

Outline

Week 1: Who should I be?

Week 2: God Most Holy

Week 3: God Most Loving

Week 4: God Most Good

Week 5: God Most Just

Week 6: God Most Merciful

Week 7: God Most Gracious

Week 8: God Most Faithful

Week 9: God Most Patient

Week 10: God Most Truthful

Week 11: God Most Wise

How this Study Works

Over the next couple of months, we will be studying God's will for our lives. We'll learn answers to the question "Who should I be?" by looking at who God is and how we can reflect His image in our own lives.

This study follows the outline of the book "In His Image" by Jen Wilkin. While we'll be looking at ideas she presents, the book is not necessary for us to find answers to these questions. Our primary study source will be God's Word, and these daily prompts will reflect that. For those of you who choose to read "In His Image," I recommend reading the related chapter on the weekend. For those of you not reading the book, I'll include the full quote any time I reference it, so you won't feel a need to purchase the book. However, if you'd like a book provided for you, just let me know. You may also want to pick up a journal to write your thoughts as you study. While we work through this study, please pray for the women of our congregation and community - that those who need answers to big questions and those who need to refocus on God will find their way to our class, so that God can show His image through us.

Each day will also include a song of worship to carry with you throughout the day. Several will probably be new to you, so I've added them all to a YouTube playlist here:

<http://bit.ly/in-his-image>

God, help us as we learn more about you. Help us set aside any incorrect assumptions and understand who you truly are. As we learn more about you, we want to become more and more like you. Give us opportunities to reflect your image into the world, and let the light we reflect lead people to salvation in you. We are already in awe of all the work you have done in the world, and we are excited to see what you do over the coming weeks. In the name of your son Jesus, Amen.

Week 4 Day 1

Focus:

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your study and focus your mind. "What do I need to learn today?"

Engage:

Genesis 1-2

Romans 1:16-23

Eph 2:1-10

Assess:

Goodness in Creation

"God is the source of all good and is Himself wholly good... And the Bible can't wait to tell us this. The Bible's first chapter goes on to methodically reiterate the goodness of God as evidenced in [all] He creates." (46)

In looking at today's passages, we see that God's goodness through creation yields both guilt and gratitude. Guilt for our sin; gratitude for His provision.

Gratitude

In Genesis 2, God brings each animal to Adam one by one to be named. I believe there are several reasons God asked Adam to do this, but I'd like to draw attention to one in particular. Put yourself in Adam's shoes. You are brand new to this world and surrounded by good things, but it's a little overwhelming. God brings you each good thing for you to focus on one at a time. You get to know each animal a little bit, so you are able to appreciate each one and you give them names, like Rabbit and Piglet. You now see each creature as the blessing it is - not just as a thing but as a friend. Aren't you more grateful now than when you first started?

Guilt

In Romans 1, we see that God has also revealed His wrath, power, and divinity through creation. As we look at the creation around us, we can easily see how inadequate we are in comparison to Him. Looking at the perfection of the universe can easily make us feel small and unworthy, and realize that we are guilty of defiling this creation through sin.

Thankfully, we see that God's power is paired with His goodness when we look at the resurrection of Christ, who makes us a new creation free from sin and guilt.

Spark Transformation:

What is your reaction to creation?

Do you ever look at creation and become aware of your inadequacy to come before God?

Make a list of the things that are called "good" in Genesis 1-2. Now use that list to play "I Spy" out the window. How many of those good things can you find right now? How often do you recognize that you are surrounded by things that God has called good?

Turn to God:

Praise God today for His goodness, using Psalm 118 as a starting point.

Today's Song - How Great Thou Art

Week 4 Day 2

Focus:

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your study and focus your mind. "What do I need to learn today?"

Engage:

Genesis 50:15-21

Romans 8:26-30

Ps 25:8-9

2 Timothy 3:10-17

Assess:

God Works for Good of His People

Can you imagine God without goodness? His goodness "is the reason His omnipotence (possession of all power), omniscience (possession of all knowledge), and sovereignty (possession of all control) are a comfort instead of a terror." (48)

How does God make all things work for good for His people?

How should we respond when things don't seem to be working for good?

Spark Transformation:

Each day this week, write 3 specific things you notice that are good. Then, write down how they point to God and His goodness.

Turn to God:

Praise God today for His goodness, using Psalm 136 as a starting point.

Today's Song - Give Thanks to the Lord (For He is Good)

Week 4 Day 3

Focus:

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your study and focus your mind. "What do I need to learn today?"

Engage:

James 1:17-18

John 1

Luke 2:8-14

Titus 3:3-8

Assess:

All Good from God

"The infinite goodness of God could fill an infinite number of universes and an infinite number of books. Yet, the sliver we see of it is still a bounty, an abundance." (47)

We know that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from... the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" (James 1:17-18). The same good God who created light at the beginning of the earth is the Father who sent the Light that shines in the darkness today (John 1).

The goodness of God appeared in Jesus to save us, to give us hope, and to drive us to do good works (Titus 3). We as Christians have dedicated our lives to the news of God's goodness, so we should strive to express His goodness as often as we can.

Spark Transformation:

Describe the goodness of God as if you were talking to someone who doesn't know Him.

- What makes God good?
- What is it like to serve a good God?
- How have you seen God's goodness in your life?

Turn to God:

Ask God to provide opportunities for you to share His goodness with others this week.

Today's Song - To Him Who Sits on the Throne

Week 4 Day 4

Focus:

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your study and focus your mind. "What do I need to learn today?"

Engage:

Matt 5:14-16

Matt 7:7-11

Assess:

Our Good Points to God

What are the good works mentioned in Matthew 5? As "recipients of the good and perfect gifts of God, goodness toward others means generosity." (51) Generosity with our time, our love, our money, our words, our joy, and all our other resources. We know that God will provide for us because He is our good Father. And He doesn't just provide our daily bread - He gives us extra to share, so others see His goodness through us.

So often, we are worried that being generous means that we won't have enough for ourselves. Worry in its most basic form is simply a fear of loss. When we are afraid to lose money, time, and loved ones, we worry about it. When we practice generosity with the things God provides, we see more and more how He will always provide. The more generosity flourishes in our lives, the more trust we will place in our good heavenly Father. "We can be generous with our possessions, our talents, and our time on behalf of others because we see these good gifts as a means to bring glory to their Giver." (51)

Spark Transformation:

Have you been living generously and fully trusting God to provide?

Think of some ways you can reflect God's goodness through generosity.

Choose one to do this week.

Turn to God:

"God's goodness is reason for our humble worship through thankfulness." (47)

Spend 5 minutes thanking God for the good things in your life and allowing you to share that good with others.

Today's Song - Good, Good Father

Week 4 Day 5

Focus:

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your study and focus your mind. "What do I need to learn today?"

Engage:

Acts 10:38-39

Gal 6:9-10

Assess:

Persevering in Good

Goodness is divisive. It divides those who love the darkness from those who love the light. If we are doing good the way Jesus did, we need to be prepared to be treated the way He was treated.

Paul tells the Galatians (and us) to "not grow weary of doing good." But sometimes we are tired - tired of daily struggles, tired of pandemic-related struggles, tired of thinking of ways to do good, tired of talking to people who won't listen, or just plain tired.

Paul was no stranger to weariness (2 Corinthians 11-12). When we grow weary of doing good, let's look at some ways that God (through Paul) tells us that we can persevere.

1. Rely on God - 2 Cor 1:8-11
2. Pray with thanksgiving - Philippians 4:4-7
3. Refocus your mind - Philippians 4:8-9
4. Hope in Christ - 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11
5. Dig into scripture - Colossians 3:16-17

Spark Transformation:

Think about a time when you were rejected for doing good. What did you learn from this experience?

Think about a time when you grew weary of doing good. What did you learn from this experience?

Turn to God:

Read Psalm 139. Express your need for God and confess to Him the things that are making you weary right now.

Today's Song - Psalm 139