



**THE
REAL
GOD**

The Real God: Digital Preview Kit

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ABOUT LIVING ON THE EDGE

Living on the Edge exists to help Christians live like Christians. The ministry was established in 1995 as a radio ministry of pastor and author Chip Ingram, and has since grown into an international discipleship ministry. The ministry creates biblical teaching and tools that challenge and equip spiritually hungry Christians to become mature disciples of Jesus.

The ultimate vision of Living on the Edge is to be a catalytic movement of Christians living out their faith in ways that transform families, churches, and communities for the common good and the glory of God.

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HOW TO USE THIS PREVIEW KIT

EXPLORE!

We created this to help you *get a taste of every element* of the Real God Church Campaign. In this guide, you will find samples of everything you need to teach and minister to your adults, students, and kids. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us by phone or email.

QUESTIONS?

service@RealGodChurch.com | 888.333.6003

Weekends

Week 5 Sample



Preaching provides the leadership rudder for the church and there is power in preaching through God's attributes. These resources are designed to give pastors sermon tools and media to customize for weekend services.

WEEKENDS ASSETS INCLUDE:

- Sermon Transcripts
- Video Bumpers
- Sermon Illustrations
- Sermon Slides
- Sermon Notes



CHIP INGRAM is the author and creator of *The Real God Discipleship Campaign*. He serves as senior pastor of Venture Christian Church in Los Gatos, California and president of *Living on the Edge*, an international teaching and discipleship ministry.

WEEK FIVE

The Wisdom of God

I want you to lean back and think of the most difficult, stressful area of your life.

Maybe it's a relationship or work or a health issue that you can't get resolved. Or maybe it's an aging parent or something with one of your kids. I want you to think about something that is not only difficult for you, but it's difficult to understand.

Something that, in your heart of hearts, if you could reverently say it to God, you would say, "God, I'm walking with You the best that I can and I know Your will is good and I know You'll never give me more than I can take, but these circumstances sure don't feel like You're a good God. I just don't understand why a good and loving God would have this situation in my life."

Have you got it? Feel free to keep your eyes closed and think of this perplexing, difficult issue that you can't get unraveled. And as you do, I'd like you to listen to some words.

"To believe actively that our Heavenly Father constantly spreads around us providential circumstances that work for our present good and our everlasting well-being brings to the soul a veritable benediction. Most of us go through life praying a little, planning a little, jockeying for position, hoping but never being quite certain of anything, and always secretly afraid that we will miss the way. This is a tragic waste of truth and it never gives rest to your heart.

"There is a better way. It is to repudiate our own wisdom and to take instead the infinite wisdom of God. Our insistence upon seeing ahead is natural enough, but it is a real hindrance to our spiritual progress. God has charged Himself with full responsibility for our eternal happiness and He stands ready to take over the management of our lives the moment we turn in faith to Him."

That's a quote by A.W. Tozer on the wisdom of God. I will never forget the circumstances that led to me learn what the wisdom of God is all about.

A classical definition of the wisdom of God is that God brings about the best possible results for the most possible people in the best possible way. That sounds like a nice theological definition. The wisdom of God.

I'll share an experience where that truth saved my life. I was in seminary at the time and I had a conviction that my wife - I had two small kids that were twins, that were about six years old and then I had an eighteen-month-old little boy, so we had three kids - and my conviction was my wife should be home and be able to nurture our children.

So I was going to seminary full-time and I was working full-time. A straight commission job, it was the only thing I could do to make enough money, just to make it through. I was up about four thirty or five every day and went to a donut shop and studied Greek for about two or three hours, went to a carpool, went to classes and every moment I wasn't in a class I was reading a book or studying or doing something. I caught the carpool, came home, played with my family for about an hour and a half, went to work from about six thirty until eleven at night, got up at four, four thirty, did the same thing for three years.

On the side we did a little ministry because you had to have an outlet and the good news was the ministry started to just multiply and flourish. The bad news, it was just more and more stress. Then the company I was working for went through some major problems and my income disappeared.

I am discouraged, depressed, completely out of it. And I am sitting in a seminary class thinking, *Okay...*—I almost went King James in my mind — *Is this how Thou treats Thy servants?*

I have my rent due, we haven't bought meat or groceries in fifteen days. We have taken the seven dollars that we put with the little co-op, and we have been eating fruits and vegetables for fifteen days and my wife has been baking bread from the whole-wheat flour that she has left.

I am just to where I'm thinking, *This is what it looks like to get rewarded when you "sell out" for God? I want to be in Your service, I want to learn Your Word, and I am ready to cash in. At least Christian service, I thought, I know enough now, I can never leave the Lord, but this being a pastor and preparing for ministry...*

I was sitting in a theology class, and just sort of staring. I looked up and someone tapped me on the shoulder and it was the professor and the class was

empty and I didn't hear anybody leave. And I wasn't asleep, I was just so numb and I was sitting there thinking, *I think I'm going to quit seminary. I can't do this.*

The seminary professor was a very thin man and had wire-rimmed glasses and he gave me a little comment. "Chip, whatever you do, don't make any major decisions in the next forty-eight hours. Go home and get a good night's sleep, take a day off, eat a good meal, and I'll see you Monday."

Often he would say things in class I wouldn't even write down but he said them in such a way that I just remembered them. And I sat there in this stupor and out of the blue comes this definition of God's wisdom.

God brings about the best possible ends, by the best possible means, for the most possible people, for the longest possible time.

I thought to myself, *Okay, what if I believed that? What if I — just hypothetically, God, I'm not saying I do, but hypothetically, because I don't really want to give up my anger and my resentment and my depression and my pity party, but in case I wanted to— what if I believed that, just for a couple of seconds?*

Then I began to think, *Well, if I believed it, it would mean that if You are good and gracious and sovereign. It would mean that these present circumstances were allowed by a good God, who is in absolute control of the universe. And that if there was an easier or kinder or gentler way to produce, in me and through me, what You wanted to produce, it would be different circumstances.*

But if I believe, hypothetically of course, that You are all wise, then this actually could be from the hand of a good, sovereign God that knows all things actual and possible. And therefore what needs to happen in me, from Your eternal, all-wise, loving, and good perspective, is exactly the circumstances that I'm living with.

But it's hard to trust in the wisdom of God if you don't know what it is. I want to define what the wisdom of God is, I want to reveal how God has shown us His wisdom, and then I want to look at, How do we respond to that wisdom so that — here's the goal — you can rest and you can trust in the wisdom of God in the very area that you were thinking about?

This preview contains first three pages of the sermon transcript.
When you purchase the church campaign, you will receive the full transcripts for each sermon.

THE REAL GOD

SERMON SLIDES



These slides come in JPEG format, usable by any presentation software, including: ProPresenter, PowerPoint, and Keynote.

We have also included blank slides as an option for you to include your material.

PSALM 104:24

How many are your works, Lord!
In wisdom you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

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We must learn to **TRUST** completely; that all that comes our way is from the hand of a **good**, and **loving** God who, knowing all things actual and possible is exerting His unlimited **power** to execute the best possible outcomes by the best possible means to fulfill the highest possible purposes.

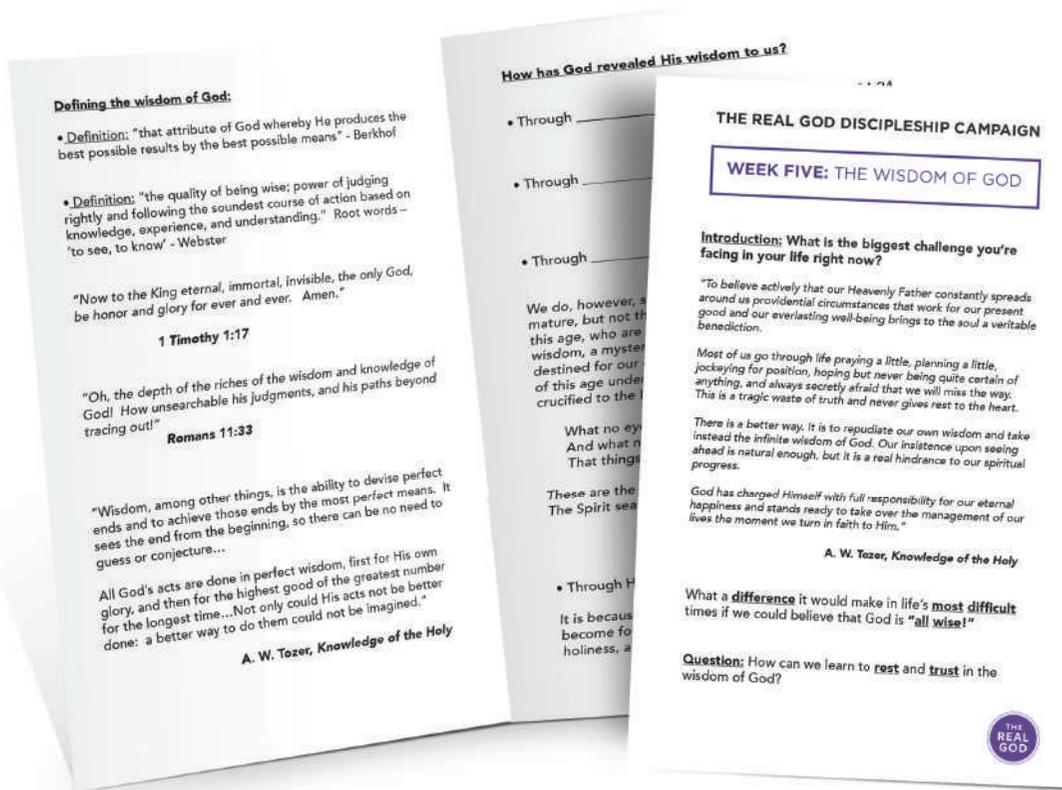
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1. It begins with **REVERENCE**
for God's ways.

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SERMON NOTES



The message notes for The Real God come in two formats:
Ready to print PDFs, or fully customizable Word documents.

THE REAL GOD DISCIPLESHIP CAMPAIGN

WEEK FIVE: THE WISDOM OF GOD

Introduction: What is the biggest challenge you're facing in your life right now?

"To believe actively that our Heavenly Father constantly spreads around us providential circumstances that work for our present good and our everlasting well-being brings to the soul a veritable benediction.

Most of us go through life praying a little, planning a little, jockeying for position, hoping but never being quite certain of anything, and always secretly afraid that we will miss the way. This is a tragic waste of truth and never gives rest to the heart.

There is a better way. It is to repudiate our own wisdom and take instead the infinite wisdom of God. Our insistence upon seeing ahead is natural enough, but it is a real hindrance to our spiritual progress.

God has charged Himself with full responsibility for our eternal happiness and stands ready to take over the management of our lives the moment we turn in faith to Him."

A. W. Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy

What a **difference** it would make in life's **most difficult** times if we could believe that God is **"all wise!"**

Question: How can we learn to **rest** and **trust** in the wisdom of God?

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**How has God revealed His wisdom to us?**

- Through _____ Psalm 104:24
- Through _____ Psalm 33:10-11
- Through _____

We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified to the Lord of glory. However, as it is written:

*What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard,
And what no human mind has conceived" –
That things God has prepared for those who love Him.*

These are the things God has revealed to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

- Through His _____

It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.

1 Corinthians 1:30

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Defining the wisdom of God:

• **Definition:** "that attribute of God whereby He produces the best possible results by the best possible means" - Berkhof

• **Definition:** "the quality of being wise; power of judging rightly and following the soundest course of action based on knowledge, experience, and understanding." Root words – 'to see, to know' - Webster

"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

1 Timothy 1:17

"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!"

Romans 11:33

"Wisdom, among other things, is the ability to devise perfect ends and to achieve those ends by the most perfect means. It sees the end from the beginning, so there can be no need to guess or conjecture..."

All God's acts are done in perfect wisdom, first for His own glory, and then for the highest good of the greatest number for the longest time...Not only could His acts not be better done: a better way to do them could not be imagined."

A. W. Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy

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How must we respond to the wisdom of God?

- We must _____ to live wisely!
Ephesians 5:15-17

HOW do we do that?

1. We must _____ God's ways.
Proverbs 1:7; Job 28:28

2. We must _____ and _____ His Word.
Psalm 119:97-100, 2 Timothy 3:15-17

3. We must _____ for it.
James 1:5; Colossians 1:9

4. We must learn to _____ Him completely...

...that all that comes our way is from the hand of a good and loving God who knowing all things actual and possible, is exerting His unlimited power to execute the best possible outcomes, by the best possible means, to fulfill the highest possible purposes.

Application:

1. What circumstance in your life seems to defy God's wisdom?
2. Pray that God will help you turn that circumstance back to Him and trust that He knows what's best.
3. Look for opportunities this week to encourage and pray with others.

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Adults

Week 1 Sample



Transformation – life change – happens in community. Designed for small groups and Sunday schools, this study includes teaching from Chip Ingram on video, discussion questions and an in-depth personal study of God’s character.

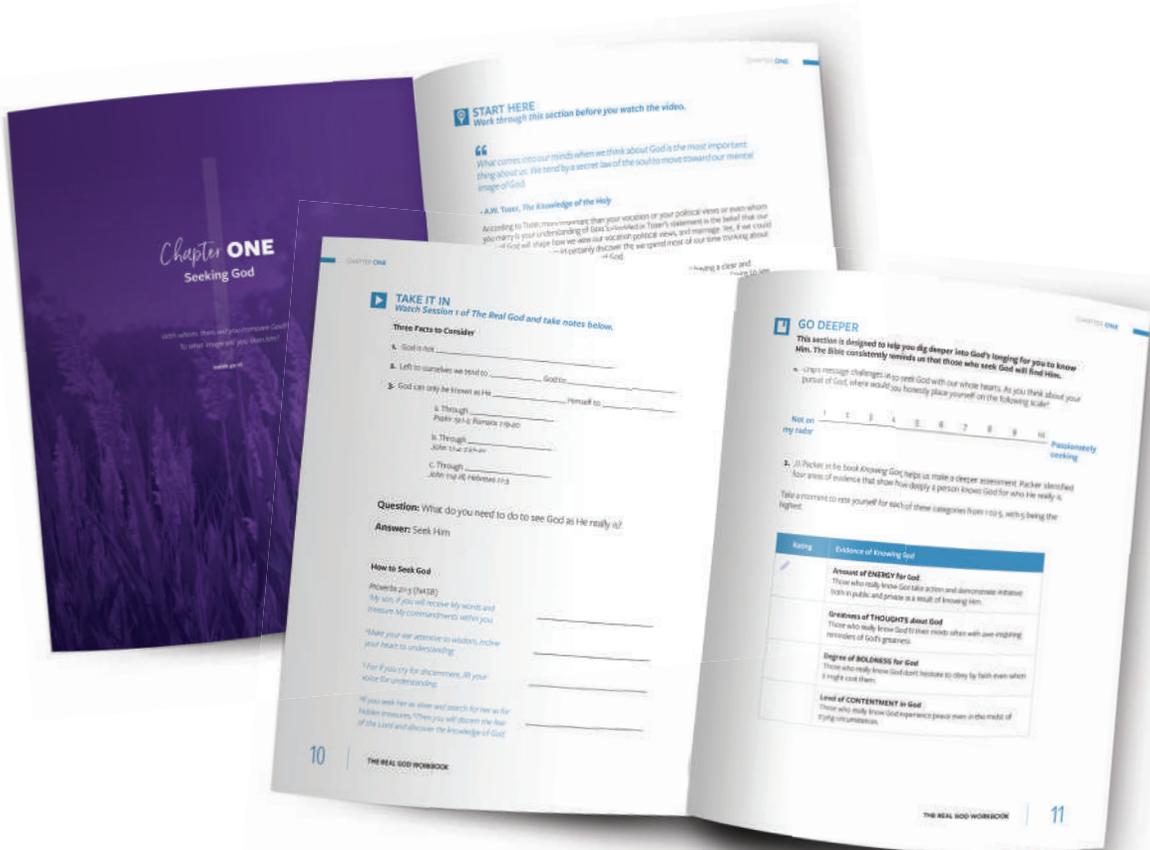
ADULTS ASSETS INCLUDE:

- Teaching Videos
- Bible Study Workbook



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THE REAL GOD BIBLE STUDY WORKBOOK



This interactive workbook provides a hands-on tool to help people process what they are learning each week.

Preview Chapter 1

Families

Week 1 Sample



In today's busy world, parents often struggle to make time for spiritual conversations. These resources will help them reclaim one family dinner per week by watching a four minute video and then discussing it with their children.

FAMILIES ASSETS INCLUDE:

- Devotional Video Stories
- Devotional Discussion Guide

THE REAL GOD FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE



The Family Devotional highlights key elements about the character of God, features discussion questions to generate meaningful conversation, and outlines action items to put these truths into practice.

Preview the Videos Online

Students

Week 1 Sample



Students are constantly bombarded with lies about God’s character. When they lack answers, doubt - amplified by cultural pressure - begins to grow. These resources give youth workers tools to challenge students to seek the truth about who God really is.

STUDENT ASSETS INCLUDE:

- Sermons with Sermon Guide
- Sermon Slides
- Crowd Games
- Small Group Lessons



DOUG FIELDS developed *The Real God Student Edition*. He has been a leading influence in youth ministry for 30 years. The former youth pastor at Saddleback church has authored over 50 books and co-founded DownloadYouthMinistry.com.

SERMON GUIDE:

THE GOODNESS OF GOD

The Real God, Part 1

GETTING STARTED

The purpose of this guide is to help you get a deeper understanding of the teaching outline. Before you teach this to your students, you'll need to (a) add personal stories and illustrations and (b) adapt the message so it fits your ministry context. Our intention is to provide enough content for a 30-minute message. You may need to slim it down or beef it up in order to fit your needs.

To help your students understand that God's goodness means he wants the very best for us.

A word on formatting:

Normal text is a note to you (the teacher) explaining the key points of the outline.

BOLD, italicized text is a "script" for you to teach as is or adapt.

Yellow highlighted text is material from the outline that students use.

INTRODUCTION

Set up the overall series before jumping into the sermon by establishing the point that "everyone has an opinion about God, and what a person thinks about God is important because it impacts the way one thinks, speaks, and ultimately lives their life."

You may highlight a few common/popular ways of looking at God. Below are a few suggestions. Use examples that are most relevant to your ministry context.

Everyone has an opinion about God—even those who don't believe God exists. If you had to describe God in just a few words, what would you say? Do you think God is fun? Angry? Distant? These opinions matter because they impact how we treat God and how we live our lives.

SERMON OUTLINE:

THE GOODNESS OF GOD

The Real God, Part 1

GETTING STARTED: THREE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

- What do you think about God?
- How do you think God thinks about you?
- How might your answers impact your relationship with God?

God's goodness means he wants THE VERY BEST FOR US.

"For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. LORD Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you." (Psalm 84:11-12)

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

1. Change the way YOU THINK about goodness.

"You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees." (Psalm 119:68)

"All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one." (Psalm 14:3)

"But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil." (Hebrews 5:14)

2. Believe that God is good ALL THE TIME, even when life is tough or difficult.

"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him." (Psalm 34:8)

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28).

3. Give thanks to God for the GOOD THINGS in your life.

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good." (Psalm 106:1)

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." (James 1:17)

SMALL GROUP LESSON: THE GOODNESS OF GOD

The Real God, Part 1

DISCUSSION STARTERS

Read through the questions below and pick the ones that would work best for your group. Chances are, you won't need to work through all of them! Ask the questions in your own words—don't feel that you need to read them "as is." And feel free to ask your own questions! Keep the overall objective in mind so that no matter what "path" your conversation takes, you end up driving home the objective.

OBJECTIVE

To help your students understand that God's goodness means he wants the very best for us.

1. WARM UP

- Let's get started by talking about some examples of good people. Who is someone you consider to be good, and why?
- Based on what you remember from the message, what's your definition of God's goodness?

2. SET UP THE PASSAGE

The Bible is filled with teachings and true stories about God's goodness. In today's study, we are going to focus on a popular teaching from Jesus that is commonly called the parable of the lost (or prodigal) son. This is an amazing story of a father's unconditional love for both of his children.

3. CONTEXT QUESTIONS (focus on scripture)

- Read the passage out loud (consider having a different student read it a second time).
- Does anyone have any questions about this passage? Did you find anything confusing or difficult to understand?
- Without looking at the passage, retell this parable in your own words. Does anyone else have something to add?
- In this parable, the Father represents God. How is the Father's goodness expressed in this passage?

Children

Week 1 Sample



Children are super impressionable. A warped sense of who God is can form early in children's lives based on relationships and experiences. *The Real God* for Children helps establish an understandable, Biblical foundation of truth about who God is.

CHILDREN ASSETS INCLUDE:

- Lessons for PreK-K, 1st-3rd and 4th-6th
- Reproducible Resources (PDFs)
- Worship Videos
- Parent Handouts



DR. MICHELLE ANTHONY created *The Real God* Children's Curriculum. She is the Family Ministry Ambassador at David C. Cook, founder of Tru Children's Curriculum and Family Pastor at New Life Church in Colorado Springs, CO.

LESSON 1: God is Good

GOD STATEMENT: God is Good

PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 4:4; 2 Samuel 9 (Mephibosheth)

MEMORY VERSE: *"The Lord is good to everyone. He shows compassion on all his creation. All of your works will thank you, Lord, and your faithful followers will praise you." Psalm 145:9-10 (NLT)*



Seek (Leader Prep)

God's GOODNESS is seen in the quality of His work and in the nature of His character. This quality of goodness shows His delight in being generous to us in gifts of compassion, grace, loving kindness, forgiveness, and blessing us with every good thing He desires for us.

A.W. Tozer explains it like this: *"The goodness of God is that which disposes Him to be kind, cordial, benevolent, and full of good will toward men. He is tenderhearted and of quick sympathy, and His unfailing attitude toward all moral beings is open, frank and friendly. By His nature He is inclined to bestow*

**By [God's] nature He is inclined to bestow blessedness and He takes total pleasure in the happiness of His people.
- A.W. Tozer**

blessedness and He takes total pleasure in the happiness of His people. "God looks at you with all your baggage, junk, mess-ups and hang ups and says, "I want to be generous to you. I long to give to you just what would make you happy- not because you deserve it but because there's something about who I am that would bring Me infinite joy to express that generosity to you."

God's nature doesn't change. He is good all the time. Our circumstances might change, but His goodness to us is never changing. We may be faced with situations that are out of our control, but we are called to rest in His goodness anyway. Remember, He takes great delight in being generous to you with gifts of peace, joy, mercy, compassion, and His unfailing love. Praise God!

Reflect on this Scripture, *"For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless."* Psalm 84:11

THE REAL GOD

REPRODUCIBLE RESOURCES

Illustrator's Script

Note to the Illustrator: you may choose to make each scene as elaborate as you'd like. This script is a tool to indicate pacing and scene sequencing. Suggested images are intended to be simple for ease of use. Again, if time and desire, expand the illustrations for each scene.

Long ago in a land very far away there lived a king named David. He was a good king and had lived many great adventures. When he was a boy he cared for his family's sheep. Add a sheep next to the king. The shepherd protected them from lions, bears, and other wild animals. He fought a powerful giant and God used David to win the battle. He also wrote and sang many worship songs called "psalms". On one day he came from king's mouth and surrounded him.

Erase all drawings.

David served the king. And the king loved him. And the king gave him a crown and a scepter. And the king gave him a kingdom. And the king gave him a wife. And the king gave him a son. And the king gave him a daughter. And the king gave him a kingdom. And the king gave him a wife. And the king gave him a son. And the king gave him a daughter.

Erase all drawings.

One day David was in a battle with Goliath. Many soldiers were killed. But David was not afraid. He fought Goliath and won. He cut off Goliath's head and brought it back to his army. The king was very happy. He gave David a reward. He gave him a kingdom. He gave him a wife. He gave him a son. He gave him a daughter.

Now David was a king. He was a good king. He was a just king. He was a kind king. He was a loving king. He was a merciful king. He was a gracious king. He was a generous king. He was a powerful king. He was a mighty king. He was a great king. He was a wonderful king. He was a marvelous king. He was a magnificent king. He was a glorious king. He was a splendid king. He was a magnificent king. He was a wonderful king. He was a marvelous king. He was a magnificent king. He was a glorious king. He was a splendid king.

The Real God

Activities designed to help children remember what they are learning each week in large and small group formats.

THE REAL GOD

PARENT HANDOUT

THIS WEEK WE LEARNED:

LESSON 1: The Goodness of God

GOD STATEMENT: *God is Good*

MEMORY VERSE: The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation. All of your works will thank you, Lord, and your faithful followers will praise you.

Psalm 145:9-10 (NLT)

SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 4:4; 2 Samuel 9 (Mephibosheth)

LESSON SUMMARY

The king then asked him, "Is anyone still alive from Saul's family? If so, I want to show God's kindness to them." (1 Samuel 9:3, NIV). As David invites Saul's grandson, Mephibosheth, to dine at his table, God reveals the riches and depth of His goodness through David. As we consider God's goodness to us, it challenges, us to show His goodness to others.

SPARK SOME CONVERSATION

- How would you feel if you were invited to eat at a king's table? What food do you think would be served?
- Now that you know *God is Good*, how will you talk to God? Others?
- How might God want to use you to show His goodness to others?

PUT GOD ON DISPLAY

Talk about ways God has shown His goodness to your family. Pray together and ask God to show you someone who needs to know His goodness. Invite them to your home for a meal and some fellowship just as David did with Mephibosheth.

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK:

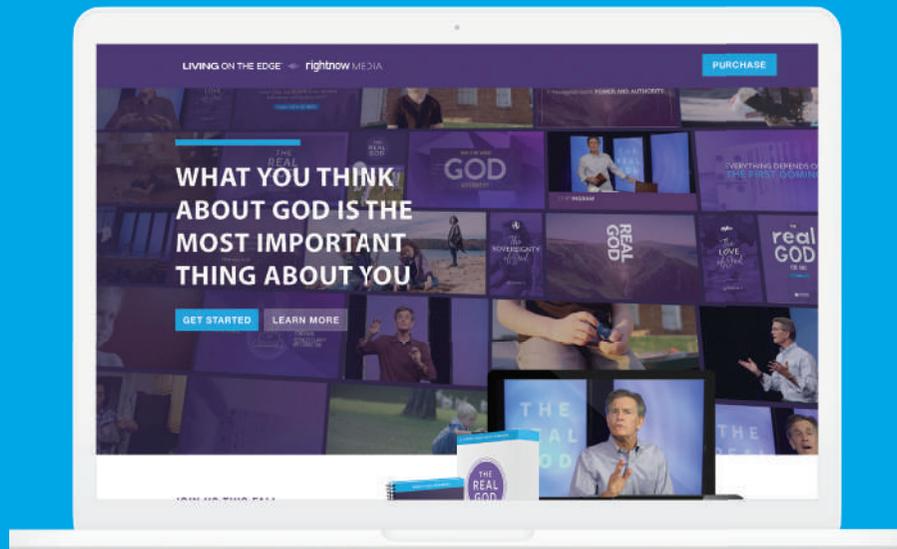
LESSON 2: The Sovereignty of God

GOD STATEMENT: *God is Sovereign*

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 37; 39-42 (Joseph)

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

8-Week Churchwide Discipleship Campaign



Seek and find *The Real God*
as He longs for you to see Him.

Find Out More at:

RealGodChurch.com