



WEEK ONE: WHO IS GOD?

Appetizer

If I got lost in the woods and happened upon a Tyrannosaurus Rex, I think it would be easy for me to acknowledge that it is great, it is huge, and it is gi-normous. But I would not be convinced that the T-Rex is good. But when we encounter a God who is great and huge, it is important for us to remember that He is also good. In our first week of *Snack Pack*, we asked *Who is God?* and saw that He is supersized.

What were some of the names for this supersized God that we discovered this week in *Snack Pack*? What do these names mean to you?

(Teachers: Get the students to answer. If necessary, prompt them with the daily devotion titles from Week One.)

God is great, and God is good. That reminds me of a prayer I used to say before I meal. You probably know it, so say it with me: "God is great, God is good; let us thank Him for this food. By His hands we all are fed; Give us, Lord, our daily bread. Amen." Now that we thanked our great and good God, we should eat, right?

(Teachers: Bring out a birthday cake.)

Who here likes birthday cake? Don't we all agree that birthday cake is great? Before we dig in, though, it seems like we forgot something. What's good with birthday cake? That's right - ice cream!

(Teachers: Bring out some ice cream.)

So let's review: Birthday cake is **great!** Ice cream is **good!**

(Teachers: Have the students repeat this like a chant until they are screaming it with you.)

Birthday cake is great. Ice cream is good. Today we're talking about how God is both great and good at the same time. How can we show that to you? That's right - with something that is great like birthday cake and good like ice cream - an ice-cream cake!

(Teachers: Bring out an ice-cream cake with great fanfare. You might even want to parade it around the room. Get the kids excited about the possibility of eating the ice-cream cake.)

Main Course

God is great, and God is good. The Bible tells us to taste and see that the Lord is good. And just like ice-cream cakes can come in a wide variety of flavors, there are lots of different names God used to describe the different flavors of His goodness and greatness. Today we're going to look at a story from Moses' life when God revealed one of these great and good names.

Read Exodus 3:6

This is the story where God appeared to Moses in the form of a burning bush. Two symbols in this story remind us that God is both great and good. He is a strong, powerful force like fire, and at the same time He is good enough not to damage the bush with the flames.

Did you notice how Moses reacted to God? He hid his face because he was scared. Moses knew God was great, but he wasn't sure if God was really good. But then God went on to explain that He is good and that He was going to deliver the Hebrew people out of their miserable situation. As God said this, He gave Moses a name for Himself that is another flavor of great and good.

Read Exodus 3:13-14

In other words, God told Moses that He was ice-cream cake - that He was both great and good. When God says, "I am who I am," He is saying that He is not just one flavor of ice cream - He **is** ice cream. He is not just one flavor of cake - He **is** the cake. Skittles tell us to taste the rainbow, but God is the rainbow. Great and good, "I am" is Creator, Almighty, Holy, Savior, and Father all rolled into one. We may taste different flavors and discover different names of God throughout our lives, but we must always remember that God is great, and God is good.

Dessert

We can talk about ice-cream cake all day. We can discuss how it is both great and good. We can argue about whether we should eat it with a spoon or with a fork or with some combination contraption like a spork. We can run scientific tests and contemplate the origin of the dark, crunchy things found in the middle of the cake. But what truly matters when it comes to enjoying and understanding what ice-cream cake is all about? We have to eat it! It has to get inside you.

The same is true with God. We can talk about Him all day long, but none of that really matters unless God's goodness and greatness is inside of us. So today, we're going to pass out this ice-cream cake and make sure it gets inside of us. As we enjoy this greatness and goodness, we're going to hear from several people about how they got God's greatness and goodness inside of them. On Day 4 of your devotions this week, we talked about how God is Savior. Let's hear how some of the people in this room got God inside of them and how they are now different flavors of God's greatness and goodness to the people in their lives.

(Teachers: Get a couple of students and a couple of adult leaders to share how they came to see God as Savior while everyone enjoys some ice-cream cake.)