**God Is Great, God Is Good**

After the fall of Jerusalem and its total destruction by the Babylonians, Jeremiah wept, but he did not blame God because he was gripped by several basic convictions. In the good times and the bad, we need to be gripped by these same truths.

**1. Our trials come from *the Lord*** (19-20, 38)

**2. The Lord is good to *His own*** (21-25)

**3. It is good to bear the *Lord’s yoke*** (26-28)

Matthew 11:28-30

1. The yoke of *submission*

B. The yoke of *suffering*

**4. The Lord does not afflict from *His heart*** (33)

**5. We have no right to *complain*** (39)

**6. Therefore, cling to *hope*** (21, 29-32)

**For additional study or family discussion**

1. What did the Lord say to you today through His word? Did you learn some new truth about God or yourself? Did the Lord challenge you, convict you, or encourage you?

2. Romans 8:28-39

To whom is the Lord always good?

God is for us (v. 31)—who are the “us”?

How does the Lord show His goodness through the trials and troubles of His people?

3. “The Lord is good to all in some ways and to some in all ways” (J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*, 1993 edn, p. 162).

How do Psalm 145:9 and Lamentations 3:25 support this statement by Packer?

In what ways is the Lord good to all? (Hint: Look at Psalm 145).

How might we explain Psalm 84:11 in view of the fact that we can think of many “good” things that God doesn’t give us?

“Those who have come through dark nights of their own, not just once but over and over again, often cannot find the words to say why they would not trade those nights for anything. ‘Yes, they were nights of great loss. Yes, the soul suffered from fearful subtraction. Yes, a great emptiness opened up where I had stored all my spiritual treasures, and yet.’ And yet what? ‘And yet what remained when everything else was gone was more real than anything I could have imagined. I was no longer apart from what I sought; I was part of it, or in it. I’m sorry I can’t say it any better than that, There was no place else I wanted to be’” (Barbara Brown Taylor, quoted by www.richerbyfar.com).