

THE REAL GOD
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR SESSION #2
“GOODNESS” (21 minute video)

Session notes:

“Your view of God is at the core of all RELATIONSHIPS, every DECISION, and you experiencing the very BEST from Him.”

How does God reveal His Goodness?

Exodus 33:18-19 - *18 Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” 19 And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.*

Exodus 34:5-7 - *5 The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”*

“The goodness of God is that which disposes Him to be kind, cordial, benevolent, and full of good will toward men...
...By His nature He is inclined to bestow blessedness and He takes holy pleasure in the happiness of His people.”
- A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*

Psalm 84:11 - *For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.*

1. Through Natural Blessings.

Psalm 145:7-9 - *7 They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. 8 The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 9 The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.*

If you want to see God’s goodness, simply LOOK AROUND!

2. Through Specific Deliverances.

Psalm 107

- Rescues us from our enemies (verse 2)
- Rescues us when we “spiritually drift”
- Rescues us from the “shadow of death” (verse 10)
- Heals our diseases (verse 20)
- Saves us from life’s storms (verse 20)

3. Through His Son, Jesus

Jesus is the proof of God’s goodness.

Romans 5:8 - *8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Jesus is the guarantee of future goodness.

Romans 8:32 - *32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*

Responding to God's goodness

1. Repent and believe in the free gift of Jesus Christ.
2. Surrender, saying, "I trust in your goodness."
3. Claim the promise of Psalm 84:11.

QUESTION #1 Describe a time when you experienced God's goodness or grace.

QUESTION #2 Describe a time when you found it difficult to trust in the goodness of God.

QUESTION #3 Read Matthew 5:45 - *so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust*

What does this passage teach about God's goodness?

QUESTION #4 Matthew 7:7-11 - 7 *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"*

What does this passage teach about God's goodness?

Question #5 Read Psalm 145: 1 *I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. 2 Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. 3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. 4 One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. 5 On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. 6 They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. 7 They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. 8 The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 9 The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. 10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you! 11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, 12 to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. [The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.] 14 The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. 15 The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. 16 You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. 17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. 18 The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. 19 He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them. 20 The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. 21 My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.*

If you are doing this study with others, work together and circle EVERY word or phrase that expresses God's goodness. After you are done, share the word or phrase that is most meaningful to you personally and explain why.

Question #6 What are some *practical* ideas of how you can seek God and His goodness when life doesn't seem good?

Question #7 How is it possible for YOU to reflect God's goodness to others? At what times, or under what kinds of situations, do you find it most difficult to be good to others?

Question #8 Remember, Chip explained that the connection between these two concepts is NOT that you will receive God's grace by *earning* it through obedience.

How would you explain the connection between God's grace and obedience then? Can you give an example from your life that matches your explanation?