

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week #6 - Is God Good All the Time?



GETTING STARTED

Spend some time checking in with each other. Any highs and lows since the last time you met?

Have you ever had a moment where something seemed bad at the time, but later you saw how it worked out for good? Share briefly.

THIS WEEK'S THEME

Why do you think the question “Is God good all the time?” can feel difficult to answer when we’re suffering?

How did Angie’s stories from Ghana (and the prayer line) impact your understanding of what people trust God with?

The message said we often see the *rotten fruit of brokenness in the world*, and wonder where God is. Can you relate?

How does the Fruit of the Spirit—especially goodness—challenge the idea that God's goodness is proven only through comfort or easy circumstances?

What does it mean for fruit to *ripen into maturity* in your life?

The Greek word ἀνακεφαλαιώσασθαι (*anakephalaiosasthai*) means to bring unity to *all things*. What does it mean to you that God is in the business of restoring, reconciling, and retelling the story of the world?

Can you name a “retold” story in your life—something that God is or has already restored?

The message said God gives us Agency, Autonomy, and Ability. How might God be calling you to reflect God’s goodness in the world right now?

What’s one broken place in the world—or in your life—that you long to see God reconcile?

DIGGING DEEPER

Romans 8:28

Paul wrote this letter to accomplish a few things. He wanted this divided community to become unified once again. For a practical purpose, he hoped that the Roman church could become a staging ground for his mission to go even further west, reaching to Spain. These tense circumstances motivated Paul to write out his fullest explanation of the Gospel, the good news that announces Jesus' life, death, and resurrection... In chapter 8, however, Paul says that the solution has arrived through Jesus and the Spirit. The commands of the Torah had acted like a magnifying glass, focusing the problem of the human condition in one place, Israel. But now Israel's representative, Jesus the Messiah, has paid for and dealt with all that sin through his death and resurrection. He has released his Spirit into his new family to transform their hearts so that they can truly fulfill the ultimate call of all of the Torah's commands—to love God and neighbor. God's renewal of human beings is the first step in his larger mission to rescue and renew all creation, making it into a place where his love gets the final word.

Read more here: <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-romans/>

Ephesians 1:9-10

Ephesians proclaims the unity of Jew and Gentile in one household of God and spells out real-life implications of the gift of reconciliation with God and with one's fellow human beings... At a time when hope for Christ's imminent return is fading and believers need to be reminded of his ongoing presence with the faithful, Ephesians fills this need. The letter portrays Christ as one whose past actions of making peace and providing leaders to the church are relevant for the present time when he has not yet returned. Ephesians encourages readers with the news that, through Christ's work, the church is reconciled to God and outfitted for tasks as varied as living peacefully in a congregation, serving one another within a household, and withstanding hostile cosmic powers.

Read more here: <https://enterthebible.org/courses/ephesians/lessons/summary-of-ephesians>

PRAY

Ask how you can pray for each other this week. What prayer requests do you have?

Gracious God, Thank you for the gifts of the spirit. Teach us to live in a way the world needs. Amen.

TAKING IT HOME

Look for God's goodness in a surprising place. Each day this week, write down one moment—big or small—where you saw God at work, even in something hard.