



If you are oppressed, God is good to you. He will fight for you & he will protect you. He will bring judgment against the evildoers and he will not spare those who refuse to spare you. That's his goodness at work. If you are the oppressor—hear this: Christ came into this world to say “judgment is coming, but I want you with me when that time comes. I want you. There isn't a person I've made that I want lost. Not one. That's God's goodness at work.

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

**WHAT DO YOU SEE?** A. W. Tozer said “what comes into our mind when we think about God is the most important about us.” Do you find that to be true? He said an honest answer “might predict with certainty the spiritual future of that” person. What do you see when you think of God?

**The Bible affirms that God is Good (Ps 118:1; 1 Chron 16:34; 2 Chron 5:13; Mark 10:18), but also that things that reflect the glory of God reflect his goodness (Gen 1:31; Rom 7:12, 16; Matt 5:45; 12:35). Discuss this.**

Group Introduction Activity: Sing “God is so good” or “For He is good to me.”

**GOODNESS IS WHERE JUSTICE AND MERCY MEET.** Read Micah 6:8 & Matthew 23:23 & Psalm 85:1-12 in the Living Bible. Discuss how both justice and mercy are part of the goodness of God. *Follow up:* Discuss how God's actions are always at the same time just and merciful!

**JUSTICE SHOWS THE GOODNESS OF GOD.** Read 1 Thessalonians 1:5-2:1. Use different colored pens to circle “they” or “them” vs. “you” or “we” or “us” language. What does this study suggest to you? How is Justice a sign of God's goodness? Discuss how you would feel if God were to extend justice in ways you don't understand.

**MERCY SHOWS THE GOODNESS OF GOD.** Read Exodus 33:18-19. Why does the phrase “we get what we deserve” not apply to how God treats you? How is mercy a sign of the goodness of God? Who does God want to show mercy to? Discuss how you would feel if God were to extend mercy to those you most despise.