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GOD IS THE GOOD CREATOR

STORY: CREATION / YEAR: ETERNITY

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS THE GOOD CREATOR

Isaiah 46:8-13, 14:24-27; Psalm 33:10-11; Proverbs 16:9, 19:21, 21:1, 21:30; Daniel 4:34-37; Ephesians 1:11-14

BIBLE VERSE: JAMES 1:17

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

BIG IDEAS

- God not only does good, He is good.
- Everything God made was good.
- Nothing God created was bad or broken.

BIBLE STORY: PSALM 19

Everything about God is good because God is perfect. He is the most holy and righteous of all beings. Because God is perfect and never does wrong, all that He does in the world is good. Everything God created was good. It was perfect and without sin. Man's disobedience broke God's good creation. All that God does in the life of a person is good, too.

STORY: CREATION

God created everything. Everything we see, hear, feel, taste, and that exists was created by Him. Not only did He create everything, but He created everything perfectly, including humanity. He created mankind in His very image and likeness to reflect His worth. All of creation was made just like He wanted and designed it to be. To His delight, God looked at everything He made and declared that it was good. All creation exists for God, is good, and was created to bring Him glory.

BIG AIMS

Every child should know that:
- Life comes from God

Every child should feel:
- Responsible to use the life that God has given them for His glory

Every child should:
- Find joy in the life that God has given them

Every child should want:
- To submit their lives to God's plans

FAMILY DEVOTION: EVERYTHING FROM NOTHING

When the world began, God needed nothing to create it. His Word is powerful. All things obey His Word. When He spoke, things began to exist; life began to form and has continued forming under His command. Man must use materials to create. God needs nothing.

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BIBLE VERSE: JAMES 1:17

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

God is the Gift Giver

James, the half-brother of Jesus, was writing to the persecuted Christians who had been driven from their homes and were now scattered.

- These believers had been driven from their homes and yet they were seeing God's faithfulness in their lives.
- James was reminding them that their trials were not in vain. God had a purpose for them.[1]
- God is perfect and all that He does is perfect because He does not make mistakes.

Every good thing we receive is from God because the gifts He gives are good.

- James encourages Christians not to be deceived into thinking that God's gifts are not good or that good gifts come from somewhere other than God.
- God is the gift giver. He is the creator of all things and every gift He gives is good.
- Every good thing is from God. God is the Creator of all things and He gives His children good gifts. He blesses them with exactly what they need.

God does not change like the shadows shift and change.

- We can find comfort in knowing that God is unchanging. It is part of who He is.
- He has always given good gifts and He will always give good gifts.
- This truth was important for the first-century Christians because they were facing persecution.
- Their lives were not as they would have liked them to be, but God was using their difficult times to increase their faith and that was a good gift.

BIBLE STORY: PSALM 19

God's Good Creation

Opening Illustration:
Bring in materials for the children to create a Creation Booklet. Use feathers, leaves, cotton balls, felt animals, blue glitter glue or paint for water, etc. Guide the children to create a picture of each day of creation using the materials provided. As they create their books, remind them that God is the good Creator. Everything He made was good and everything He does is perfect.

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1. *James 1:2-4: This important statement on trials is pivotal to a believer's spiritual walk. Here James reminds the first century Christians that the trials they were facing served a purpose---these trials increased their faith and made them spiritually stronger. They were not in vain, just as our trials are not in vain.*

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BIG IDEA: GOD NOT ONLY DOES GOOD, HE IS GOOD.

What does it mean to be good? (It means to do the right thing or to be pleasing or helpful.)
What does it mean that God is always good? (It means that He never does bad things or make wrong choices.)

God is good.[2]

- God is perfect. He is the only perfect being. No one else is like God.
- Everything about God is perfect.
- He does not make mistakes or do bad things.
- He is good and He always does good.
- Goodness comes from God because God is always good. We learn goodness because of what He does in the world and in mankind's lives.
- He makes right choices every time.
- We can understand goodness because it is what God is. It is one of His character traits.

Create a list of good and bad behaviors on index cards. Hold the index cards in a bowl or your hands. Divide the children into two groups. Play a relay game where the groups race each other to see who can get to you first to get an index card. Once the index cards are gone, tally up how many each group has and declare the winner. Next, read the behaviors on the cards and ask the children to identify them as good or bad. Remind them that God only does good things. He never does bad things.

Everything God does is good.

- Because God is holy and righteous, it is impossible for Him to make a bad choice.
- Even when He created Adam and Eve and even though they disobeyed Him, He still did not make a mistake in creating them.
- When God made Adam and Eve they were perfect and without sin.
- Their own choices brought sin into their hearts and the heart of every person.
- There is death, disease, and sorrow in the world because of sin, not because God made a mistake or created a bad thing.
- Every decision and action that God does is good because He is goodness itself.

Why is everything that God does good? (It is good because He is always good.)

2. *Psalm 100:5: God is good and He is good all of the time. Everything that He does is good because He is good.*

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BIG IDEA: EVERYTHING GOD MADE WAS GOOD.

What are some good things that men have made? (We have made cars, medicines, etc.)
What are some bad things that men have made? (Bombs, pollution, etc.)

Read Genesis 1:31 to the children. Ask the children to take turns naming some of their favorite things in creation, such as the ocean, the mountains, the trees, etc. Next, ask them to name some of their least favorite things in creation. Remind them that everything God created is good because all that He does is good.

All that God does is perfect.

- Everything that God does is right and good.[3]
- When God created the world, everything He created was good.
- God is the only perfect being, so His choices and actions are right and good.
- Everything God created was exactly as He wanted it---it was perfect.

All that God created was perfect.

- When God created the world, it was perfect.
- There was no broken thing in the world.
- Because God is perfect, everything He created was perfect.
- Nothing that was made, when God created the world, was bad or broken.
- God made the heavens perfectly.
- God made the earth perfectly.
- All the animals were perfect. Every bird in the air, star in the sky, and fish in the ocean were perfect.
- The world operated perfectly, just as God had created it to operate.
- All that was in the earth was created perfectly.
- God is the good and perfect Creator.

When God created the world was it good or bad? (It was good because God is good.)
Does God make bad or wrong choices? (No, everything that God does is good and right.)

3. *Psalm 107:1: All that God does is good because He is good and unchanging.*

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BIG IDEA: NOTHING GOD CREATED WAS BAD OR BROKEN.

God does not do any bad thing.

- In the beginning when God spoke the world into being, His creation was perfect because He is perfect.
- God cannot make bad things because there is nothing bad in Him.
- He thinks perfectly, acts perfectly, and loves perfectly. Everything He does, He does perfectly.
- He created the heavens and the earth perfectly and He continues to interact with us perfectly.

The sin in the world is not from God.[4]

- God's original creation was not sinful.
- There was no brokenness in God's creation in the beginning.
- Man's choice to disobey God brought sin into God's perfect creation.
- When God spoke the world into being, He did so perfectly. It was without sin or brokenness.
- Creation was good and perfect because God made it and God is good and perfect.
- God would never do anything that is bad or wrong because there is only good in Him.

Bring in two mirrors. One mirror should be cracked or broken. The other should be perfect. Pass the mirrors around and ask the children to describe the differences in them. Ask the children to identify the company that made the mirrors. Next, ask the children if the company made the mirror broken. Talk with them about how the company made the mirror not broken and it was broken by you. Remind them that everything God made was perfect and good. Man's sin broke creation and made it not good.

4. *Genesis 3:6-7: When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they brought sin into the hearts of men. They broke God's perfect creation.*

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HOOKS

Have You Seen The Goods?

Play a game of hide-n-seek with the children except hide different objects that represent things from creation, such as a leaf for a tree, a cup of water for the ocean, etc. You can use pictures of things from creation, too. Tell the children you have hidden the goods in the room and they have to find them all. Once they collect all the goods, talk about each one and what makes it good. Lead them in a discussion about how everything that God made is good because He is good.

- We know what goodness is because God reveals Himself to man.
- When we look at creation, we see God's goodness.
- When we look at one another, we see a reflection of God.
- God is the goodness. He is always good and everything He does is good.

Nothing God Created Was Broken

Bring in several unactivated glow sticks. Show them to the children and let them hold them. The unactivated glow sticks are like God's creation in the beginning. It was good and perfect and not broken. Next, help the children break the glow sticks to activate them. Our sin broke creation just like we broke the glow sticks. The glow sticks will not last forever now. Their light will burn out and then they will no longer be any good. Lead the children in a discussion about how everything God does is good and nothing He made was broken.

- When God created the heavens and the earth, He looked at it and said it was good.
- When God created Adam and Eve, He looked at them and said they were very good.
- All that God created was perfect. It was good and had no sin or brokenness.
- Man sinned and it broke God's creation. Sin entered the world and God's creation was not the same anymore.

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