

BECAUSE OF HIS GOODNESS

Matthew 6:9-10

THE BIG IDEA: When we think of the reasons that Jesus died on the cross, we often talk of our need. The starting point should not be us, but Him. It is because of His goodness that He paid such a price for you. Let's focus on, and ground ourselves in, His goodness.

OPENING: When you reflect on the goodness of God, where do you see it around you? What do you think about the difference between the statements "God is good" and "God is goodness itself"?

DIGGING DEEPER: Pastor Gary has said that every temptation of the evil one is, in one way or another, an attack on the character of God. How is this truth seen in Job 2:7-10? Can you share about a time when your confidence in His goodness was shaken? How does Jesus' crucifixion display His goodness?

In Genesis 1:1-31, how many times is "good" found? What is God's opinion of His creation (including you)? Discuss how beauty in creation reflects the goodness of God. Can you find three Scriptures that attest to this?

Read Hebrew 12:1-3. Who in your life has been a witness to the goodness of God in the face of great pain? Tell a bit of that story. How can you be a member of the "great cloud of witnesses" to someone else?

In Matthew 6:9-10, Jesus taught us to ask the Father to reign in us and for His will to be done in and through us. Why would we want this? What does Romans 12:1-2 tell us about letting God have His way in our lives? About His will?

PUTTING IT TO WORK: This is a Spiritual exercise. Sit quietly in a softly lit room. Invite the Spirit of God to come to you. Pray, asking Him to show you where and when you believed the lie of the evil one that God was not being good to you. Confess that as sin. Then ask Him to recount to you the many ways in which He has showered you with His goodness. Close with a time of thanksgiving and praise.

Because God, in all His goodness, lives in us, His Spirit is molding us to reflect Him. Read Luke 6:27-28. Think about those who have set themselves against you or someone you love. Let the goodness of God in you take control and fulfil these commands of Jesus.

PRAYER REQUESTS