

BIBLE VERSES: Psalm 34:8, 116:12, Romans 7:19, Philippians 2, 2 Peter 1:5-6.

In this plan we'll look at how God inspires us to be good because we are made in His image.

LEADER'S NOTES

I think goodness is a tricky subject. It's so easy to get saved and then fall into the trap of trying to earn your salvation by being good! The bottom line is that we'll never be good enough. How good is good enough? We are saved and restored to relationship with God through Jesus' death and resurrection - not by anything we do or don't do. That said, it's not ok to behave any way we like after we're saved, acting like the cross is a kind of cosmic insurance policy.

Our goodness should come not out of guilt, duty and obligation but out of deep and transforming love for God. Since I am made in God's image and since he is fully good, I am called to be good also. Not because it earns me his love but because I am so thankful for the unconditionality of that love.

Lots of us, if we're honest, think that doing the bad stuff looks a lot more fun. Good people are so dull, right? Actually, wrong! Jesus comes to give us life in all its fullness: life with him is so much richer than life without. What we think of as sacrifice is actually us making more and more room in our lives for God. He stretches us so that he can fill up more and more of us! And the more we are filled up and imbued by the Holy Spirit, the more able we are to be truly good!

GOOD CHARADES

GAME | 📌 WARMING UP

Divide the children into small groups and ask them to come up with a handful of things that demonstrate being good (helping with the washing up, tidying your room, helping an old lady, etc.). Get them to come up with a short mime for each. Act the mimes out in front of the other group and see if they can guess what the action is.

The Point: Just for fun and a way in.

EQUIPMENT

Paper and pencil.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

TASTES GOOD!

FOOD AND COOKING | 🍷 WARMING UP

Lay lots of different tasty foods on a table and ask the children to try them and say whether they taste good or bad and why.

Say that the Bible tells us to taste and see that God is good (Psalm 34:8). What might that mean? Say that it means get to know God and see what he does and says and you'll see how good He is. Say that we are made to be like God so being good is something we are designed to be too!

The Point: A way into the session.

EQUIPMENT

Lots of different tasty foods to try.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

THE ELEPHANT AND THE BAD BABY

STORY | 🍷 WARMING UP

Read the story getting the children to join in with the repetitive elements. At the end, ask the children what things the baby and elephant did that were bad. What could they have done which would have been good?

The Point: A way into the session, thinking about what's good and bad behaviour.

EQUIPMENT

'The Elephant and the Bad Baby' by Elfrida Vipont & Raymond Briggs (Puffin Picture Books).

DURATION: 10 MINS.

HOW TO BE GOOD

DISCUSSION | 🗨️ TEACHING TIME

Ask the group to come up with a list of behaviour that is good - doing what you are told, helping with the chores, doing your homework on time, sharing your toys with siblings, etc. Ask them why we should bother

being good. Wouldn't we be happier if we just did everything we wanted - even if it wasn't very good?

Ask the children to use some describing words about Jesus. What stories do they know to back up their descriptions? Probably they will come up with lots of good things that He did/does. With a slightly older group, you might want to look at Philippians 2:6-8 for some examples of Jesus' goodness. Why does Jesus' goodness matter to us?

Say that when God made us, he made us to be like Him. And since Jesus is God, we're made to be like Jesus too. So if Jesus is good (and He is!), we're designed to be good as well!

Read Philippians 2:15 to the group: Try to shine as lights among the people of this world. Say that when we act like Jesus (with His help) we shine like lights or stars and people see Jesus in us.

The Point: To think about how our goodness reflects Jesus.

EQUIPMENT

Flip chart (or similar) and marker pen, Bible.

DURATION: 15 MINS.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

STORY | TEACHING TIME

Ask the children if they can think of stories or things that have happened to them where someone was really good in a situation. Say that it is important to God that we are good because he wants us to live in a way that helps other people and shows his love to the world. Tell them that you're going to read a story from the Bible where someone was unexpectedly good.

Read The Good Samaritan.

At the end of the story, ask who in the story *should* have been good. It was the first two characters that walked past - they were both people who knew God and taught other people how to follow him but they didn't do what they should have! Why was it a surprise that the Samaritan was good? The Samaritans were sort of enemies of God's people - they didn't get on well with them so the man had no reason to stop and help but he did. He did the good and right thing - even though it wasn't expected of him.

Ask the children whether they find themselves in situations where they can choose to be good and help or just walk past. There are a hundred small school situations this could apply to. Sometimes no one expects us to do the right and good thing but it makes a big difference when we do! What good things can the children choose to do this week to make a difference to others?

The Point: To show how doing the unexpectedly good thing makes a real difference.

EQUIPMENT

A children's story Bible that contains The Good Samaritan.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

THE GOOD I WANT TO DO

DISCUSSION | 🗒️ TEACHING TIME

Before the session, write each word of the following verse on a separate piece of paper and number them in order on the back. Hide the pieces of paper around your meeting space: "For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do - this I keep on doing." Romans 7:19.

Read the following scenarios and ask the children what are the right and good things to do and what are the things they want to do:

- Mum says switch off the wii when you are really close to the end of a new level in Star Wars.
- Dad says only eat half the packet of sweets.
- The teacher says finish colouring in the whole sheet (it's really boring!).
- Your friend asks for one of your biscuits.
- Mum says help your brother find his pyjamas but he's really annoying.
- Feel free to make up more scenarios!

Say that we often know what the good thing to do is but often we don't do it. Why is that? Say that one of the most famous men in the Bible - Paul - struggled with exactly the same thing. Get the children to collect the pieces of the verse from around the room and put them together according to the numbers on the back. Read it aloud.

The verse says that Paul knew the good things to do - and he wanted to do them, but somehow he ended up doing the wrong things. Say that we will always end up getting things wrong because we are human and not perfect. We can only make ourselves be good so far and then we mess up. The only way to really be good is to ask for God's help. God is really good - perfect, in fact - and we are made to be like Him so if we ask him to help us in tricky situations, He will give us the strength to do what is good and right!

What things can the children ask him to help them with this week?

The Point: To show how we need God's help to really be good.

EQUIPMENT

Paper, pen.

DURATION: 15 MINS.

GOTTA BE GOOD

WORSHIP AND REFLECTION |  WATCHER |  RESPONSE

Use the song 'God Is Watching' from Great Big God 4 ([lyrics here](#), [YouTube video here](#)) to reinforce today's message.

Remind the children that it's God who enables them to be good— and who wants them to be the best that they can be. Ask the children to make up some movements to the song.

The Point: To respond to the message.

EQUIPMENT

The song 'God is Watching' from by Vineyard Kids and the means to play it.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

GOD'S GOODNESS

PRAYER |  RESPONSE

On a flip chart or board write the following verse: "What must I give you, Lord, for being so good to me?" Psalm 116:12.

Say to the children that we can give God our thanks for all the good things he does for us. Ask them to come up with ideas of good things God has done for them or given them and write them around the verse. Older children can come and write them on themselves.

Have a time of short, 'popcorn' prayers where the children can say 'Thank you God for...'. Finish with a big Amen.

The Point: To thank God for his goodness to us.

EQUIPMENT

Flip chart or similar and markers.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

ADD IN GOODNESS

MEMORY VERSE |  WATCHER |  RESPONSE

“Do your best to improve your faith. You can do this by adding goodness, understanding, self-control, patience and love for God.” 2 Peter 1:5-6

Have your ingredients in separate bowls labelled with goodness, understanding, self-control and patience. Label the wooden spoon ‘love’. Label your mixing bowl ‘faith’. As the children say the verse, add the ingredients to the mixing bowl. Stir it up and bake!

Simple sponge cake:

Ingredients

- 125g/4oz butter or **margarine**, softened
- 125g/4oz **caster sugar**
- 2 medium **eggs**
- 125g/4oz self raising **flour**

Method

- Heat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4.
- Grease two 18cm/7in cake tins.
- Cream the butter and the sugar together until pale. Use an electric hand mixer if you have one.
- Beat in the eggs.
- Sift over the flour and fold in using a large wooden spoon.
- The mixture should be of a dropping consistency; if it is not, add a little milk.
- Divide the mixture between the cake tins and gently spread out with a spatula. Bake for 20-25 minutes until an inserted skewer comes out clean. Allow to stand for 5 minutes before turning on to a wire rack to cool.
- Sandwich the cakes together with jam, lemon curd or whipped cream and berries or just enjoy on its own.

You will probably only have time to mix the cake, not to bake it, before the session ends. Bake it at home and bring cakes in for the children next session.

The Point: To learn Scripture.

EQUIPMENT

The ingredients for a simple cake, mixing bowl, tin, oven, wooden spoon.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

WWJD?

CRAFT IDEAS | 📦 TAKE AWAY

This activity will work well with the following Teaching Time activities: all.

Say that since God is good and we are made to be like him, we can always ask ourselves a question when we're not sure what the good thing to do is. The question is 'What Would Jesus Do?'

Let the children make bracelets with the letters WWJD to remind them of this question.

The Point: A teaching reminder.

EQUIPMENT

Cord or elastic, alphabet beads (WWJD for each child), other beads, scissors.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

SHINE LIKE STARS

CRAFT IDEAS |  **WATCHER** |  **TAKE AWAY**

This activity will work well with the following Teaching Time activities: How To Be Good.

Remind the children that God calls us to shine like lights or stars and the way we do that is by asking him to help us be good. Give everyone a tea light holder and get them to decorate it with the word 'Goodness'.

The Point: A teaching reminder.

EQUIPMENT

Cheap tea light holders (try Ikea or Poundland), tea light candles, either glass paints/pens (try Yellow Moon) or alphabet stickers.

DURATION: 15 MINS.

GOODNESS VOUCHERS

ACTIVITY |  **WATCHER** |  **TAKE AWAY**

 [Download activity worksheet](#)

This activity will work well with the following Teaching Time activities: all.

Ask the children what good things they can do for others this coming week. Give them each some blank vouchers and ask them to fill them in for the people they want to do good things for. If they give the voucher, they must do what they promise!

NB You might need to explain the concept of vouchers!

The Point: To help the children actively choose to do some good things for others.

EQUIPMENT

The attached sheet, colouring pens or pencils.

DURATION: 10 MINS.
