

The Good and Beautiful God
Chapter 2
God is Good

As you prepare for our next gathering, take some time to read the chapter on the goodness of God and be ready to share what speaks to you and what you are noticing about God.

The goodness of God does not mean that we will never experience suffering or hardship. Rather, it means that God can enter even the painful places of our lives and transform them – giving them meaning and making pathways into deeper faith, hope, and love.

In John 9, the story of the man born blind, Jesus does not explain away his suffering. He meets him in it, brings light where there was darkness and gives his life a new direction. That is part of the beautiful truth about God's goodness: God is always at work, even in circumstances we cannot understand, transforming what is painful into an invitation to trust Him and love Him more deeply. Read the passage slowly and prayerfully several times during the week. Consider choosing several translations of this Jesus story that points us to look at suffering through a different lens.

Particular attention on verse 25 "One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!". Reflection, "where would I be without God's mercy, without His love and His kindness?" Personal application: "What would change in me this week if I lived from the attitude and conviction: "God is good, and Jesus is showing me what that goodness looks like."

If you'd like to practice silence and awareness of God's creation this week, consider putting a little time on your calendar. And if life gets in the way, simply ask God to show you another opportunity. Remember, the goal isn't keeping score—it's to slow down, notice God's presence, and deepen your relationship with Him.

I'm looking forward to being together and sharing what God is showing each of us. Until then, may you notice His goodness in the ordinary moments of your days and rest in His love.