

# Local Group Leader Guide

## Prayer

Take time each week to pause before jumping into conversation and focus our attention on Jesus. Ask that the Holy Spirit would lead the conversation and speak to us. We long to be a place to encounter His presence, so ask that He would reveal Himself to us and make us aware of Him.

## Passage

Exodus 33:18-19

- 18 Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." 19 And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

## Summary

This week we looked at the spiritual fruits of kindness and goodness. These two fruits of the Spirit go hand-in-hand with one another. Biblical kindness is associated with an action; a demonstration or show of a kind act towards someone. Biblical goodness, is more about the state of someone. Goodness, like righteousness, is something that the LORD offers to us from Himself. He fills us with His goodness. When we look at the passage in Exodus 33, we see Moses ask for God to allow His glory to pass in front of him, and the LORD replies saying He will allow His goodness to pass before Moses. God is demonstrating that His glory is His goodness. The fact that He is all powerful and does not abuse it or only all loving and not powerful, but that He holds both simultaneously, is why He is a good God. And He offers us His goodness. We can choose to receive it and become full of His goodness, or try to fight to be good by human standards.

## Context

In the Old Testament account, the majority of the time that the Word goodness is used, it is in reference to God. Then, in the New Testament it is used 4 times, and 3 of the 4 are in reference to us. With the coming of the Holy Spirit and our restoration made possible through Jesus' death and resurrection, it appears God offers us His goodness to be placed in us. That as we are being restored, we are being offered His goodness to continually become more and more like Him as we are image bearers of God.

## Discussion

*Use these questions as a guide for conversation. This time is not about asking these specific questions or even "getting through" them all. Simply facilitate a Jesus-centered conversation and if these questions help do that, then great!*

1. What do you understand the difference between "kindness" and "niceness" to be? Why is kindness a fruit of the Spirit and not niceness?
2. What does it look like to allow kindness to be a way of life for us?
3. Why is it important that God responded to Moses that He would allow His "goodness to pass in front of you"?
4. If goodness is not something we can "achieve", then why is important to receive it from God?
5. What would it look like on a daily basis to be full of the goodness of God?
6. If there fruits of the Spirit are something God just does in us, is there anything for us to do in order to live out our lives as believers? Or are we just waiting?

## Prayer

This week, please take time to pray specifically for the spaces and people that God has put on your heart. This could be out loud, or even just a time of personal prayer (if people are not willing to share out loud). But collectively come together to bring our individual spaces before the LORD to advocate on their behalf for God to reveal Himself to our people.