Opening session by OL Leader (guest speaker or clergy) in main Zoom group:

20 minutes

**Opening Question:**

*(Leader should ask the group)*

“Let’s consider the difference between what is kind and what is good. Do you think there is a difference, or are they the same thing?

Have campers answer this question on paper or a notebook.

**Teaching:**

Goodness is holiness in action. We are each created good, in the image and likeness of God. We also have free will. Our free will allows us to choose if we will take good actions or evil actions. Our passions can cause us to think the bad things in life are really good for us — just as the serpent confused or tricked Adam and Eve in the garden. We must be willing to connect ourselves to God and transform these negative desires to good.

So how do we differentiate goodness from kindness?:

The difference between ***agathosune*** (goodness) and ***chrestotes*** (kindness) is interesting. ***Agathosune*** will correct and rebuke when necessary, whereas ***chrestotes*** simply seeks to help. Jesus showed ***agathosune*** when he cleansed the temple and drove out the money-changers; he showed ***chrestotes*** when he was kind to the sinning woman who anointed his feet.

That is precisely what we need in our lives: goodness that is both kind and strong. Goodness that is both tender and tough. Though most of the time “goodness” is helping and encouraging people, it also includes “tough love” when the situation calls for it. I am concerned that Christians in our generation are not tough enough. If we are going to be faithful to God’s call and commission, then we must be tough about the right things, in the right way, at the right time, and for the right reason. We cannot — we must not — shy away from the tough things we need to say and do.

We are not to be abrasive or hurtful; we are not to be rude or disrespectful; we are not to be inconsiderate. But we do need to be tough. Loving, but tough. Goodness can be kind but it can also be firm. (John 2:13-16)

“The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade.”

We hear every Divine Liturgy: “Every good and perfect gif is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.” Everything good in our lives comes from God. Being filled with His goodness, we are able to share this goodness with others. When we follow His commandments we are abiding with God and being filled with those perfect gifts.

**Activity:**

Read from Phillipians 4:8

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of respect, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if something is excellent or praiseworthy, think about these things.”

Why does the Bible say we should think about good things?

Hold up an apple. Look at this apple. It is a good fruit, and if I wanted, I could eat it. It would be good for me because it’s a good fruit. But what if I got it dirty on the outside? Put dirt or mud on your apple. Would you want to eat this apple now? No! The apple is dirty now and I can’t eat it until I wash it off. This apple is like the Fruit of the Spirit, goodness, that we have been talking about. If you have goodness in your life, people can see it and they want the goodness you have. But if you spend all your time thinking about things that are not right, pure, or good, it’s like putting mud on the outside. Nobody wants your goodness if it’s coated in sin.

**Teaching 2:**

Each of us is created good. Goodness is from God, and because we are created in His image and like we are also good. Having free will, sometimes we choose not to be good to one another. When this happens we should transform our negative desires and actions and re-orient our lives to God and His will. Then we can go back to the other person, ask for forgiveness, and try again to be good.

Panagia is a great example of someone who chose the good in life and who chose holiness. We can pray to her to help us make the difficult decision, each day, to choose good.

Goodness is holiness in action.

We can serve with goodness by showing others who God is through our actions. When we let our light shine, others are able to see that. Our light is God’s goodness in us, and it is up to us to share that goodness with others.

**Wrap-up**

Provide the breakout questions to the entire group. Provide the instructions to the breakout activity.

*Note: Campers and Staff are moved from main Zoom room to their Breakout rooms*

**Discussion Questions** (for breakout groups):

Ask campers to put a thumbs up or down to show whether you have ever been on the receiving end of tough love.

How did it feel then?

How does it feel now?

Put a thumbs up or down to show whether you have ever given tough love.

How did it feel in the moment?

How did you know it was the right thing to do?

How do you feel about it now?

Put a thumbs up or down if your good intentions ever led you down a bad path.

How does the good in life turn bad?

How can the bad change back to good?

Put a thumbs up or down if you’ve ever found it really hard to do a good thing.

When is goodness a difficult choice to make?

How do you choose goodness, even when it is difficult?

What is one way you will try to show goodness to people, even when it may be difficult?

**Devotional (Cabin Talk):**

* What do you think about yourself? Write it down or share aloud.

Read the following passage from Genesis 1:

“Then God said, “Let **Us** make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was **very good**.”

* How are we each created?
* What did God think of man (human beings) when He created them?
* Did you say/write good things about yourself or mean things?
* If the Panagia or God were to say things about you, what do you think they would say?
* How can we focus on the Good and keep that as our focus?
* What is one way to experience God’s goodness in your daily life?