Adapted from Leading Little Ones to God by Marian M. Schoolland (Eerdmans Publishing Co.)

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- Did you see something wonderful today?
- If you really looked around, you "must" have seen something wonderful.
- There are many, many wonderful things all around us.
- The big, round world that we live on is wonderful.

- The big blue sky over our heads is wonderful.
- Sometimes white clouds sail in the blue sky, like majestic ships.

- The clouds are spectacular, too.
- They are made of tiny drops of water that sail in the wind.

- At night the beautiful stars sparkle high above us – thousands and thousands of them.
- There are beautiful flowers and trees.
- There are pretty butterflies.
- There are all kinds of ants that build anthills or make homes deep under the ground.

 There are furry animals that live in the woods, rabbits and squirrels and chipmunks.

 There are birds that sing and fly and make amazing nests.

Oh, the world is certainly a spectacular place.

 Where did the world, and all these mindboggling things, come from?

 We know from the Bible that, "In the beginning God made the heavens and the earth."

 Before that "beginning", long ago, there was no sky.

There was no big round world.

 There were no clouds, no trees, no birds, no flowers. There were no people.

- But GOD was there. He is the "I AM".
- He has ALWAYS been.
- "For by him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:16-17)

 One day, God began to make all the wonderful things we see.

- First God made the heaven and the earth, the sky that is above us and the big round world we live on.
- But the sky was dark. The world was all dark, too.

 Then God said, "Let there be light!!" And there was light.

 God is LIGHT. He made light in the world so that we could know HIM, and so that we could see and enjoy the beautiful things He was going to make.

- He made the oceans and lakes and rivers.
- He sent some of the water up in the sky, to be clouds.
- He made mountains and hills.
- He made trees and grass and flowers.
- He made little birds and big elephants.
- He just spoke a word, and there they were.

And EVERYTHING God made was "very good".

Because God is GOOD.

And GOODNESS comes from God.

• The Psalmist declares, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." (Psalm 18:1)

 1 Chronicles 16:34 says, "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

 2 Chronicles 5:13 states, "The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: "He is good; his love endures forever." Then the temple of the LORD was filled with a cloud,

• In Psalm 106:1, 107:1, 118:1, 136:1 it emphasizes, "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever."

 And Jeremiah 33:11 says, "the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, and the voices of those who bring thank offerings to the house of the LORD, saying, "Give thanks to the LORD Almighty, for the LORD is good; his love endures forever." For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were before,' says the LORD."

 Do we take time to meditate and declare that GOD IS GOOD!!

 If we really believe that God is GOOD then our thinking of God and our life will change.

We will recognize that God wants GOOD for us!

 Yes, we will suffer at times. Sin has entered the world.

 But God is GOOD and His GOODNESS will help us overcome!!

How has God been good to you?

 Are you walking in God's goodness by faith knowing that He longs to be gracious to you?

 Let's take a moment and mediate on how God has been good to you.

#### **LET'S PRAY:**

- O God, our Father in heaven, we thank You for making all things good and beautiful.
- And we thank You for Your book, the Bible, that tells us how You made everything.
- You made all things just by speaking Your Word.

God You are Good.....so Good!!

Lord, You have been so good to us.

We thank You for Your Goodness.

In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

#### **SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT**

- How do we know who made everything?
- How could He make things, with nothing to make them of?
- How did God show His goodness throughout the Bible?
- How has God been good in your life?

#### **MEMORY VERSE:**

He has made everything beautiful in its time.

He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

(Ecclesiastes 3:11)

#### **SUGGESTED READING:**

 And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1:20-25)

#### A POEM:

Each little flower that opens, Each little bird that sings He made their glowing colors, He made their tiny wings All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small All things wise and wonderful The Lord God made them all.

## **ANOTHER BIBLE STUDY**

- Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.
   His love endures forever. (v.1)
- This psalm starts off with "thanks", proclaims God is "good", and tells His "love endures love."
- Give thanks to the God of gods. His love endures forever.
- Give thanks to the Lord of lords: His love endures forever. (v.2-3)
- As God of gods, and Lord of lords, He is above everyone & everything!!

- to him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever. (v.4)
- We can be in awe of man's achievements
  - but they are nothing compared to God's wonders!!
- While man is awed at mankind walking on the moon, God looks down and says, "I created the man and the moon."

- who by his understanding made the heavens,
   His love endures forever.
- who spread out the earth upon the waters,
   His love endures forever.
- who made the great lights—
   His love endures forever.
- the sun to govern the day,
   His love endures forever.
- the moon and stars to govern the night;
   His love endures forever. (v.5-9)
- Only God's understanding and wisdom could orchestrate the creation of the heavens and universes!!

- to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt His love endures forever. (v.10)
- Pharaoh had killed the first-born of Israel.
   God had warned, warned, and warned but finally He killed.
- God never "murders" but He will "kill" after giving profound warnings!!

- and brought Israel out from among them His love endures forever.
- with a mighty hand and outstretched arm;
   His love endures forever. (v.11-12)
- What a joyous day when God did the impossible and delivered Israel from Egypt. "We shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace."

- to him who divided the Red Sea asunder His love endures forever.
- and brought Israel through the midst of it,
   His love endures forever.
- but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea; His love endures forever. (v. 13-15)
- God delivered Israel from Egypt and destroyed their enemies!!

- to him who led his people through the desert, His love endures forever. (v.16)
- God brought them through the desert and their shoes did not wear out!!! Miracle upon miracle in the desert – manna from heaven, water from a stone, quail for meat, etc.

- who struck down great kings, His love endures forever.
- and killed mighty kings— His love endures forever.
- Sihon king of the Amorites His love endures forever.
- and Og king of Bashan— His love endures forever. (v.17-20)
- God defeated Israel's enemies and He will conquer ours!

- and gave their land as an inheritance, His love endures forever.
- an inheritance to his servant Israel; His love endures forever. (v.21-22)
- God gave Israel their inheritance and we will receive ours when Christ returns!!

- to the One who remembered us in our low estate - His love endures forever.
- and freed us from our enemies, His love endures forever.
- and who gives food to every creature. His love endures forever. (v.23-25)
- God never forgets His children, sets His people free from their enemies, and provides their needs!

- Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love endures forever. (v.26)
- Our response is continual ------

Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love endures forever.

The Goodness of God Is part of His character – (Psalm 25:8; Nahum 1:7; Matthew 19:17).

#### The Goodness of God is Declared to be:

- Great. (Nehemiah 9:35; Zechariah 9:17).
- Rich. (Psalms 104:24; Romans 2:4).
- Abundant. (Exodus 34:6; Psalms 33:5).
- Satisfying. (Psalms 65:4; Jer. 31:12,14).
- Enduring. (Psalms 23:6; 52:1).
- Universal. (Psalms 145:9; Matthew 5:45).

## The Goodness of God is Manifested (Shown):

- To his Church. (Psalms 31:19; Lam. 3:25).
- In doing good. (Psalms 119:68; 145:9).
- In supplying temporal wants. (Acts 14:17).
- In providing for the poor. (Psalms 68:10).

## The Goodness of God is Manifested (Shown):

- In forgiving sins. (2 Chr. 30:18; Psalms 86:5).
- Leads to repentance. (Romans 2:4).
- Recognize, in his dealings. (Ezra 8:18;
   Nehemiah 2:18).
- Pray for the manifestation of. (2 Thess. 1:11).

#### **LET'S PRAY:**