

# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT SERIES

## PSALM 107

### GOODNESS

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Psalm 107 is the classic exposition of God's goodness. J.I. Packer writes: "The whole psalm is a majestic panorama of the operations of divine goodness, transforming human lives."\* God's actions reveal goodness in its highest and purest form. His goodness provides the standard for developing this fruit in our own lives.

1. Try to imagine what it would be like if God were to withdraw all his goodness from you. How would your life be changed?
2. Read Psalm 107. How do verses 1–3 introduce the major themes of the psalm?
3. The psalmist gives four illustrations of God's goodness in verses 4–9, 10–16, 17–22, and 23–32. What do each of these illustrations have in common?
4. What needs do the people have in each of these sections?
5. In each instance what action taken by the people resulted in their deliverance?

Is this usually your first reaction when you find yourself in distress? If not, what is?

6. Repeatedly the psalmist urges those who have been delivered to "give thanks to the Lord." Why do we need to be reminded of this?
7. According to the psalmist, what are some ways we should give thanks to God for his goodness and love (vv. 22, 32)?

8. What do verses 33–42 reveal about the ups and downs of life?
  
9. The psalmist concludes in verse 43: “Whoever is wise, let him heed these things.” What things does he want us to heed?
  
10. In what ways can we imitate the goodness of God displayed in this psalm?
  
11. Thank God for his goodness and unfailing love. Ask him to help you develop the fruit of goodness in your life.

\**Knowing God* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1973) p. 148.