

CULTIVATE

LIFE TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT



JULY
GROUP GUIDE

This month, we turn our attention to the fruit of the Spirit called goodness. Not simply morality, kindness, or good intentions, but the active expression of God's character at work in the world.

From the opening pages of Scripture, goodness is woven into the story of creation. Again and again, God creates and declares that it is good. The world was designed to reflect God's goodness, beauty, and life-giving presence. You were created, and God called you good.

Yet, we can't help but recognize that goodness can sometimes feel difficult to see. We live in a world marked by loss, suffering, injustice, and brokenness. There are moments when we wonder whether goodness is still present. Our days feel broken and long, and the world draws our attention to the things that need to be fixed instead of the goodness that surrounds us.

Scripture reminds us that God's goodness is not absent in difficult seasons. God continues to work, restore, redeem, and weave together what has been fractured. He continues to work for good, even in our fallen world.

Personal Reflection and Practice



Read each of the passages below slowly and thoughtfully. As you read, consider what each passage reveals about goodness—its character, its purpose, and the kind of life it produces. In your own words, identify the central truth or main idea of each passage.

A summary statement is provided for each section. As you reflect on the Scripture, consider how the passage supports, illustrates, or deepens your understanding of that statement. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you recognize God's goodness and his restoring work in your own life and in the world around you.

Goodness That Works

Genesis 1:26–31

Romans 8:28

Philippians 2:13

God's goodness is not passive. It is active, creative, and always at work. Often, he works through you to show goodness to the world. How can you be part of the Kingdom work of God, expanding goodness into someone else's life?

Goodness That Gives

Psalm 145:8-9

Matthew 7:9-11

James 1:17

Goodness overflows. It blesses, provides, and gives life. It gives our days meaning and our years purpose.

Goodness That Reconciles

Genesis 50:19-21

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

Colossians 1:19-20

God's goodness moves toward restoration. The truth behind Joseph's declaration in Genesis 50:20, "what you intended for evil, God intended for good", echoes throughout Scripture. Again and again, God's goodness is revealed as he brings restoration from brokenness, hope from suffering, and redemption from what was meant for harm. As we explore the fruit of goodness, may we learn to recognize and give thanks for God's restoring work in our world and in our lives.

Goodness That Overcomes

Romans 12:17-21

John 16:33

Galatians 6:9-10

Goodness does not surrender to darkness. It holds fast to the truth that God's light shines brighter than any dark spot, even when it seems distant.



GROUP TIME

This outline is simply a suggested framework for your time together. Every group is unique, with its own dynamics, questions, and opportunities for growth. Feel free to adapt the structure as needed to foster meaningful discussion, deeper relationships, and engagement with God's Word.

Take what serves your group well, release what doesn't, and trust the Holy Spirit to lead your conversations. The goal is not to complete every question, but to create space for one another to listen, learn, and grow together as disciples of Jesus.

JULY

Cultivating Goodness

Goal and Purpose: Reflect on goodness as a fruit of the Spirit and notice where God may be inviting us to participate in that goodness.

Themes for the Month:

Week 1: Goodness That Works

Week 2: Goodness That Gives

Week 3: Goodness That Reconciles

Week 4: Goodness That Overcomes

1. Welcome + Opening (10 minutes)

Leader Says:

Today, we continue our Cultivate journey by turning our attention to the fruit of the Spirit called goodness. This month is about learning to recognize God's goodness at work in our lives and discovering how the Spirit forms that same goodness within us.

Share:

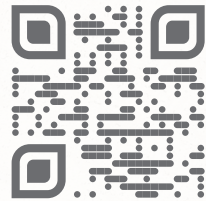
- When you hear the word goodness, what comes to mind?
 - Where have you recently seen goodness in your life or community?
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2. Watch the Teaching Video

(10–20 minutes)

Video Summary

- Creation begins with God's declaration that it is good.
- We often wrestle with God's goodness in the face of suffering.
- The Texas floods raise difficult questions about pain and loss.
- Joseph's story reminds us that God can weave good even through harm.
- Romans 8 teaches that God works through all things for good.
- We can allow suffering to determine our view of God, or allow God to determine our view of suffering.
- Sometimes God's goodness is most visible through the compassion and service of God's people.



- Followers of Jesus are invited to participate in God's goodness.

Video Discussion Questions:

Invite participants to share:

- What stood out to you?
 - Have you wrestled with questions about God's goodness?
 - What does it mean that God is weaving goodness?
-

3. Hear the Word (5 minutes)

Scripture Focus: Romans 8:28–39

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?

It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

4. Personal Reflection (5 minutes)

- Which word or phrase stood out to you? Why?
- Where do you currently see God’s goodness at work?
- Where is it difficult to trust that goodness is still present?
- Where could you impart more goodness to those around you?
- How can you ask God to let you be part of this Kingdom work?

5. Shared Reflection (8-10 minutes)

- What does this passage reveal about God's goodness?
 - How does it shape the way we think about hardship and hope?
 - How does it change how we live together in community?
 - How does the idea of suffering align with God's promise of goodness?
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6. Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Leader Encouragement

Goodness is not always loud or obvious. Often it appears quietly through acts of compassion, generosity, forgiveness, and faithfulness. Together, we partner with God to bring about goodness in a fallen world, led by Christ's example and in unison with the Holy Spirit. It is part of our restoration work as we **join Christ daily in the restoration of all things.**

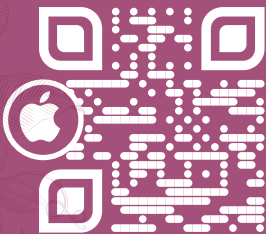
Closing Prayer

God of goodness, thank you for your faithfulness, generosity, and care for us. Open our eyes to see your goodness around us and shape our hearts so others might experience your goodness through us. May we be more like Jesus in his example of holy goodness while on earth, through our actions, words, and deeds. Amen.

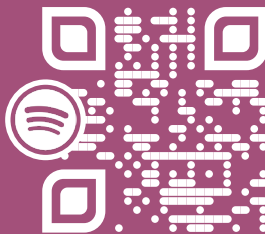
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Learning and growth don't stop when the guide closes! We invite you to listen to our podcasts and watch our videos, where you'll find teaching, conversations, and encouragement to continue your cultivation journey.

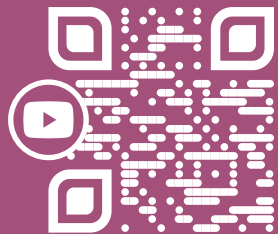
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Throughout 2026, we invite
you to journey with us
through Cultivate.

Each month, a guide is
offered to support reflection,
conversation and growth
as we walk together.



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