



## WEEK ONE – JULY 2019 – PRETEEN

**Bible Story:** *Back 2 Good • James 1:17a*

**Key Question:** *How can you show God's goodness to others?*

**Memory Verse:** *"God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns. Philippians 1:6, NIV"*

**Life App:** *What God is doing in you to change the world around you*

**Basic Truth:** *I should treat others the way I want to be treated.*

**Summary:** We start the month in James 1:17a. Jesus' brother, James, shares a bit of wisdom that reminds us how everything that's good comes from God. It's true! Everything good in our lives is because of God. And the best gift that God gives is Jesus. Because of what Jesus did for us, we can show God's goodness to others.

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## PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

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### 1. Just For Fun

*Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** “Goodness Word Search” Activity Pages, pencils or markers

**What You Do:**

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up.
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the Snack Shack
- Give kids a “Goodness Word Search” and a pencil.
- Challenge kids to find the “goodness” in the word search—who could find the most “goodness?” (Note: Goodness shows up 14 times.)

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

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## LARGE GROUP

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**OVERVIEW:**

**Key Question:** *How can you show God’s goodness to others? Give kids a “Goodness Word Search” and a pencil. Challenge kids to find the “goodness” in the word search—who could find the most “goodness?” (Note: Goodness shows up 14 times.)*

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## SMALL GROUP

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### 1. Take a Snapshot

**[Application Activity]**

*Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**What You Need:** Index cards, labeled containers, pencils or markers, tape, large sheets of paper

**What You Do:**

- Give kids four index cards and pencils.
- Place four containers in front of the group. Containers are labeled:
  - Things

- People
- Skills
- Places
- Instruct kids to write the following “good gifts” on each card.
  - Card 1: A thing or object they would consider a “good gift.”
  - Card 2: A person. Instruct students not to use a proper name but to use a generic description like “firefighter” or “teacher” or “sister.”
  - Card 3: Something you are good at or a talent or skill someone could have.
  - Card 4: A place they like to be.
- Tell kids to put their cards in the corresponding containers.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Tape two sheets of paper on the wall, one for each team.
- Explain kids are going to play a drawing guessing game.
- To play:
  - Each team selects a kid to be the “artist.”
  - Each artist selects a card from the same container.
  - Both artists draw pictures trying to get their teams to guess what is on their cards.
  - Once a team guesses correctly, they get a point.
  - Play another round using the cards from the other containers. Play at least four rounds.
- After the game, remove all the cards from the containers.
- Guide students to group similar “good gifts” together and discuss the “good gifts” on the cards.
- Ask: Why do you think these are “good gifts”? What do they have in common? What makes them “good”?

## 2. Discussion Questions

### [Application Activity]

*Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** N/A

### What You Do:

- Ask:
  - What are some other good things in your life that haven’t already been talked about today?
  - When you trust God and accept Jesus’ gift of salvation, God gives you His Spirit to help you become more like Jesus. Goodness is a fruit of the Spirit, and the Spirit helps us to show goodness to the world. What does it look like for us to show goodness to others?

- How could intentionally thanking God for the gifts He has given you help you to show goodness to others?
- What could you do each day to make sure you're aware of the goodness around you?

### 3. Verses to Take With You

#### [Memory Verse Activity]

*Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**What You Need:** “Gift Journals,” markers or pencils, miscellaneous craft supplies, Bibles

#### What You Do:

- Provide kids with a “Gift Journal.”
- Look up James 1:17a.
- Encourage kids to write the words of James 1:17a on the first page of their journals.
- For the second page of the journal, challenge kids to create a page for a “good gift” from God.
- Encourage them to be creative.
  - They can write or draw in their journal.
  - Or use stickers or stamps to create a page.
- Challenge students to continue adding a “good gift” each day this week.
  - Maybe they can print an image from their computer or tablet or cut a picture from a magazine to put in their journals.
- Provide craft supplies for kids to create the first page in their journal and, if time allows, to plan out a few other days for later in the week.
- As kids work, consider asking:
  - When would be a good time to intentionally set aside time to fill out their “Gift Journal?” (before school, lunchtime, before dinner, at night before they go to bed)
  - How could intentionally thanking God for the gifts He has given you help you to show goodness to others?
  - How are the memory verses we learn each month “good gifts?”
  - Look up this month’s memory verse, Philippians 1:6, and read it to the kids. How could our memory verse remind us to show goodness to others?

### 4. Make It Personal with Prayer

#### [Prayer Activity]

*Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** Wrapping paper squares, scissors, “The Cross” Activity Page

### **What You Do:**

- Begin folding a piece of wrapping paper as described in “The Cross” Activity Page.
  - *Note: To reduce distractions, practice this at home before your group meets so you will be able to do it without looking at the instructions.*
- Explain we have been talking a lot about “good gifts” from God.
- Ask:
  - What is the best and most perfect gift from God? (As you ask this question and listen to the kids’ answers, finish folding your paper and cut your paper as instructed on “The Cross” Activity Page and reveal the cross.)
  - Why is Jesus the best and most perfect gift from God? (Allow kids to tell the salvation story in their own words. Prompt them when necessary. This is a mentoring opportunity to help kids understand how to talk about Jesus and what He means to them.)
  - Follow up questions could include: Why did God send Jesus to us? Did God give the gift of Jesus to everyone? How can Jesus—God’s perfect gift—be in your life?
- If time allows, give kids wrapping paper and scissors and guide them to cut out a paper cross.
  - Encourage kids to put their cross in their “Gift Journals.”
- Close in prayer:

### **What You Say:**

*“God, You are so good. You love us and watch over us. You give us what we need, every good and perfect gift. And the most important gift You gave us was Jesus. Guide us, God, to use the gifts You have given us to show goodness to others and to show others how much Jesus means to us. Amen!”*

***As adults arrive to pick up, don’t forget to hand out this month’s content overview to each parent!***