

# JOHN BEVERE

## Good or God?

**Focus** These days the terms “good” and “God” seem synonymous. But if good is so obvious, why does the Bible say we need discernment to recognize it? We need to engage with God about what is “of God,” not just what is simply “good” because there is a “good” that can lead us away from God. There is nothing good for us outside of God. We must seek God, not good.

**Fun** Have group members introduce themselves by stating their name plus one truth and one lie about themselves. After each person makes their statements, allow for a quick open discussion where everyone questions each other on their statements. The idea is to convince the other members that your lie is actually a truth while identifying the others’ lies. After the discussion, vote as a group on each member’s statements. Points are awarded for each lie guessed right or for stumping other members on your own lie. This exercise helps to get to know your group members better and encourages interaction and fun!

**Review** Key Scriptures: Proverbs 14:12; James 1:16–17; 2 Timothy 3:16

- **Scripture is our reference point.**

Without God’s Word we could be easily led astray just like Adam and Eve in the garden. Adam and Eve were deceived by something that seemed “good” to them, but it wasn’t God, and in the end, it brought death. There is nothing “good” for us outside of God.

- **We need to receive correction.**

The Bible says that a person who is able to receive correction is wise. The Bible also says that whoever doesn’t receive correction is a fool. God has given His Word as a reference point so we can discern the difference between what is good and what is God. The Bible is a lamp to our feet and a

light to our path. We should study God's Word carefully so we do not drift away from God.

- **We need to be calibrated.**

When we intentionally plug into God's Word, we will be calibrated each day to know what is God and not just what is good. We can be a light to those around us, have a light for our path, and know what is God by pressing into His presence and studying His Word. We study God's Word so that we can avoid being deceived.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Share one or two ways God has answered a specific prayer request this past year—it can be something simple or big. Now take time to celebrate together and give thanks to God for answered prayers.

### **Discuss**

1. Read Genesis 3:1–6. What do you think John Bevere meant when he said, “There is a ‘good’ that leads us away from God”?
2. Often our own thinking about what is good can keep us from experiencing God. What are some of those things that may seem good but that are not God?
3. The Bible says that in the last days even the elect will go astray. Why do you think that is, and how can we guard ourselves against this?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 11:3. How can we take steps to live lives that match what we read in the Bible? How exactly does this look for each of us?
5. Is there currently a problem in your life where you need a touch from God? Is there an area in your life that needs calibration? Or do you need prayer to receive something new in your life from God, not simply what is good? Take time to pray for each other that God would do a miracle in each situation.

### **Take Home**

As we conclude, remember the following:

- God is God.
- We are to seek and serve God, not what we think is good.
- God's Word is a light to our paths and calibrates our daily lives (if we let it).

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your presence with us right now. Thank You for the Holy Spirit who leads us in all truth. Thank You for the Bible that calibrates our lives and lights our paths. Help us study Your Word and never give up. Give us a plan to pursue You until we have received what is Your will, not just good. Help us increase in discernment each day and to be Your light to those around us. Let Your will be done in our lives today and lead us in Your paths of righteousness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Ask lots of questions from leaders you admire. Study them—what makes them exceptional or stand out? Write down the top three things you admire in a leader. Now, with the help of a trusted friend, mentor, or pastor, write down an action plan for how you will integrate these leadership skills into your own life and leadership practices.