

3. A GOOD DAY

God flipped the switch. The light is on. Our eyes, minds, and hearts can see clearly now. That's good because we need to uncover a few more truths from the previous tour.

Someone once said, "You won't get much out of the Bible until you see yourself in it." Today we will try to find ourselves in God's Word. You may even see yourself. Read *Genesis 1:3-4*. Then read *John 1:1-3*.

God inspired Moses to write the first words of creation story in the Genesis reading. Saint John was inspired to explain that God's Son spoke the words that made creation happen. These two different approaches to reporting the same truth show how the Bible proves its own truths.

After light was created, God evaluated his work. It was good. The light served the purpose God designed for his new invention. Now the creatures he was about to create would be able to see the good work he had done. God is all about goodness. He treats us with **justice**, kindness, mercy, **compassion**, and generosity all because he is so good. He tells us the truth about our sins and his love because he is so **righteous**. God always does the right thing. He even uses our painful experiences and scary events in life to give new blessings to his people (*Romans 8:28*).

For God, light and darkness are alike. For many people, darkness can be scary. Still, God didn't declare that the darkness was bad; nor did he destroy it. But he did limit its gloomy effects by creating light to reduce some of the negative impact of darkness. Throughout Scripture darkness is associated with *evil*—a spiritual problem. The Bible even pictures evil creeping around in our hearts, where sin and temptation hide in dark corners so that others can't see them (*Mark 7:21*).

God despises evil thoughts, evil words, and evil actions. He sent his Son into our world to deal with the evil hidden in our hearts. God's Son, Jesus, is good, just like his heavenly Father. But his goodness isn't just because he's a nice guy. Jesus' goodness is a moral absolute. He is as pure and holy as purity and holiness can be. Jesus is the only perfectly good person who ever lived.

In God's book, names matter. Scripture is filled with verses that record the naming of people. In the beginning, God named the light, calling it *day*. He also named the darkness, calling it *night* (or *evening*). Why?

The obvious explanation is that no one else was there to do the naming chores. But there is a better answer. Naming the light *day* and the darkness *night* is God's way of declaring that he is the Author of the entire *Creation Project*. It's like an artist signing his masterpiece. God is here claiming the right and the authority to give what he has made its identity. In a few days God will turn a small measure of his **authority** over to Adam, assigning him the task of naming the animals (*Genesis 2:19-20*). Later, God will permit Adam to name his wife *Eve* (*Genesis 3:20*).

God also shared some of his authority with your father and mother when you were given your name. God authorized your parents to teach you about Jesus and tell you about God's great love for you. Along with the authority for being a parent comes a huge amount of responsibility.

Found it! *Isaiah 49:15-16*. Did you know your name is tattooed on God's palms? Your name on his palms shows how much he loves you. One day nails were driven into those same hands when Jesus died for you. You belong to him. You are his child. As you read the Bible, you will learn more about yourself. One day you may find yourself kneeling at Jesus' manger. Another day you'll see yourself standing at the foot of his cross. Keep looking; you'll find yourself.

END VIDEO. BEGIN CONVERSATIONS.

REMEMBER WHEN ...

Recall a time when you were in a dark place. Were you afraid?

WORD POWER: **justice, compassion, righteous, authority**

FROM THE TOUR

In what ways do you see God showing his goodness and love to you every day?

How does it feel to know that God knows the bad things in your heart?

How does knowing that God has your name on both his palms make you feel?

LEARN MORE

Read *1 Corinthians 13:12*. What do the words, "... even as I am fully known" mean to you?

Read *Revelation 3:5*. What comfort does this text offer to all believers in Jesus?

Read *Ephesians 5:8-10*. What did Saint Paul mean when he wrote, "You were once darkness?"

According to this text, how does a child, who is living in Jesus' light, live?

TAKE-AWAYS

Finish this sentence. *When we talk with God, I think we should pray for ...*

How did God get so much power and authority over all things?



See what great love the Father has
lavished on us, that we should be called
children of God! And that is what we are!

1 John 3:1