

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: GOODNESS

Acts 11:19-24

MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. A GOOD PERSON IS PLEASANT
2. A GOOD PERSON IS HELPFUL
3. A GOOD PERSON IS HONEST
4. A GOOD PERSON IS OPTIMISTIC
5. A GOOD PERSON IS NOT PERFECT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick two or three of these to talk about as a group

1. What was most helpful for you from this week's message? Why?
2. This week's message was about goodness. "Good" is a broad term that carries various meanings. What are some things you would describe as good?
3. From the life of Barnabas we can see that a good person is pleasant, helpful, honest, optimistic and not perfect. What are some ways this description of a good person challenges or deepens your understanding of goodness?
4. One of the main ideas this week was that "A Good Person is Optimistic." Barnabas believed that people could change, not because they were capable of transforming their own lives but because God is capable of transforming anyone's life. Who are some people in your life you could give a second chance or be more optimistic about their potential for change? Where does this sort of optimism come from? How do we maintain optimism that people can change without being hopelessly naïve?
5. Barnabas was known as "the son of encouragement" by his closest friends. What nickname would your friends give you if they were basing it on your most dominant character trait? (**Exercise:** Ask two or three of your closest friends or family members what they think your nickname would be.)
6. Go through each of the five hallmarks of a good person and consider: Are you a good person? Why or why not?
7. Barnabas was described as being "full of the Holy Spirit." What is the difference between having the Spirit in you and being filled with the Spirit? How do we become more filled with the Holy Spirit?

A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU: We can be good when we experience the goodness of Jesus and receive His goodness as our own through putting our trust in Him.