



Prep

Plan on spending 10 minutes without your kids to familiarize yourself with this session.

Begin with prayer, asking God for His wisdom and guidance.
Read through the session to:

- Be sure to understand the Big Idea and the Key Verse
- Preview the video
- Select the best questions in the **TALK** section and activities in the **DO** section for your family

Understanding the Character of God

Background information from the Bible about God's character.

All of God's actions are good. God cannot be tempted to do evil. When we experience pain and loss, it can be difficult to see that God is good. When we trust in His goodness, He becomes our anchor in the storm.

"You are good, and what you do is good;" (Psalm 119:68 NIV)

As the Creator, God wants everyone to experience His goodness, offering blessing and refuge to all who will come to Him.

*"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."
(Psalm 34:8 NIV)*

Every good thing in our life comes from God. He's not an angry father or an unfair judge. God wants the very best for us because He is good.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father..." (James 1:17 NIV)

God's goodness means He teaches us to do right. No one is perfect. In spite of our brokenness and rebellion against God, His goodness draws us closer to Him.

"Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways." (Psalm 25:8 NIV)



Big Idea:

**GOD IS GOOD,
ALL THE TIME.**

The goodness of God means He wants the best for us. God is generous, kind, and caring. God is good all the time, even when life is difficult.



Key Verse:

PSALM 145:9 (NLT)

The Lord is good to everyone.
He showers compassion on
all His creation.

Watch

Set up the video for your family:

"We're going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let's pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God."



LOST DOG

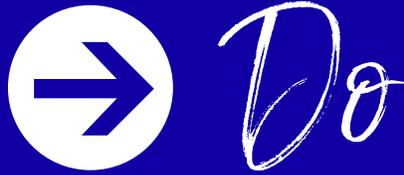
RealGodChurch.com/View



Choose a few questions to best help your family talk about the video.

- What did you like most about the video?
- What was the point of the video? What did it teach about God?
- How was the story of the lost dog an example of God's goodness?
- What does it mean that God is good?
- Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.
- Describe a difficult or challenging time in your life when it was hard to see God as a good, loving father.
- Is God good all the time? What if the dog never made it back home, or if God doesn't answer our prayers in the way we want?
- What are some situations when it's hard for you to be good toward others? Who are some people that make it difficult for you to treat them with goodness?
- When we believe that God is good, we trust in Him. On a practical and personal level, what does it mean to trust God?

(Depending on the age of your kids, you may not get much of a response. After a few minutes of letting the question "soak in," answer the question. Tell your kids what it means for you and your family to trust God.)



Ideas to help your family understand God's character for the rest of the week.

- Go to **RealGodChurch.com/view** and select the Family Devotional to **LOG IN**. Download the TAKEAWAY page for this Session. Put up a few around your house (refrigerator, bathroom mirror, etc.). Encourage your kids to read the verse every morning and every night. One option is to memorize the verse as a family.



- Morning questions for breakfast or on the ride to school:
 - “How do you think you might see God’s goodness today?” After you and your kids answer, encourage them by saying, “Try to look for ways that God was good to you today.”
 - What could it look like for you to be good to others today? Is there something new and different you can do today to be good?
- Questions for the evening in the car on the way home from school or dinner time:
 - “Where did you see God’s goodness today?”
 - “How did you show goodness to someone today? Did you see an example of one person being good to another?”

- ☐ Stories are powerful! Think through a few stories of God's goodness and share a couple this week. Be vulnerable, as this will encourage your kids. Here are a few prompts to get you thinking: In the past, how was God good to your family? How was God good to your family in a difficult season? What is an example of God's goodness from when you were young?

- ☐ How is God being good to you now? Working alone, everyone should make a list of eight things he or she is thankful for. When finished, everyone should share their list. Put the lists up on your refrigerator as a reminder of God's goodness all week.

- ☐ If your kids have a mobile phone, text them a few times this week. Here are a few suggestions:
 - Don't forget: God is good, all the time!
 - "The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation." (Psalm 145:9 NLT)
 - You are a gift to our family! I am thankful for you and every day I am reminded how good God is because of you!
 - Be good to someone today, even when you don't feel like being good.

- ☐ Gather a bunch of magazines. Have everyone cut out pictures of things that are "good" and create a collage. For the more tech-savvy families, make boards on Pinterest. Have everyone explain why they chose the things they did. When finished, ask, "How can God be good all the time if we don't get everything we want?" Once the discussion ends, talk about the difference between wants and needs. Explain that because God is good, He gives us everything we need, but not necessarily everything we want.