

Hope City

Discussion Guide

June 28, 2026

The Goodness of God

Goodness of God: Week 1

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Main Idea

God's goodness is not just something we talk about—it is something He faithfully reveals through His presence, mercy, and Spirit-led work in our lives. As we begin this series, we are reminded that God's goodness follows us every day, and one of the greatest expressions of that goodness is the gift and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Anchor Verse: *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever" (Psalms 23:6, NKJV).*

Read: Acts 1:1-9; John 15:26 & 16:5-8

Barriers to Embracing the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit Is Hard to Understand

There is mystery in the Trinity and in how the Holy Spirit works, but mystery should lead us to humility, not distance. We do not have to fully explain God in order to fully trust Him.

People Are Weird

Sometimes people misrepresent the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit is not weird—people are. We should not reject the gift and power of the Holy Spirit because of unhealthy or awkward examples we have seen.

Even when we do not fully understand Him, and even when people have misrepresented Him, we cannot become who God has called us to be without the Holy Spirit.

THREE WAYS THE HOLY SPIRIT OPERATES IN A BELIEVER'S LIFE

1. SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Before we ever came to faith, the Holy Spirit was already pursuing us, awakening our hearts to the goodness of God and the salvation offered through Jesus. When we sense that there has to be more to life, that is often the Holy Spirit drawing us toward relationship with the God who loves us.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:3; John 6:44

Discussion: When have you experienced a season where you knew something was missing, even if you could not fully explain what it was? How does it change the way you see your faith journey to realize the Holy Spirit was pursuing you before you were pursuing God?

2. CONVICTION

The Holy Spirit convicts us by revealing our sin, reminding us of God's righteous standard, and awakening us to the reality of coming judgment. This conviction is not meant to shame us, but to lead us to repentance, deeper trust in Jesus, and the righteousness only He can give.

Scripture: John 16:5-11

Discussion: Where do you see unbelief or lack of trust in Jesus showing up in the temptations you face? How can we tell the difference between healthy conviction from the Holy Spirit and unhealthy shame or condemnation?

3. GIVING GIFTS

The Holy Spirit is the source of every spiritual gift, and He alone decides which gifts are given to each believer. These gifts are not given for personal attention, comparison, or chaos, but to strengthen, serve, and build up the body of Christ.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Discussion: How does it change your view of spiritual gifts to remember that the Holy Spirit is the source, not personal talent, preference, or status? What is one way you can use what God has given you to build up others instead of drawing attention to yourself?

"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other."

- 1 Corinthians 12:7 NLT

SUMMARY

The goodness of God is seen in the gift and work of the Holy Spirit. He awakens us to our need for Jesus, convicts us of sin and righteousness, and gives spiritual gifts so we can build up the body of Christ. We may not always fully understand how the Holy Spirit works, but we cannot become who God has called us to be or do what God has called us to do without Him.

CALL TO ACTION

Pay Attention to the Spirit's Prompting: This week, notice where God may be awakening your heart, convicting you, or inviting you to take a step closer to Jesus.

Respond to Conviction with Repentance, not Shame: When the Holy Spirit reveals an area of sin, unbelief, or misplaced trust, bring it honestly to God and take one practical step of obedience.

Use Your Gifts to Build Someone Up: Look for one specific way to encourage, serve, pray for, or strengthen another person in the body of Christ this week.

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Gift Exchange

Have everyone share one simple gift, talent, or strength they have seen in the person sitting to their left. It can be something spiritual, relational, practical, or encouraging.

Then ask: **How does it feel to have someone else notice something good God has placed in you?**

This connects well to the message because it helps the group see that gifts are not for comparison or attention, but for building each other up. It is simple, encouraging, and gets people talking before the discussion starts.