



Enjoy the Ride Robert Morris

Focus

What we believe about God affects how we live, how we view others, and how we respond to challenges. The more we believe in His goodness, the more we can enjoy our lives.

Fun

What's your biggest fear? Snakes? Rollercoasters? Share your fear with a friend or two, and then team up to help each other overcome those fears by doing a fun activity like going to an amusement park to get over a fear of roller coasters.

Review

Key Scriptures: Psalms 119:68; Exodus 34:6; Genesis 1:4

1. God does because He is.

Psalm 119:68; Hebrews 11:6

God's goodness has absolutely nothing to do with what he *does*. Plain and simple: God does good things because He is *inherently* good. As believers, we aren't good because we *do* good, we are good because a good God made us that way.

2. What are attributes?

Exodus 34:6; 1 Timothy 1:17

God has many attributes: He is eternal, immortal, all-knowing, all-powerful, immutable, compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, faithful, and abounding in love. Some attributes we can share with Him, and some we cannot.

When you break down the word "attribute," it becomes "a tribute," or a distinct characteristic of a person. If you break it down more, you find the word "tribe,"

or the distinct characteristics of a group of people who have descended from one person. Because of Jesus, we are part of God's tribe.

3. God is good.

Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31; Genesis 2:18

Everything God does is good, and He went to great lengths to show us that throughout Genesis 1. Day and night; land and sea; vegetation and animals; the sun, moon, and stars—His goodness is obvious, and it never runs out. Even when we don't understand, God is *still* good.

Group Dynamics Idea Consider attending Growth Path, Gateway's four-week series of classes designed to help you discover your part in God's story and fulfill His call on your life. Visit growthpath.gatewaypeople.com for more information.

Discuss

1. Pastor Robert explained that we don't actually worship God—we worship our concept of Him. What did he mean by that? Explore and explain your own concept of God.
2. How is God characterized in Exodus 34:6? When was the last time someone described you that way?
3. What traits can we not share with God? (1 Timothy 1:17)
4. God makes note of His goodness several times in Genesis with the statement "And God saw that it was good." What was He trying to show us? (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31)
5. What was the only thing God said was "not good" about His creations? (Genesis 2:18)

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- God is inherently good. He can never not be good.
- God made us good, therefore we are!
- The greatest display of God's goodness was the gift of salvation, which we received when His son, Jesus, died on the cross.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for Your unconditional love. We don't deserve it, but You still give it freely. You blessed us with the greatest gift of all when You allowed Your son to take the place of our sins. We can never thank You enough. We love You and praise You. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.

New Leader Tip As Pastor Robert pointed out, some of us attend church out of fear because we think God is out to get us. Pray for willing hearts and open minds and that those in your group who struggle to see God the way we are meant to see Him—as our infinitely good, heavenly Father—would have a new revelation of His loving kindness.