



#2 The Handhold of GOODNESS

2. Warm-up Questions:

Take a few minutes as a whole group to share how you experienced and practiced your action step from last week (“FAITH”).

Then, move into triads to interact about this question for today’s session.

- What are some recent incidents, current movements, or moral challenges in our culture that stand in opposition to a Christian world view and morality which tend to intimidate Christ followers into silence or withdrawal?

Rank the top three according to their degree of threat or opposition to a biblical world view.

Inductive Bible Study:

Observation (what does it say?) SPEND MOST OF YOUR TIME HERE!

As you read the text, ask: WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHY, WHEN, HOW?

Circle and draw lines to similar thoughts.
Notice contrasts and key words.

Interpretation (what does it mean?)

- What are the author’s central thoughts to the reader?
- What is the context (time, place, circumstance, audience)?
- What spiritual principle or lifestyle change is addressed?



Application (what does it mean for my life?)

- What action step would demonstrate my obedience to what God is saying in this passage?

Romans 12:9-21

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.[a] Do not be conceited.

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay,"[b] says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."[c] 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

After you have completed your personal study, spend a few minutes unpacking your discoveries with your triad.

Remember, these Romans are first-generation, brand new believers! They have never been to Sunday School, summer camp, or grown up in Christian homes. They have no books, and not even a New Testament! But look what the Spirit of God wants to do in their daily lives. How is this kind of GOODNESS possible?



T E A C H I N G

Action Steps:

Think of actions or words that would cause you to “climb above your protection” to counteract the status quo and practice pro-active Goodness.

- In my extended family:
- At my workplace:
- With a friend or neighbor:
- In my marriage:

- Who needs to receive GOODNESS through me? Even if it requires some effort, or entails some risk.
Add to your FAITH, GOODNESS. . . .

(Name: _____)

Close out your time by praying for each other.

Prepare for Session #3: Read Chapter 4 in DNRT: KNOWLEDGE