

THE GOODNESS OF GOD
"He Is Not Safe, but He Is Good"

BIG IDEA: God is perfectly good in himself, the source and standard of every good thing, and always acts consistently with his holy, wise, and loving character. Sin begins by distrusting that goodness; the gospel reveals it decisively in the gift of Jesus Christ.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Psalms 119:68

"You are good and do good; teach me your statutes."

James 1:17

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above..."

Genesis 2:16–17

"You may surely eat of every tree of the garden..."

Genesis 3:1, 4–5

"Did God actually say...?"

"You will not surely die...you will be like God..."

Psalms 34:8

"Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!"

Genesis 50:20

"You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good..."

Romans 8:28–29

God works all things for the good of those who love him—the good of being "conformed to the image of his Son."

Romans 8:32

"He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all..."

Titus 3:4–5

"When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us..."

Romans 2:4

"God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance."

Psalms 107:1

"Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good..."

This version gives people the key language while preserving room for quotes and discussion questions.

THE BIBLICAL ARC

Creation: God gives abundantly and calls his world good.

Fall: Humanity distrusts the Giver and seizes the good life on its own terms.

Redemption: The Father does not spare his Son; Christ trusts where Adam distrusted.

Christian life: Faith trusts God's character when obedience is costly and providence is unclear.

CENTRAL CONTRAST

"The serpent magnifies what God has withheld.

Gratitude magnifies what God has given."

"Every temptation asks us to believe that life will be better if we stop trusting God's goodness."

KEY TRUTHS

- God does not merely do good things; God is good.
- God's justice, holiness, sovereignty, and commands are expressions of his goodness—not rivals to it.
- God's goodness means he always does what is right, not what is immediately pleasant.
- We do not judge God's goodness by the ease of the road; we judge the road by the demonstrated goodness of God.
- The definitive proof of God's goodness is not comfortable circumstances, but that he did not withhold his Son.
- Interpret providence through the cross, not the cross through present circumstances.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Where am I tempted to believe that God is withholding something good from me?
2. Which command am I tempted to treat as an obstacle to flourishing?
3. What good gift am I asking to provide what only God can give?
4. Where am I defining "good" mainly as comfort or control?
5. How does Romans 8:32 answer my suspicion that God cannot be trusted?