



Session 2 Viewer Guide

Discussion:

1. Why is it vital to have a right understanding of God's character?
2. Although it may sound overly simple to state that God is good, why is this specific quality a necessary truth to embrace?
3. Read James 1:5,12-13,17-18. What does each verse reveal about God's goodness?
4. The video included the following point. "One of the greatest anchors for your soul in the trials that come, regardless of the intensity of those trials, is the knowledge of the goodness and grace of God in your life. The greater the knowledge of God's goodness and grace, especially in the world of common grace, the more likely you are to praise Him in the storm." What is meant by the term common grace? How does it differ from God's specific blessings in the lives of believers?
5. What examples of common grace do you see in your life?
6. How does common grace serve as an anchor in trials and storms?
7. The difference between a trial and a temptation is huge. Trials lead to God's glorification. Temptations look for self-gratification. Trials build strength. Temptations seek weakness. Trials require perseverance. Temptations propose shortcuts. You'll be tempted to doubt God's goodness when you experience various trials.
 - What promises or benefits result from trials?
 - How do trials provide a pathway to Christian maturity?
 - How do trials make you aware of your need for God?
8. Matt addressed two major struggles in relation to trials: doubt and comparison. How would you describe the struggle of doubt? The struggle of comparison?
9. How can each of these struggles rob us of joy?
10. Which is a bigger struggle for you-doubt or comparison?

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11. How does the fact that God chose us and is for us change our perspective on hardship?
12. What remaining questions or comments do you have about the video teaching or discussion? What was challenging, convicting, encouraging, or timely for your current circumstances?