

## Day 2

# 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?

**Scripture** *“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all He created.”* James 1:17

**Discussion** James has just stated that temptations come from us, not God. In this next passage he states that *“every good and perfect gift”* is from God. God is good and His gifts to us are good. God gives us innumerable gifts, including life, the opportunity to know Him, family, and the Church. He also gives us the gift of trials, which we often don't appreciate, but it *“develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing”* (James 1:3-4). James names the most good and perfect gifts. God decided and initiated having us be born again through Jesus. He gave us the good gift of a new life in relationship with God. He also gave us the good gift of being a firstfruit, comparing us to the Old Testament offering of the first harvest of crops, which were given to God, fully dedicated to God. So, as firstfruits we are given to God, fully dedicated to God, and belong to God.

**Application** The goodness of God is shown in our own lives through the Fruits of the Spirit themselves. As we mature in our Christian walk and exhibit greater goodness, we are not only obeying God, but experiencing His own goodness as well. God has created us for Himself, and in this way, His goodness is not only our example to emulate, but our blessing to receive. As you seek to emulate God's goodness this week, consider how this Fruit of the Spirit can be a blessing not only to you but others around you. Ask God to show you this week how His goodness is a blessing to everyone around you as you seek to be more like Him!

**Prayer** Father, I praise You that You are good and You give good and perfect gifts. Thank You for the many blessings You give me each day. Thank You for the beauty of Your creation. Thank You for my family and friends. Thank You for my trials in which You are working in me to make me more like You. Thank You especially for the good and perfect gifts of being born again to know You and to be a firstfruit given to You, belonging to You. 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

