1. Have you experienced God's goodness?

   The Bible states, "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!" (Psalm 34:8) We see God's goodness witnessed throughout the earth, "The earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD." (Psalm 33:5) After God created the cosmos he "saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good." (Genesis 1:31). For example, take a simple apple. It is good because it was created to produce another apple tree, or satisfy hunger, or feed the soil – in every aspect it is good. It has purpose, beauty, design, and quality. When it fulfills its creative purpose we experience its goodness. God made it for all to see. Physical goodness always stands in contrast with that which is bad or rotten. God designed this so everyone would have a physical picture of the spiritual reality of good and evil. God placed goodness into the entire world so all would know something about the goodness of the Creator. "Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." (Acts 14:17) God is good to all because he makes us happy by giving us good things. God is good even to those who reject him, "He makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." (Matthew 5:45) In every case God is the source of all that is good. "Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." (James 1:16-17)

Bible passages to read: Psalm 34; Acts 14:15-17

Questions to ponder:
1. How does creation reveal God's goodness?
2. How does the physical world picture the spiritual realm?
3. What are some practical ways you have experienced God's goodness?
4. How is God good to those who reject him? What does that teach us about God?
5. Do you trust that God is good?