

GOODNESS of GOD

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JULY 6, 2025

WORSHIP (15 MINS)

Venue: Home gatherings

Sing one or two songs or play a song from You Tube.

Venue: Public place (school, café, park, etc.) or Via Online,

Testimonies: "What is your "high" or "your "low" this past week?"

Ask someone to do the opening prayer.

WELCOME (10 MINS)

Welcome guests/first-time visitors.

Ice-breaker Question: "If God's goodness were a playlist, what songs would be on it?" (Ex. Reckless Love, Goodness of God, etc. but don't mention these),

WORD(30-45 MINS)

Main Text: Read Luke 15:11-24 NLT

Series Text: "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" Psalm 34:8 NKJV

Intro: The worship song "God Is Good," with its call-and-response chorus—"God is good... all the time"—became widely embraced in churches during the late 1990s and early 2000s. Despite its popularity, many believers still struggle to fully trust in God's goodness, especially during trials and hardships. When life gets difficult, when doubts arise, some even walk away from their faith entirely. However, a deep, genuine understanding of God's unwavering goodness can anchor us in unshakable faith—bringing lasting transformation to our lives and the world around us.

1. No one is beyond the reach of God's redemption

Tax collectors, viewed as traitors and moral failures, represented those despised by society. Yet Jesus showed that no one is beyond God's redemption. The parable of the prodigal son especially illustrates God's compassion for the rebellious, offering forgiveness and restoration rather than rejection.

Q: Has there ever been a time you felt too far for God to forgive you? What does the story of the prodigal son say personally to you?

Q: Who in your life needs to hear that God still loves them no matter what they've done and how can you show that God still loves them?

2. The son's rebellion (Read vv. 11-16)

This young man, demanded for his inheritance—a bold and disrespectful act. In that culture, it was like saying, "I want my money, even if you're still alive." The father, in shock generously granted his rebellious son's request. The son wasted everything in wild living and ended up starving, humiliated to feeding pigs—an unclean job for a Jew. He reached rock bottom!

Q: Have you ever made choices in the past that felt "right" but ended up leaving you empty or broken? What did you learn from that?

Q: Are there areas or situation in your life you are still trying to take control instead of trusting God's help and wisdom?

Q: Was there a moment you felt you hit "rock bottom" emotionally or spiritually? Did you isolate yourself—or did you turn back to God?

3. The goodness of the father displayed

The father saw the son "while he was still a long way off." This shows the father was longing for his son's return. The father ran to him which in ancient Jewish culture, no dignified father would run—especially not toward a rebellious child. But this father throws dignity aside, moved by love. He embraces and kisses him. No explanations! His first response - compassion and affection. He interrupts the son's confession, stopped him—because he's already forgiven. The focus is not the son's failure but the joy of his return and reconciliation with his father.

Q: Do you believe God is watching and waiting for you with love, even when we mess up? Why or why not?

Q: How can I show that same kind of grace and forgiveness to someone who's hurt me or disappointed me?

Q: What does it mean to be fully restored by God—and how does that change the way I see myself?

The father fully restored the son and graciously gave him...:

- The best robe (symbol of honor)
- A ring (symbol of authority and identity)
- Sandals (slaves went barefoot—sons wore sandals)
- A feast with the fatted calf (celebration, not punishment)

Reflection:

The father in the parable represents God, and the prodigal son represents all of us who have walked away, rebelled, rejected Him, and wasted the life He gave us.

The goodness of God is shown in that:

- He lets us go if we choose to walk away.
- He waits for our return with longing.
- When we turn back to Him, He runs toward us, moved with deep compassion for the brokenness sin has caused in our lives
- He restores us completely, not partially—not as servants, but as sons and daughters.
- He celebrates our return with joy, not condemnation.

Conclusion:

When we come to Him acknowledging our sin and failure He meets us with the full goodness of His heart. This is what a good God does for anyone who comes to Him—there's nothing evil in Him, only grace and love. The brokenness happens when we're far from Him. So if you're weighed down by sin, sickness, or the oppression of dark thoughts and emotions—the best place to be is near your good Father. Just as Jesus said in this verse, **Read Matthew 11:28-29**

WORK(15 MINS)

Application

1. Find a partner. Ask what you can pray for him/her then pray for each other.
2. Pray and prepare a Hit List (max. of 5-10 names of family, relatives, friends, schoolmates, workmates, neighbors, etc.) of possible people you desire to invite in the next life group gathering.

What is your take-away from this lesson? Closing Prayer