



# The Word at Work

## God is Good!

### Reading the Word

**Key Scriptures:** various

**Key Points:**

### **Introduction:**

- The river flows from the sanctuary to the street
- The sanctuary is the place where we seek the face of God.
- The face of God speaks to us of the favour of God

### **God's Face and God's Goodness**

- To see God's face is to see God's goodness (Gen.33:10; Num.6:22-27; Job 33:36; Psalm 4:6; 67:1)
- Moses asked to see the face/glory of God – to see what God is really like – and God's response was to cause all his goodness to pass before him (Ex.33:12-34:23).
- It is important that we know what God is truly like because the knowledge of God is the basis for our faith. That is why those who know their God are able to overcome the enemy (Daniel 11:32)
- Many people have a distorted view of God and for some this comes from a wrong reading of the Bible – they fail to read the OT in the light of the NT.

### **Understanding the new covenant.**

- The OT law was given to make us aware of our sin and our inability to meet God's standards. In doing so, it shows us our need of a Saviour and so lead us to Christ and the grace that is in him (Gal.3:23-25)
- The severe punishments under the OT Law do not convey a complete revelation of what God is like. They are not inaccurate (God judges sin) but they are incomplete (through Christ he has dealt with sin so that we can receive the mercy of God) – see John 1:17)
- There is a progression to God revealing what he is like through the Bible – and the fullest and complete revelation of what he is like comes in the person of Jesus Christ (2 Cor.4:6; Heb.1:1-3).
- Jesus introduces a new covenant which reveals God's mercy, grace, goodness and power for living (Heb.9:15).
- What hinders many Christians in their life is that they still have an OT mindset when thinking about God – that he is constantly judging, condemning and is angry with them.

### **Goodness and Power**

- A revelation of the goodness of God will lead to a release of the power of God (Luke 1:13; Ezek.39:29; 2 Peter 1:3)
- This is one of the reasons why we must grow in our knowledge of God through Jesus, and get a true idea of what he is really like.

### Doing the Word

#### **To Discuss:**

1. What are some of the distorted views of God that people have?
2. How do these distorted views affect how people live?

#### **To Do:**

1. Read about Jesus in the gospels and make some notes about what he shows us about what God is really like

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