



DAY 1

How do you currently look at **GOOD** and **EVIL**?

CREATE two columns in your journal and **LIST** things you consider **GOOD** in one column and **EVIL** in the other column.

How do you define these two terms?

READ Psalm 73:1

Scripture defines **GOOD** as those things that are *in harmony with the nature, character, and conduct of God*.

READ Genesis 1.

LIST everything in this chapter that's considered good.

How do these verses support the statement, "*Surely God is good*?"

READ Matthew 6:13.

EVIL then is anything that's *out of step with the nature, character and conduct of God*. Does that make sense? Here is a list of other words in the Bible used to describe **EVIL**: *bad, jealous, malicious, scoundrels, wicked, stinginess, harm, disaster, trouble, wrong, ruin*.

Would you agree? Is there a term with which you would disagree?

GO DEEPER:

Using a concordance, **LOOK** up other uses of **GOOD** and **EVIL** in Scripture to gain a greater understanding of God's view on this subject.

DAY 2

READ 3 John 1:11

Have you seen God? Do you know God? According to this passage, goodness is only possible through relationship with God. We can't work our way to goodness. We can only draw close to the One who is **GOOD**.

REFLECT on how you've tried to work your way to goodness. "If I just say the right things," "If I'd love more," "If I'd give more," "If I hang out with certain people," "If I'd study and know more," "If I'd volunteer for more and more stuff,"...

What's the difference between doing **GOOD** and knowing God?

What's the relationship between doing **GOOD** and knowing God?

DAY 3-5

Let's take a look at the types of evil we see in our age.

JOURNAL your answers and thoughts as you go.

READ Philippians 2:3-5.

INDIVIDUALISM: *What's in it for me?*

THINK about the advertising you hear most every day.

"You deserve a break today," "You deserve it," "Have it your way."

LIST other advertising slogans which indicate the individualism in our society and culture. Have any of those attitudes found their way into your own thinking and attitudes?

READ 2 Timothy 3:1-7

HEDONISM: *If it feels good, do it!*

LOOK at the list in 2 Timothy.

How do the behaviors listed fall in line with hedonism?

What are your thoughts as you look at the range of behaviors?

As you look at others, where/in whom do you see these behaviors?

Are there moments when you can see bits of these in your own relationships and behaviors? If so, when? Where?

READ James 5:10-11

MINIMALISM: *What's the least I can do?*

THINK of a time when you chose to take the path of least resistance and it resulted badly. What led to that choice? Were you tired? Having a bad day?

What did you have to fix that could have been avoided by making a different choice up front?

What kind of society do these three "**ISMS**" produce? It's easy to pick out these things in our culture, but do you see them in yourself?

How does the opposite of individualism, hedonism, and minimalism look?

LOOK back at the Scriptures from the last few days. What terms are used to describe the opposite of these words? What could our society look like if all of us drew closer to God?

PRAY: Father, it's so easy to wrap myself up in my own selfishness and lose sight of You. Help me be aware of the evil which lurks in small and mischievous ways in my own heart. I surrender to You those dark places in me and ask You to shed a loving light on them. Give me a new heart - a good heart that's selfless even on bad days and under difficult circumstances. I know You love me and want only good things for me. Help me draw close to You through your Holy Spirit. Amen.