

# KNOWN

## Goodness Gracious *A Study on Kindness, Goodness, and Gentleness*

### A Guide for Parents

Note: A free **KNOWN Parent Podcast** is available at [www.lifeway.com/known](http://www.lifeway.com/known)—just follow the Parent Podcast link. You can subscribe to the podcast for free or just listen online.

**Use the following information and questions to reinforce the truths of this month of Bible study at home. Use one or two of the discussion starters to begin a conversation. Look for teachable moments—at home, in the car, or at a game. Pray and ask God to provide you opportunities to have spiritual conversations with your teenager(s).**

#### Session 1 **Sunday, September 25, 2011**

##### A Kind God

Luke 6:35; Romans 2:4; Ephesians 2:4-7

##### THE QUESTION

What does it mean for God to be kind?

##### THE POINT

God's kindness moves us to a relationship with Him.

##### DISCUSSION STARTERS

- > What does it mean to be kind?
- > Would you naturally be kind to your enemy? Why or why not?
- > When you show kindness to others, how much of God do they see in you?
- > How has God shown His kindness to you?
- > How are mercy and grace a part of God's kindness to you?
- > What does it mean to repent of something?
- > How does God extend His kindness to people today?

#### Session 2 **Sunday, October 2, 2011**

##### A Good God

Psalm 25:6-11

##### THE QUESTION

What does it mean for God to be good?

##### THE POINT

God's goodness is displayed in all His ways.

##### DISCUSSION STARTERS

- > How is God good? Is there anything about God that is not good? Explain.
- > How does God faithfully love us no matter what?
- > Is there any sin that God cannot forgive? Explain.
- > What does it mean to you that God forgives you?
- > How does God guide you as a result of His goodness?
- > In what ways has the goodness of God changed your life?
- > How often do you tell your friends about the goodness of God?

### Session 3 **Sunday, October 9, 2011**

#### **A Gentle God**

**Mark 10:13-16; Luke 5:12-13; John 8:10-11**

#### **THE QUESTION**

What does it mean for God to be gentle?

#### **THE POINT**

Jesus is our example of God's gentleness.

#### **DISCUSSION STARTERS**

- > When you hear the word gentle, what do you think of?
- > When you think about God, would you consider Him gentle? Why or why not?
- > In what ways was Jesus gentle to those who were outcasts?
- > In what ways did Jesus display gentleness to those nobody wanted to touch or go near?
- > Who would you say is someone who is unforgiveable? Why?
- > If that person came to Christ seconds before death, would God forgive him or her? Why or why not?
- > How is gentleness displayed in Christ's ability to forgive?

### Session 4 **Sunday, October 16, 2011**

#### **A Reflection of God**

**Galatians 5:22-23; Colossians 3:12-13; 1 Peter 3:15-16**

#### **THE QUESTION**

Why should I be kind, good, and gentle?

#### **THE POINT**

You are a reflection of God to others.

#### **DISCUSSION STARTERS**

- > Who would you say you are more a reflection of, your mom or dad? What would others say?
- > In what ways would you say you are a reflection of God?
- > How would others describe your character? How would you describe your character?
- > How important is it to you for other people to see a reflection of Christ in your character?
- > What are some things you can do to improve your kindness, goodness, and gentleness?
- > What are some specific situations where you need to be kind, good, and gentle?

### **From Living with Teenagers**

#### **Talk Isn't Cheap**

*These words are typically associated with adolescence, reflecting that stage of life and development. But I am not talking about the behavior of teens. I am referring to their parents.*

*Too many times, parents can get short-sighted when dealing with their teens. It is easy to understand how quickly conversations can escalate since teens seem to know intuitively how to step on their mom and dad's last nerve. Nevertheless, it's important for parents to step back and recognize the significance of keeping their focus on the bigger picture of parenting: to model the nature, mercy, and character of God.*

This is a preview of the full article available in the October 2011 issue of *Living with Teenagers* magazine.

**Living with Teenagers** is a monthly magazine designed to provide relevant information, practical ideas, and biblical encouragement to parents of teenagers. Go to [www.lifeway.com/magazines](http://www.lifeway.com/magazines) and click on the Living with Teenagers link under "Parenting."