



The Good & Beautiful God
Luke 13:1-5 & John 9:2-3
January 17, 2010

Week #1: God is Good

CONNECTION.....30 Minutes

1. Take a few minutes for introductions and give people a chance to catch up and connect with one another.
2. Have you ever had a time where you felt God was punishing you for a sin, or had a friend tell you that was happening to you? If so, explain.
3. Be still and spend a few moments in silence and then invite the Spirit of God to join and lead your group.

EXPLORATION.....30 Minutes

Read through Luke 13:1-5 & John 9:1-3 and then discuss the questions listed below and/or create some of your own.

Luke 13:1-5 (NLT)

¹ About this time Jesus was informed that Pilate had murdered some people from Galilee as they were offering sacrifices at the Temple. ² “Do you think those Galileans were worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?” Jesus asked. “Is that why they suffered?” ³ Not at all! And you will perish, too, unless you repent of your sins and turn to God. ⁴ And what about the eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Were they the worst sinners in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, and I tell you again that unless you repent, you will perish, too.”

John 9:1-3 (NLT)

¹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. ² “Rabbi,” his disciples asked him, “why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?”

³ “It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins,” Jesus answered. “This happened so the power of God could be seen in him.”

1. What religious narrative are the disciples living by that is revealed in John 9? Discuss
2. What do you learn about the nature of God from Jesus in the 2 passages? Discuss
3. Are there any areas of your life where you feel God has punished you? If so, imagine yourself in the place of the man born blind. Allow yourself to hear Jesus’ words as if they are spoken to you.

SOUL TRAINING.....30 Minutes

1. Find 5 minutes each day to sit in silence.

During this time, your thoughts may run rampant. If so, you can do the following 2 things to help still your mind:

1. Have a notepad nearby to jot down things that may come to your mind. This will help to quiet your mind.
 2. Ease into the 5 minutes by reading the bible for a minute or two.
- This is an exercise designed to help you slow down and become present, more able to focus on God in your midst.

2. Awareness of Creation: Take a walk outside and pay specific attention to the sights, sounds, and colors of nature. If you are able, go to a park or someplace that is relatively untouched by humans.

Take something to write on and act as if you are on a mission to canvass a small area, jot down everything you see. Pretend you are trying to communicate what you are seeing to someone who has never been able to go outdoors and experience the beauty of the created world.

Note the color of the birds, the symmetry of the leaves, and the sound of the wind. Think of God as a great artist and yourself as the art student, paying close attention to the detail of the artwork.

3. Share any items of Community News

*The content of this Study Guide is taken from **The Good & Beautiful God** – James Bryan Smith