

Knowing God More

Lesson 5 - God is Good

Exodus 34:5-6 Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him (Moses) there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth..."

This week we will look at the fifth characteristic the Lord proclaimed to Moses:

➤ Goodness

Begin this study with prayer, asking the Lord to reveal Himself in His word that you might know Him more.

The Meaning

We all probably think of the word “good” or “goodness” as simple to explain, but have you tried? We want to understand the full meaning, so let’s look at some references.

Strong’s Concordance defines the Hebrew word *hesed*, translated as goodness in Exodus 34:6, as kindness.

Oxford dictionary defines *good* as that which is morally right; righteousness, and *goodness* as the quality of being morally good or virtuous.

The Oxford dictionary also includes words that are similar to *good* and *goodness*: virtue, righteousness, morality, ethicalness, uprightness, upstanding, integrity, principle, honesty, truthfulness, honor, incorruptibility, propriety, worthiness, irreproachableness, blamelessness, purity, lack of corruption, justness, fairness.

Wow!! So much meaning in a little word!

1. Rather than writing a definition, circle two words from the list above and then write below how they describe the goodness of God.

2. List a few words here that describe the opposite of good.

What does scripture have to say?

1. How do the following scriptures describe God's goodness?

a. Exodus 34:6

b. Nehemiah 9:25

c. Psalm 52:1

d. Psalm 65:11

2. As you look at the verses below, make note of who God's goodness is bestowed upon.

a. Psalm 31:19

b. Isaiah 63:7

3. Read the following scriptures and share how they add more to our understanding of God's goodness.

a. Psalm 33:5

b. Psalm 68:10

c. Psalm 107:9

d. Jeremiah 31:14

Manifestation of His Name

We can find many examples of the goodness of God in both the Old Testament and the New Testament, but we have chosen just two for this lesson.

2 Kings 4:1-7

Consider the goodness of God as you read this section of scripture and answer the following questions.

1. To whom did God show His goodness?
2. Explain the specifics of how was this goodness manifested?
3. Think about a time when God showed His goodness in a situation in your own life and write it below, including a prayer of thanks.

Titus 3:4-7

In Titus 3 verse 4 it is important to know that the word “kindness” is the same word translated “goodness” in other New Testament scriptures.

1. Read Titus 3:4-7 and then write how God manifested His goodness to you.
2. Make note below of what you did to earn this goodness from the Lord.

The Effect of Understanding God’s Character

1. In Psalm 27:13, what affect did the goodness of God have on the psalmist?

2. Before we continue to consider how the understanding of God's goodness can and should affect our walk, we must consider our own goodness.

a. What does Psalm 53:3 say about this?

b. What did Jesus say about this in Mark 10:18?

(Note that Jesus did not say He was not good, but His question challenged this man as to whether he believed Jesus to be God.)

3. Now from Romans 2:4 write the effect of knowing the goodness of God.

4. Read Galatians 5:22 and Ephesians 5:9 to answer the following questions.

a. It is possible for us to exhibit goodness in our lives. How?

b. What does John 15:4 add to this thought?

c. What will goodness look like in our everyday walk?

5. How can the understanding that God is good help when you face situations that are hard or painful and you do not understand why? Consider Genesis 50:20 and Romans 8:28.

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good;
Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Psalm 34:8