

The Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Study Program

A Leader's Guide for Group Discussion

Goodness

Song: "The Goodness of the Lord"
CD 1, Track 7

Insert G-1 through G-4

Composer: Donna Peña
Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Music CD

Materials Needed

Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible and Music CD, CD player, Participant's Worksheet, 1 Roll of Toilet Paper.

Setting the Stage

Before this session, mail (or e-mail) any member of the group that may not have been present at the last session the Participant's Worksheet for this session. Also, send a reminder of the date and time of the session as well as directions to the meeting place (if different from the church). To enhance the theme of **Goodness**, have the song "The Goodness of the Lord" playing in the background when the participant's arrive.

Warm Up - Optional (10 minutes)

Without saying why, nonchalantly unroll some paper from a toilet tissue roll (3 or 4 squares) and place it in front of you. Pass the roll to the right and ask the participants to each take "some" paper from the roll and put it in front of them. (Do not indicate how much paper to take off the roll or let them discuss or decide together.) When everyone has some paper in front of them and the roll is returned to you, advise the group that for every square of toilet paper that each one has in front of them they have to tell the group one good thing God has done for them in their lives. Ask for a volunteer to begin and move around the room until all have participated. Discuss your answers.

Opening Discussion (15 minutes)

Ask the participants to discuss their answers to the following questions: What small things can we do to make ourselves more conscious of God's goodness? How does our culture and society hide the fact that God is the source of all goodness?

Spiritual Awakening - Opening Prayer

Ask the participants to read together the **Opening Prayer** at the top of insert page G-2.

Spiritual Awakening - Recognizing (10 minutes)

Ask for volunteers to read aloud each of the Scripture passages in the **Recognizing** section of **Spiritual Awakening** on insert page G-2. Remind the participants that each reader will pause for a few seconds of silence after each passage to allow anyone to offer any spontaneous thought, prayer, praise or thanksgiving that this Scripture might inspire. After the final Scripture is read, ask the group, "What else do these Scriptures teach us about **Goodness**?" Share and discuss any responses.

Spiritual Awakening - Reflecting (15 minutes)

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the first Chapter of the Book of Genesis as a guided reflection. Encourage the participants to relax even closing their eyes to focus on the wonder and power of these events. Discuss how and why these events in the first creation story reflect the essence of what God Himself calls good?

Faith in Action (15 minutes)

Ask for another volunteer to read aloud the **Faith in Action** article "A Gift of Goodness" on insert G-4. When finished, discuss the following question: How is God's goodness revealed in times of extreme challenge or disaster? Ask each participant if there is some experience in their past where goodness came out of what could have been only a bad situation (i.e.; accidents, family problems or challenges, career or job changes, etc.).

Group Prayer (5 minutes)

Leader: O God, in Your Goodness, You are the source of all things. We ask You to shower us with Your grace and goodness in answer to our intentions today. Accept our praises, hear our thanks and answer the prayers we voice and the intentions we keep in our hearts: **enter aloud all individual intentions.** Continue to bless us and help us see Your goodness everyday. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Leader: Please turn to page 611 and read antiphonally Psalm 107 as our closing prayer today. We will all read verses 1-3 then alternate on sets I through V.

Fellowship (15 minutes)

After the session is completed and while refreshments are served, play softly in the background: "The Goodness of the Lord" from the Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Music CD.

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