verse is complete. You could include music. When the music stops, the person with the object says one word of the verse.
- Battle of the Bands – Find an object in your home to use as a microphone. Have one person hold the mic in the middle. When you say GO everyone says the verse as fast as they can. The first person to finish wins. Everyone can go at the same time or you can use your watch/phone to time them.
- Solo Style – One person at a time can “perform” the verse in a silly voice in the “microphone” (rock star, opera, cowboy, robot, etc.).
- Musical Mime – Have one kid rap or sing the verse in the “microphone” while everyone else does the hand motions.

That was fun! Now it's time to take a look at our story. Today we are going to learn about how our goodness is an overflow of God's goodness to us.

Storytime

Read **Luke 22:54-62** and then **John 21:15-17** from the NLT Bible.

- **When 3 different people asked Peter if He knew Jesus, what did Peter do?** He lied, denied it, said they were wrong (Luke 22:57, 58, 60).
- **Was Peter's heart reflecting the excellent character of God?** No.
- **What question did Jesus ask Peter three times?** Do you love me? **How did Peter answer Jesus?** He said, “Yes, Lord. You know I love you.” (John 21:15-17)
- **What did Jesus ask Peter to do?** Take care of His sheep (John 21:17).

Additional story options:

- Read **The Friend Who Forgives (Tales That Tell the Truth)** by Dan DeWitt
- Watch “**God's Story: Peter Denies Jesus**” by Crossroads Kids Club or “**Jesus Forgives Peter**” by Saddleback Kids on YouTube.

Activity 2

Peter sinned, but Jesus showed Peter goodness by forgiving him and loving him. Because Jesus had forgiven Peter, Peter could love and forgive others and share God's goodness with them. Peter's goodness was an overflow of God's goodness to him!

Remember our memory verse? It tells us that, "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." So, if we fill our heart with good things like reading our Bible, praying, and making choices that honor God, what kinds of things will come out of us? Good things! But if we fill our hearts with evil things like sin, what will come out of our hearts? Evil things. Let's sort these paper hearts to help us know some good things we should fill our hearts with!

You will need a big black heart and a big red heart and also the heart printable from the Kids Kit. If you cannot print out the hearts, you can have your kids write or draw the examples below on little paper hearts or smaller pieces of paper.

Let your kids draw one of the small hearts (or pieces of paper) that has an example on it. Help them decide if it should be taped onto the good heart (red) or the evil heart (black). Continue until you've gone through all of the examples.

Heart examples:

- Good heart: Reading God's Word, memorizing Scripture, loving others, telling others about Jesus, praying, forgiving others, singing praise songs, encouraging others
- Bad heart: Lying, cheating on my homework, hitting others, biting my siblings, pushing my friends, stealing things, calling people names, being disrespectful

Remember: we can't be good on our own. Our goodness can only come from God. Just like our finish line says: Our goodness is an overflow of God's goodness to us! Let's pray and thank God for His goodness to us and ask Him to help us share our goodness with others!

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