LOW-ENERGY GAME
Wrapped in Goodness

[10 min]

Supplies

- rolls of crepe paper (1 roll for every 2 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

"Bandage" Teammates From Head to Toe

Say: **Today we learned about the good Samaritan—a story Jesus told that shows us what goodness is. The Samaritan showed goodness by bandaging a man who'd been wounded and caring for him. Let's play a game where you'll "bandage" and care for a partner.**

- Form pairs, and give each pair a roll of crepe paper.
- Have partners decide who'll be "bandaged" (wrapped in crepe paper) and who'll do the wrapping for their first round.
- Kids will try to bandage their partner as quickly as they can, wrapping the person from neck to toe in two minutes. The crepe paper should cover the person as completely as possible without gaps between wrap layers.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.
- After the first person is wrapped, the partners will *carefully* unwrap the person and reroll the crepe paper so partners can switch roles. The goal is to not rip the crepe paper.
- Play another bandaging round, allowing partners to switch roles so everyone has a chance to be wrapped.

Talk About It

Ask: **• What did you enjoy about bandaging your partner?**

• What do you enjoy about doing good for others in real life? Share an example of your own, such as the joy you had after helping a friend with an overwhelming problem.

Say: **Goodness brings good to everyone—the people showing goodness, the people receiving it, and even those who only see or hear about an act of goodness. Goodness is a fruit of the Spirit, and it's a powerful way God does good for us and through us.**

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TALK-ABOUT VIDEO
A Good Guy

[10 min]

Supplies

- “A Good Guy” teaching video

Discuss and Watch “A Good Guy”

Say: **We’re learning that goodness is a fruit of the Spirit. In our Bible story, Jesus told about a guy who showed goodness. Let’s see what happened from the point of view of the guy who received the goodness.**

Watch “A Good Guy.”

Ask: **• How did it change your perspective to hear the story from the victim’s view?**

• What do you think of the priest and the temple assistant who walked right on by?

• When have you *needed* someone to show you goodness? What happened?

• How was your story like what happened to the man who was robbed and beaten? How is it different?

Say: **In Jesus’ story, an unexpected person was the one to show goodness. We all have times we need someone to show us goodness, and we can be on the lookout for people who need us to show them God’s goodness. Goodness is a fruit of the Spirit.**

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DEEPER BIBLE
Does Doing Good Things Make God Like Me More?

[15 min]

Supplies

- Bibles
- plain white paper (2 sheets per child)
- brewed coffee

Easy Prep

- Ahead of time, stain half the white sheets of paper with coffee, and set them out to dry. Leave the rest of the paper clean and white. You'll need 1 stained sheet and 1 clean sheet per child.

Set It Up

Say: **We're learning that goodness is a fruit of the Spirit. And you've probably heard that Christians should be good, or maybe you've heard a parent or teacher say "Be good."**

So if goodness is so important to God, does that mean doing good things makes God like us more? Let's dig in to that.

Dig Deeper

Say: **First, let's take a look at some people who did good things all the time! They were the religious leaders of Jesus' day, and they were the ones everyone looked up to as the people who did the most good things. Let's see what Jesus said about them.**

Read Matthew 23:23-28.

Ask: **• Do you think Jesus liked them more because they did good things? Why do you say that?**

Say: **It wasn't that Jesus didn't like the good things they did, but he saw that their *hearts* weren't good. They were doing good things to show off and be better than other people. And they were *ignoring* more important things like justice and faith. Goodness that comes from selfish motives isn't God's goodness.**

But don't think that God doesn't like us to do good things. Check this out.

Read James 2:14-18.

Say: **It seems like God's love isn't really related to doing good things—but he *does* want us to do them. What really matters is where our good deeds come from—or *why* we do them. I'll show you what I mean.**

Make Paper Airplanes

Give each child two pieces of paper: one that's clean, and one that's stained. Have kids make paper airplanes. If any kids don't know how, ask them to find another child to show them.

After kids make their airplanes, have them fly both of them around.

Ask: **• What's the difference between your two airplanes?**

• Which airplane is more like the religious leaders Jesus was talking to? Why?

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• What does it look like if you do good things but your heart is bad, like the dirty paper? How about if your heart is good like the clean paper?

Say: **People can do good things that come out of a gross and dirty heart, just like the Pharisees did in the Bible. It's still good, but God sees their hearts. That's like our dirty airplanes that still flew but were gross. On the other hand, we can be like the clean airplanes. We can get to know God and let *him* help us do good things out of a heart full of his goodness.**

Either way, God's love doesn't change. He loved the Pharisees, even when he wasn't too happy with the way they acted. And he loves us no matter what. His love is so big! But he wants us to do good things that flow out of a friendship with him—not do things in our own strength. That's why goodness is a fruit of the Spirit: That means it's a gift from God!

So, doing good things won't make God like us more. But when God makes us more like him, doing good things will be a more natural response.

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LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP
Thank Goodness

[5 min]

Supplies

- Bible
- backpack printable

Thank God for His Goodness

- Have kids take turns removing items from the backpack. For each item, remind kids what it means, and have them pause to thank God for showing his goodness in that way. Below is the significance of each item again for your reference.
    - Ointment reminds us of God's healing in our lives.
    - Bandages remind us that God protects us.
    - Elastic bandages remind us that God's goodness is wrapped around us.
    - A donkey reminds us that God lifts us up and eases our burdens.
    - Money reminds us that God provides for us.
    - A blanket reminds us that God's goodness is comforting when life is hard.

Wrap Up

Pray: **God, you are so good! Thank you for your goodness and for giving us goodness as a fruit of the Spirit. Show us your goodness this week, and help us show your goodness to others. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.

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ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT
Oh Goodness!

[10 min]

Supplies

- “Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness” Coloring Page
- envelopes
- crayons

Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: **Today we’re learning about the fruit of goodness. When we love Jesus, he helps us do good things. Jesus talked about a man—a Samaritan who helped an injured man get to safety. Let’s think about goodness as we try to do what the good Samaritan did.**

Distribute the activity pages. Kids will rip up the page, then reassemble it like a jigsaw puzzle. When they finish, provide envelopes so they can take the puzzle home.

Ask: **• First you had to rip the page apart. What not-so-good things do people do that make others feel torn up or hurt on the inside?**

• Then you put the page back together. What good things can we do to help when others are hurting?

Say: **Goodness is a fruit of the Spirit. It’s good to do the right thing, show kindness, and share God’s love. Rather than tearing people down, we build them back up!**

Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: **Today we learned that goodness is a fruit of the Spirit. Jesus gave an example of someone who’s good: someone who stops to help people in need. Let’s color that.**

Allow time for kids to color.

When kids finish coloring, three-hole-punch their pages and put them into binders, if desired.

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