

# LESSON SIX



**GOODNESS**

**BIBLE READING(S):***Genesis 1:27-31**Psalm 139:14***ELEMENTARY LESSON**

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit is also goodness. The Bible talks a lot about goodness. Let's look at the very beginning of the Bible, in Genesis 1, to read about how God calls His creation "very good."

**— Read Genesis 1:27-31**

God made so many wonderful things. He made all the water, plants, and animals. Finally, He made His very favorite thing in all creation: humans. He then looks at all He created and considers it to be "very good." He treasures His creation, and asks humans to look after it and take care of it. Unfortunately, sin tainted this goodness. It makes it difficult for us to be good and see good around us. We need the Holy Spirit's help.

What does this mean for you and me? It means that when we bear the Fruit of the Spirit that is goodness, we look at what God made and consider it to be good. And because our world is broken by sin, sometimes we have to look a little harder to see this goodness. Sometimes there are messy things that actually have so much of God's goodness in them. For example, a tired mom may have ruffled hair and bags under her eyes, but she's tired because she was up all night taking care of her baby. She was caring for a person made in God's image--her baby! God calls something like this good, and asks us to see it as good, too.

In Psalm 139, it says that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made." God cherishes you, a person created in His own image. That means that we reflect and express the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, because we are made in God's image and His Spirit dwells within us. That's amazing!

Because God says His creation is good, we can see it's goodness all around us. While humans are God's favorite part of creation, He made so many other amazing parts of the



earth. He made the stars we see at night. He made the trees that turn pretty colors in the fall. He made each and every pet. When we express the Fruit of the Spirit that is goodness, we look at these things and say, "Wow, God! This is so good!"

The goodness with which God saw His creation meant He loved it. He loved it so, so much. It broke His heart when Adam and Eve decided to choose their way over God's way, meaning that sin would be in the heart of every human born on earth. But God loves His good creation, and wants His people beside Him.

The only way for God to be with His good creation was for someone to pay the price for sin. Now, God could've had His creation pay the price. They were the ones sinning, anyway! But God loved His creation so much that He decided to die instead. That's why Jesus had to die--because God wanted to be close with His good creation.

Because Jesus died instead of His sinful people, we get to have His goodness in the eyes of God, even when we're not good. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit helps us to see the goodness around us. When we're struggling to see what is good, we can ask Him, "Holy Spirit, show me the goodness around me!"

## **OBJECT LESSON**

**You'll need: a shoebox and a hand mirror that fits in the box.**

Hold up the box to show the kids, saying "I don't know what's inside this box, but the person who gave it told me that whoever looks inside will see God's greatest creation. They'll see what God calls good! Should I look inside?" Open the box and look confused. Say, "a mirror? Why is there a mirror in here?" In a moment of realization say, "Aww, there's a mirror in here because God's greatest creation is people!" Give the kids a chance to look in the box and see that they are God's greatest creation.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Dear God, thank You for Your beautiful creation, the greatest of which is people. Help us to see Your goodness all around us, even on days when it's difficult. Amen.



## **GOODNESS CHALLENGE**

What's a place that is full of God's good creation but we see it everyday so we may not see God's goodness in it? Our backyard! Take a video of yourself giving a tour of your backyard, pointing out all the good things that God made in it.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What are some of the things that God calls good in Genesis 1?
- How can we invite the Holy Spirit to help us perceive God's goodness around us? [*We can say, "Wow, God! This is so good!"*]

## **SONG RECOMMENDATIONS**

- "Goodness" by Vertical Worship
- "Good Good Father" by Chris Tomlin
- "Goodness of God" by Bethel Music



***GOODNESS***