



## Study 5: God is good so we don't have to look elsewhere

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### Scanning

Main Texts: Genesis 3:1-7; James 1:12-17  
Other Texts: Psalm 34:8-10; Psalm 107:1-9; Psalm 84:10-12

Introductory question: What stood out to you most from the sermon on Sunday?

### Going Deeper

1. The goodness of God is one of the most basic Christian beliefs. What does the Bible mean when it says that God is good?
  - How should our understanding of God's goodness be nuanced in light of the various bad things that happen in our lives? See, for example, Romans 8:28 and the kinds of hardships Paul describes in the rest of the chapter.
2. Genesis 3:1-7 and James 1:12-17 both describe the battle between believing in the goodness of God (and thus obeying God) and believing the promises of sin. How do you see this in each passage?

3. Paraphrase what Tim Chester mean when he says:

*"The invitation of the Bible is not to dreary abstinence. It's a call to find in God that which truly satisfies. It's believing that we find lasting fulfillment, satisfaction, joy and identity in knowing God, and nowhere else. Whatever sin offers, God offers more, for God offers us himself. God isn't just good; he's better – better than everything else, and the true source of all joy."* (Tim Chester, You Can Change)

4. How does believing in God's goodness strengthen us in the battle against sin?
  - Why is this a better way to fight sin that just to "say no!"?
  - How might you bolster your faith in the goodness of God?

### Applying

5. Identify an area in your life where you struggle to believe and obey God. How can a belief in God's goodness help you with living for Him in this area of struggle?
6. Look back on the four "Gs" we have studied together. God is great, glorious, gracious and good. Which study has been the most helpful for you? Why?

*"Sin arises when we desire something more than God. Overcoming sin begins by reversing this process: desiring God more than other things."* (Tim Chester, You Can Change)