

You will need paper and pencil and at least 5 minutes for this:

1-Create your own circles of influence chart. Make as many circles as you need to include groups you are a part of- church, neighborhood, work, sports...

2- List the names of people in those groups that you see regularly or feel closest to. Now ask God to give you His eyes to see the needs of each person.

*What are some needs that you can think of for the people in your circles? Can you think of any way you can help with that need? Maybe other members of your study can think of unique ways to offer the goodness of God to those needs. What are some ways you might - encourage? support? heal? introduce them to Jesus?*

God wants us to be agents of Tov, spreading His goodness to the world. If we make ourselves available, He will use us in that mission.

## WRAP-UP

We have seen that our good God, has created good things and calls us to be agents of good in this world. We were made to be salt and light, not hidden away. The evidence of God's goodness is reflected in our lives and through the action we take. It is not something we generate by ourselves but comes from an overflow of God's goodness in our hearts. God has placed us in community, and if we look around with His eyes, and allow ourselves to view the world with prophetic imagination, God can use us in his mission to bring Tov to the world.

**MEMORY VERSE.** *Isaiah 43:19 NLT - 19 For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.*

## PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life

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*Challenge- Are you ready to take the first step in doing good? Identify one person in your circle of influence you can do good for and go do some good.*

## “Agents of Tov”

### Tov 4

## INTRODUCTION

This week we conclude our study of Tov (good), in the Bible. We have discovered that God is good and what He created is also good. As God's people we are becoming conformed to His image and as that happens, we, the body of Christ, reflect God's goodness. But we are not called to hunker down and protect our “goodness” from the world. We are called to go into the world as agents of change, creating good. We are agents of Tov.

## Ice Breaker

What is one thing you have created, that when you recall it, you say, “That was good.”?

## Key Passage

*Ephesians 2:10 NLT - 10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

## STUDY QUESTIONS

### 1. Agents of Tov

*Matthew 5:13-16 NLT - 13 "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. 14 "You are the light of the world--like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.*

In the sermon on the mount Jesus refers to his audience as salt and light. But in both cases, He questions what should be done if each is

rendered useless; that is, if your salty seasoning has no taste or if your light is hidden beneath a basket.

*1 Peter 2:9 NLT - 9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.*

*Jesus questioned why someone would cover a light with a basket. Hiding the light would have plunged the surroundings back into darkness. We don't want to "hide our lights." Peter says God has called us out of darkness and into His light. Have you known people who were "bright lights for God"? What made them effective in showing God's goodness?*

*Luke 6:45 NLT - 45 A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.*

*Let's not mistake our good works as coming from our own efforts. If we really want good to flow from us, we need to start at the source – a good heart. The good that flows from us is an overflow of the good that we have received from God. God touches and transforms us from the inside out. Let's start by recalling the things, big and small, that God has done for you. What are the things you are thankful for in your life? Allow yourself to be filled with gratitude for God's goodness.*

Now you can begin to look for ways to share that goodness with those around you because you are in touch with how good God is and how wonderful it is to experience His goodness. The works you do in response to that knowledge will be good works that show others His goodness.

## 2. Prophetic Imagination

*Isaiah 43:19 NLT - 19 For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.*

God is faithful and it is good to remember all He has done. But as the prophet Isaiah told the Israelites, God can do so much more than what they had already experienced. We don't want to limit God.

Pastor Jared used the term "prophetic imagination" to describe seeing what the future could be, when we see it through God's eyes. Our example is from Mark 2.

*Mark 2:3-4 NLT - 3 four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. 4 They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus.*

*The townspeople had seen Jesus demonstrate the power of God's goodness as he taught, healed the sick and cast out demons. Now the crowds had come expectantly. What do you think were some of the reasons that the crowd had come to the house where Jesus was staying? When the men carrying the paralytic arrived, they didn't wait outside with the crowd. What do you think motivated them to act so boldly, and how do you think they felt about what Jesus did? How did Jesus' response to the man demonstrate that God was doing "a new thing"? Have you ever prayed for God to do one thing only to find He was working in the situation in a different way?*

## 3. Circle of Influence

*It might feel risky or presumptuous to see a situation with "prophetic imagination". We need to see with God's perspective, not our just own ideas. So, it takes practice. Let's see if we can begin to exercise some prophetic imagination.*

