

FEBRUARY DEVOTIONAL: *Taste and See*

There are some things in life that just seem to make the day a little sweeter.

Maybe it's a warm piece of apple pie, a bowl of homemade peach cobbler, a chocolate chip cookie right out of the oven, or that particular candy you remember buying for a nickel when you were a child.

Sweet treats have a way of bringing back memories. They remind us of birthdays, holidays, family gatherings, church homecomings, and kitchens filled with people we loved.

But today I want us to think about something even sweeter.

The goodness of God.

Psalm 34:8 says: "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him." NIV

David doesn't simply tell us to believe that God is good. He says, "Taste and see."

In other words: Experience it for yourself.

One of the blessings of growing older is being able to look back over more years of God's faithfulness.

When you're young, you may believe that God will take care of you.

But after you've walked with Him for many years, you can look back and say: "He did."

He carried us through times when we didn't know what we were going to do.

He provided when money was tight.

He comforted us when our hearts were broken.

He forgave us when we failed.

He gave us strength we didn't know we had.

He brought people into our lives at just the right time.

And sometimes He answered prayers in ways we didn't understand until years later.

We haven't just heard that God is good. We've tasted it.

Of course, not everything we've experienced has been sweet.

We've all tasted some bitter things too.

There have been disappointments, illnesses, losses, changes we didn't want, prayers that seemed unanswered, and people we've had to say goodbye to.

Following Jesus doesn't mean every experience will taste sweet.

But it does mean that God's goodness is present even in the bitter seasons.

Sometimes we recognize His goodness immediately.

Sometimes we don't see it until years later.

And sometimes we simply have to trust Him.

Many of us can look back and remember:

The hard times didn't change who God was.

He was still faithful.

He was still present.

He was still good.

And God's goodness isn't something we're meant to keep to ourselves.

When we find a really good dessert, what do we do?

We tell somebody! "You've got to try this."

That's exactly what Christians are called to do with the goodness of God.

Psalm 145:4 says: “One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.” NIV

That means those of us who have walked with God for many years have something incredibly valuable to share with the generations coming behind us.

Our testimony.

Younger people need to hear us say:

“I’ve walked with Jesus for a long time, and He has been faithful.”

“I’ve been through some hard places, and God carried me.”

“I’ve made mistakes, and His grace was greater.”

“I’ve faced things I thought I couldn’t handle, and God gave me strength.”

“You can keep trusting Him. He’s good.”

Remember, desserts don’t last very long.

The cookie disappears.

The chocolate melts.

The pie plate eventually becomes empty.

But there is one sweetness that never runs out: the goodness, grace, mercy, and faithfulness of God.

After all these years, we can still say: “Taste and see that the Lord is good.”

And perhaps our testimony to the next generation can be very simple:

“I’ve tasted it.

I’ve seen it.

I’ve lived it.

And I can tell you—God is good.”

MUSIC

Music can be a meaningful extension of today's devotional. Choose one or more of the suggestions below and follow with prayer.

If your group enjoys worship music, consider playing CeCe Winans's recording of **"Goodness of God."** If hymns are more your style, you could have a sing-along to **"'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."** Two other options are **"The Longer I Serve Him"** by Bill Gaither and Steve Green's recording of **"Find Us Faithful."** Both work well with a soloist singing the verses and the group joining in on the refrains.

For sing-alongs, be sure to provide the lyrics—either printed or displayed on a screen—so everyone can easily join in. If you reproduce or display lyrics, be sure you have permission or the appropriate license to do so.

Closing Prayer: Father, thank You for the sweetness of Your goodness in our lives. Thank You for every prayer You've answered, every burden You've carried, every sin You've forgiven, and every difficult season through which You've walked with us.

Help us remember Your faithfulness and share it with others. May the generations coming behind us see through our lives that You are good and that You can always be trusted. In Jesus' name, Amen.