

## Day 5

# Goodness

**Silence (2 minutes)** Take some time to be quiet, to calm down, and to listen. What has God been teaching you? What are the next steps He wants you to take? How is your spirit doing?

**Preparation** Stillness, focusing on God's presence. (2 minutes)

**Scripture** *"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations."* Psalm 100

**Discussion** The Lord is good. He is God and allows us to be in His presence, even wants us to be in His presence. He created the earth, the colors and scents of flowers, the songs of birds, the majesty and power of mountains and oceans. He created us. He designed us to need and know Him. He designed our bodies, our thinking, and our personalities. He designed marriage and family. We are His people. He is our Father. He is our Shepherd. And how does our Shepherd think of an individual sheep who gets lost? *"Does He not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until He finds it? And when He finds it, He joyfully puts it on His shoulders and goes home. Then He calls His friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found My lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent"* (Lk. 15:4-7). We need His care, supervision, and protection; and He graciously gives these. We thank Him for His actions and blessings. We praise Him for who He is. He is Creator, God and Lord, Savior, Father, and Counselor. *"The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished; He punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation"* (Ex. 34:6-7). *"The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance"* (2 Pet. 3:9). The Lord is good.

**Application** The goodness of God can be hard to comprehend sometimes. Goodness can sound very broad, or even synonymous with words such as "kindness" or "loving." Make no mistake: Goodness is its own attribute of God, and one that He demonstrates *through* His kindness, His mercy, His love, and faithfulness. God's goodness is shown to us in so many ways, and all too often we can overlook them. Take time this week to consider how many ways God has shown His goodness to you, and ask yourself what ways you've reflected that goodness back to God and to those around you.

**Prayer** Father, I praise You that You are good. Your heart is that we all know You and when I was lost You came after me; eager to bring me home to You. You are where I belong and You take such good care of me. I praise You that You are my Shepherd, my Savior, my Lord, and my God. I praise You that You are indeed good. Amen.

**Silence (2 minutes)** Talk to God about what you are learning. What are your fears? Where are your hangups? Pray for direction.

**Scripture memory** for the week:

*"The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely Your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."*

Psalms 23

