

FRUITFUL: DAY THREE GOODNESS & FAITHFULNESS

Teen / Adult Lesson

Fruitful - Day Three Bible Lesson - Goodness & Faithfulness

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TRUTH

God never gives up on us.

VERSE

*The faithfulness of the Lord never ends. His mercies never cease.
Lamentations 3:22*

LESSON

Jesus told a story about a father and his two sons. Some call it the Story of the Prodigal Son. 'Prodigal' means 'wasteful', but we don't use the word 'prodigal' in English much anymore. The story isn't just about the foolish son who wasted all of his money, though. It's also about the other son who was angry when his brother came home. Most of all, though, it's about their father. The father in this story shows us what God is like. Maybe the best name for this story is: The Good Father.

The Good Father

Luke 15:11-32 (ERV)

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Give me now the part of your property that I am supposed to receive someday.'

So the father divided his wealth between his two sons.

"A few days later the younger son gathered up all that he had and left. He traveled far away to another country, and there he wasted his money living like a fool. After he spent everything he had, there was a terrible famine throughout the country. He was hungry and needed money. So he went and got a job with one of the people who lived there. The man sent him into the fields to feed pigs. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the food the pigs were eating. But no one gave him anything.

"The son realized that he had been very foolish. He thought, 'All my father's hired workers have plenty of food. But here I am, almost dead because I have nothing to eat. I will leave and go to my father. I will say to him: Father, I have sinned against God and have done wrong to you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. But let me be like one of your hired workers.' So he left and went to his father.

"While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him coming and felt sorry for him. So he ran to him and hugged and kissed him. The son said, 'Father, I have sinned against God and have done wrong to you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

"But the father said to his servants, 'Hurry! Bring the best clothes and put them on him. Also, put a ring on his finger and good sandals on his feet. And bring our best calf and kill it so that we can celebrate with plenty to eat. My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!' So they began to have a party.

Are we ever like the wasteful son in this story?

Do we ever ignore the good things that God has for us and go looking for things that we think are more important?

Do you think God is like the father in this story? In what ways?

What did the father in the story do when he saw his misbehaving, messed up, poor, sad kid walking on the road towards home?

He ran to him! He kissed him! He welcomed him! He threw a party!


Have you ever had a parent run to you like that? Maybe you were playing outside and fell off your bike or something, and your parent came running. Maybe you met your parent at the airport or train station after they had been somewhere far away, and you ran to hug each other because you missed each other so much.

Do you think that the father in the story thought about his wandering son every day while he was gone? Do you think he prayed for his son? Do you think he still loved his son, even though his son had been very rude to him and had left his family to have fun and waste money?

This story shows us what real goodness and faithfulness look like. God loves us so much, even though we like to chase after useless, temporary things that can never satisfy us. He waits for us and rejoices when we come home to Him, even when we've made a lot of mistakes.

You might think that you've done things in your life that would cause God to give up on you. That's impossible! There's nothing the wasteful son in the story could do to make his Father stop waiting for him and loving him, and there's nothing *you* could do that could make God stop waiting for you and loving you!

The good news about God's love, goodness, and faithfulness is even better news when we understand that the Holy Spirit helps *us* to be good and faithful. The goodness and faithfulness of God will be seen in *our* lives when we are living in the Spirit. Other people will wonder how we are so good and faithful when many people are more like the wasteful son. The fruit of goodness and faithfulness they see in our lives will show them that we are followers of God, and that He is the best example of goodness and faithfulness there is!



What Fruit of the Spirit have we learned about so far this week?

Kindness, Gentleness, Self-control, Goodness, Faithfulness



Let's review today's Truth:

God never gives up on us.



Let's review today's verse:

*The faithfulness of the Lord never ends. His mercies never cease.
Lamentations 3:22*

Does everyone remember what verse from Galatians tells us Fruit of the Spirit? Can anyone say the verse?

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
Galatians 5:22-23*



Prayer

A prayer is provided with each lesson as an example of possible things to pray for each day. The prayers are not intended to be used word-for-word, although you can use them that way if you need to. You should also try to include specific prayer requests

from your kids and specific things that they are thankful for in your group's prayer time each day.

Thank you God for being our good Father. Thank you for loving us and showing us what it means to be good and faithful. Please help us to follow you instead of chasing after temporary things that are not important. Help us remember that it doesn't matter what we've done—you still love us and you are waiting to see us come home to you. Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to help us to be good and faithful like you.



Recommended Activity

Goodness of God is a worship song about God's goodness and faithfulness. Listen to the song with your class. Read some or all of the lyrics together and discuss what the song says about God and His goodness and faithfulness.

Do you think the people who wrote this song were thinking of the story of The Good Father when they wrote it?

Goodness of God

by Benjamin David Fielding, Jason David Ingram, Edmond Martin Cash, Brian Johnson, Jenn Johnson

I love You, Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
Oh I will sing of the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In the darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

And all my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh I will sing of the goodness of God

Your goodness is running, it's running after me
Your goodness is running, it's running after me

With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You everything
Your goodness is running, it keeps running after me