



Part 1: GOD THE FATHER

INTRODUCTION

God created us in His image to reflect Him for His glory (Genesis 1:26-28). When Adam and Eve sinned, humanity went through a tragic transformation and took on the curse of sin (Genesis 3). We are not the people God intended us to be. We are like images in broken mirrors. We can still make out the image, but we are blind to its full effect. So in order for us to rightly reflect God, we are to know what God is like.

Fortunately for us, God graciously reveals himself to us what he is like. He reveals himself as ONE God (Deut 6:4) that exists in 3 persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Theologians call this: TRINITY.

In Part 1 of this series, we are going to learn about the first person in the Trinity: God the Father. He reveals himself as a good God. Anyone can believe that God is great (omnipotent-all powerful; omniscient-all knowing, etc.) but it is much harder for us to believe that God is good, especially when suffering is all around us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about some things you read about or saw on the news this week that reveal the brokenness of the world. How did you respond to those stories?
2. Has anyone ever asked you, *"If God is good, why is there so much suffering in the world?"* If so, how did you respond?
3. Quoting from Psalm 34:8 (NIV) *"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him,"* Ps. Daniel said, inherent in this encouraging verse that the Lord is good, is an implicit acknowledgement that suffering is part of our lives which is why we need God as our refuge. How can God be good in our times of suffering?
4. Read Romans 8:18–21. Is it difficult for you to believe that one day all of creation will be "liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God"? Why or why not?
5. Read Ephesians 2:10. How did Paul describe a Christian? What does it mean for you that God has prepared a good thing in advance for you to do?

MOVING FORWARD

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? Romans 8:32 (NIV)

CHANGING YOUR MIND

GOD is good. I am created good by God; Through Christ God has recreated me good
Therefore, now I can do good for God.