



TNCC
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: GOODNESS

REVIEW

We are mid-way through our series on the Fruit of the Spirit.

Who can tell me what they are?

[Some kids may not know the verse, so may be good to sing the song together or play any other activity to help them learn it.]

Fruit of the Spirit (by Steve Green) — revision

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLJt_85MNLY

Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

Today we will look at goodness!

What is goodness? How is it different from kindness?

Goodness is doing the right thing.

Goodness is the absence of evil – nothing bad.

How do we be good?

Is it something we try to be?

Is it difficult being good?

Let me tell you a story of a guy who was really bad and how Jesus transformed him into someone really good.



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STORY

Jesus told a story ... about a guy with no friends

Briefly tell the story of Zacchaeus meeting Jesus (Luke 19:1-10).

There was this guy who was not very popular. Nobody liked him very much. Because he worked for the enemy government. He helped the enemy to collect money from his neighbours. And he would collect extra for himself. Yes, he was a cheat too! And he became very, very rich.

But one day, he met Jesus.

Nobody would be his friend. But Jesus saw him and called him by name (!) and invited himself over for tea! At his house!

The guy with no friends had a very important friend coming to his house for tea!

Who is this guy? Zacchaeus.

Of course everyone else was not happy. How can Jesus go to the house of that cheat and traitor!

But this guy had met Jesus. And Jesus was good. And Jesus' goodness transformed this cheat and traitor to become good too.

So he stood up and told Jesus. "Lord! I will give half of all I own to the poor. And if I cheated anybody, I will pay back 4 times the amount!"

Wow. Jesus' goodness transformed Zacchaeus to be good, and Zacchaeus was happy to give his money willingly and generously to the poor and those whom he had cheated.

That's God's goodness at work!



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LESSON

God is good

God IS good. He doesn't just do good things. But His very nature is good. So He cannot be bad.

Jesus is God.

When a rich young man called Jesus "Good teacher", Jesus answered Him, "*Why do you call me good? No one is good — except God alone.*" (Mark 10:18). That was Jesus' way of telling the young man that He IS God. And God is good!

All of us were born with a sin nature. Sin is not doing what God tells us to do. Sin is bad.

On our own, we could never become good.

On the cross, Jesus took all our sin, all our bad. And in exchange, He gave us all His goodness so we can be truly good.

Jesus took all our bad so we can have all His goodness!

We don't do good to be good. We do good because Jesus made us good!

Zacchaeus was a cheat and traitor when Jesus went to his house. Jesus didn't wait for Zacchaeus to be a good boy first before He became His friend.

But because Jesus' goodness transformed Zacchaeus, he was able to do the right thing, the good thing.

If we have received Jesus into our lives, Jesus' goodness is in us. He has taken away our sin, our badness. We are now Jesus boys and girls — so we are GOOD boys and girls! And we can do the right things, the good things.

Jesus' goodness follows us always

Jesus is also our GOOD shepherd — the one who takes care of us, His sheep. And when we follow Jesus, Jesus' goodness and love follows us too ... all the days of our life (Psalm 23:6).

"Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." (Psalm 23:6)



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ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

Songs:

Zacchaeus was a wee little man

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSBHGnZI35Y&feature=related>

God is so good/Jesus you are so good

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AoL-PAfx2vg>

Memory Verse challenge: Game, activity or craft with the memory verse.

"Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." (Psalm 23:6)

E.g.

Paper trail

Print the memory verse on 26 separate pieces of paper (about half of A4 size each). Prepare 2 sets.

Gather the kids at one far end of the room. Divide them into 2 groups.

Hand each group a set of the paper.

They have to sort the memory verse out in order while using the paper to form a pathway on the floor to the other end of the room. Once the pathway is formed, the whole group must step on the paper to cross to the other side. First group to do so wins.

Shrinking paper

Prepare some sheets of newspapers. Divide the kids into pairs.

The aim of the game is for both of them to step on the paper without touching the floor. Play some music. Each time the music starts, they dance around the paper. Once the music stops, they have to fold the paper in half, stand on it and recite the memory verse.

Those whose feet touch the floor or who cannot recite the memory verse is out.

Close in prayer.