

## Commended by God

Hebrews 11:1-7

Most fundamental question for life:

Where does goodness come from?

Hebrews 11:1-7

### The Big Idea

**Faith in God brings the goodness of God**

When the sun shines, the stars are invisible

Yet the stars are unchanged

When storms come, the stars are invisible

Yet the stars are unchanged

The stars are the goodness of God

Sometimes they are very clear to us

Sometimes 'good' things hide God's goodness from us

"the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful." Mark 4:19

Sometimes troubles hide God's goodness from us

"How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?" Psalm 13:1

**Where does goodness come from?**

"I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;

apart from you I have no good thing." Psalm 16:2

God rewards active faith in God whether we can see any good or not

### Application

**Pursue goodness from God**

When the stars are clear

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." Psalm 100:1-2

When the sun is bright

"the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things"

choke our love for God

"Walk by faith, not by sight"

When the storms are dark

"This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

the steadfast love of the LORD never ceases."

God brings good when no other good can be found

**Seek Goodness from God when no Good is around**

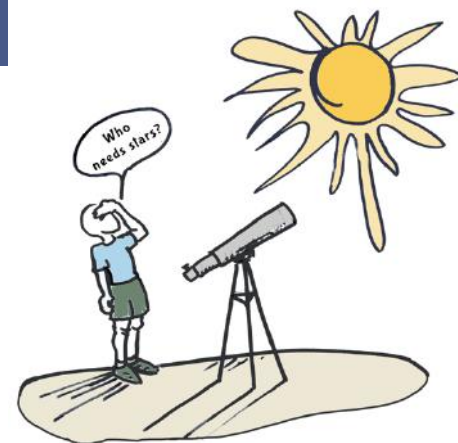
"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." Matthew 10:29-31

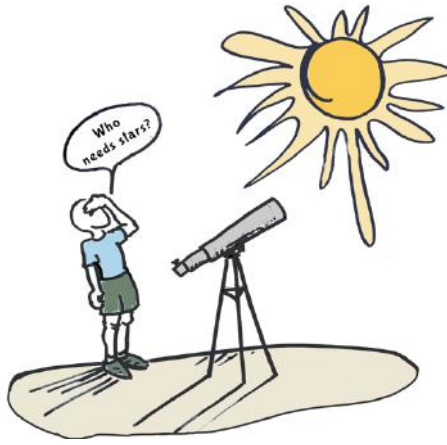
"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters." Romans 8:28-29

"For we live by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7

**A man in desperate need of goodness: Mark 9:22-24**

**Find and follow Jesus: Hebrews 12:1b-2**





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### Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. Which of the 3 pictures best expresses where your heart is today? Why?
2. What 'good' things can keep you from believing that God is the only source of true goodness? How might you be tempted to put your hope in these other things rather than God?
3. What storms and troubles can keep you from believing that God is truly the source of goodness, and that He will certainly bring that goodness to you?
4. Who or what in your life is eroding your faith in God? Who or what in your life is building up your faith in God? What changes should you make in order grow your faith in God?

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### Conversation Starters

Where does goodness come from? What has led you to believe that?