

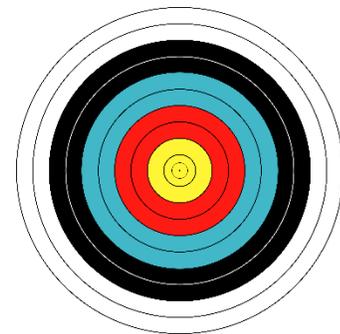
spiritual infant

# DISCIPLE ME

## THE ONE ABOUT BEING GOOD ENOUGH

### ICEBREAKER: THE GOODNESS GAME

Work together to place the famous people listed below on a target based on how “good” of a person you think they are. The bullseye represents *perfection* - someone who always does what’s right, with no mistakes or flaws. Discuss where you would place them and explain why you think they belong there.



- Oprah
- Michael Jackson
- Abraham Lincoln
- Osama Bin Laden
- Johnny Depp
- Mother Teresa
- Dolly Parton
- Adolf Hitler
- Albert Einstein

### DISCUSS:

- Where do you think you’d fall on the target if it represented how “good” you are compared to perfection?
- What do you think most people use to decide whether they’re “good enough”?
- Is it possible for anyone to hit the bullseye of perfection?
- If no one can hit the bullseye, what do you think God is trying to show us through that?

### READ: READ ROMANS 3:23

If we’re willing to be honest, most of us have felt like we’re not good enough at some point. Maybe it’s at school, at work, in your family, or even in your faith. You try hard, but it still feels like you’re falling short. And when we compare what we know about ourselves to what we can see in the lives of the people around us, we can’t help but wonder if we measure up. Then, when we consider how impossible it feels to hit the mark of perfection ... the feeling of not being “good enough” hits even closer to home. Because it’s not just a feeling ... it’s a reality ... and it’s a reality that the Bible actually talks about.

*<sup>23</sup>For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

### STUDY: MISSING THE MARK

The Greek word for “sin” here is ἁμαρτάνω (hamartanō), which literally means “to miss the mark”. It’s an archery term — imagine aiming for the bullseye and the arrow flying off target. Paul uses this image to help us see that sin isn’t just about being “bad,” it’s about *falling short* of God’s perfect design. It’s about not being all that God created you to be.

### **DISCUSS:**

- Why do you think it’s important to recognize that *everyone* falls short - not just some people?
- How does it change the way you see yourself when you realize everyone has missed the mark?

### **READ: EPHESIANS 2:8**

*<sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.*

If Romans 3:23 reminds us that none of us are good enough, this verse shows us that *we don’t have to be*. The word χάρις (charis) means grace - unearned, undeserved kindness. It’s like being handed a trophy you didn’t earn but are invited to receive anyway. God’s grace isn’t a reward for being enough; it’s a gift for those who are able to admit they’re not.

### **DISCUSS:**

- How do you feel when someone gives you something you didn’t earn?
- Why is it sometimes hard to believe that God’s love and forgiveness are truly a *gift*?

### **READ: ROMANS 8:1**

*<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

Later in Romans, Paul shares what grace does - he says it removes condemnation. Now, condemnation is not a word we use in our everyday language, but it means a legal judgment or sentence of guilt. What Paul is saying is that when you belong to Jesus, that verdict is wiped clean. Your mistakes no longer define you; instead, you are defined by God’s mercy.

### **CHALLENGE: MIRROR MOMENT**

- This week, write or print out the following message and place it on the mirror in your bathroom – ***“I’m not enough on my own, but Jesus is enough for me.”*** Each morning, before you start your day, read this affirmation out loud to remind you of the goodness of God’s grace.