

**“A Good Man Is Hard to Find” by Flannery O’Connor  
Teacher Guide**

**PREVIEW**  
Suggested Lesson Procedure

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- 1) Begin with the anticipation guide. Have students complete it individually, then discuss their responses as a class to activate prior knowledge and spark debate. (~20 Minutes)
- 2) Introduce and teach the vocabulary using the provided PowerPoint. Students should copy down the definitions in their notes for reference. (~20 Minutes)
- 3) Read the full text, “A Good Man Is Hard to Find” by Flannery O’Connor, either aloud as a class or in small groups. (~45 Minutes)
- 4) Have students work in groups to complete the reading comprehension and analysis questions. (~45 Minutes)
- 5) Direct students to complete Question #21 independently as an extended response. (~10 Minutes)
- 6) Review the correct answers together as a class, modeling effective strategies for literary analysis. (~30 Minutes)

**Estimated Total Time: 170 Minutes**

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# PREVIEW

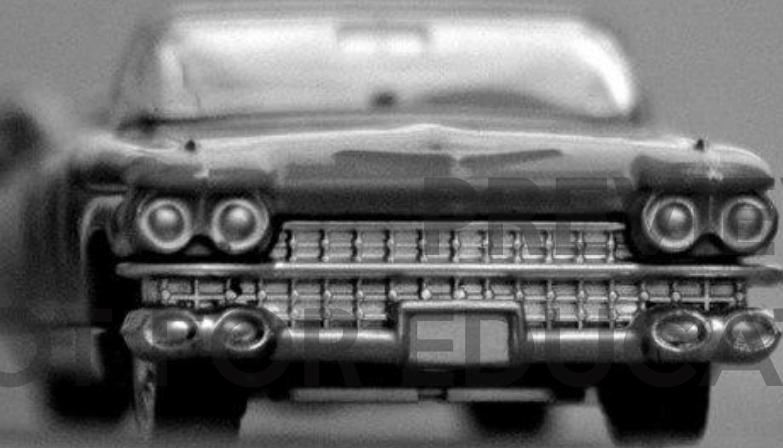
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## “A GOOD MAN IS HARD TO FIND”

### Vocabulary Words

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## seizing PREVIEW

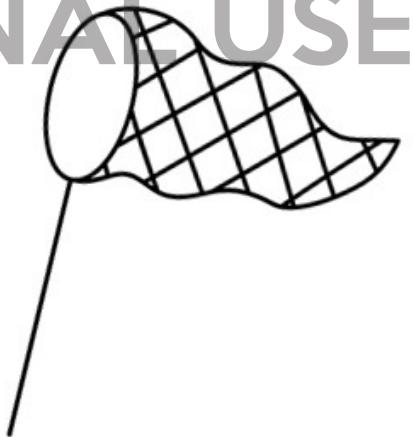
Part of speech: verb (to seize)  
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**Definition:** taking advantage of an opportunity

**Example sentence:** She was seizing every opportunity to practice her presentation before the conference.

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**Synonyms:** grabbing, snatching  
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# PREVIEW

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**valise**      PREVIEW

**Part of speech:** noun

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**Definition:** a small traveling bag or suitcase

**Example sentence:** She grabbed her small valise from under the bed, packed it quickly with clothes, and hurried to catch the train.



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## conscience

Part of speech: noun

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**Definition:** An internal sense of right and wrong that guides a person's thoughts and actions

**Example sentence:** His conscience troubled him after he realized the error in his report.



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Synonyms: moral sense, scruple

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# outskirts

Part of speech: noun

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**Definition:** The outer parts or edges of a town or city, usually less densely populated than the center

**Example sentence:** The new housing development is located on the outskirts of the city.

**Synonyms:** periphery, fringe



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## plantation

Part of speech: noun

**Definition:** A large estate or farm where crops (like tobacco or cotton) are grown

Plantations are often associated with slavery, as they relied on the forced labor of enslaved African people from the 1600s through the 1800s, shaping U.S. history and leaving lasting impacts on society.



**Example sentence:** The museum's exhibit examined the economic and social history of the antebellum plantation.

**Synonyms:** estate, farm

# PREVIEW

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## predicament

Part of speech: noun

**Definition:** A difficult, unpleasant, or embarrassing situation from which it is hard to find a solution

**Example sentence:** Losing her passport the day before the flight put her in a serious predicament.



Synonyms: dilemma, quandary

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## embankment

Part of speech: noun

**Definition:** A raised bank or mound of earth used to support a road or to hold back water

**Example sentence:** Engineers reinforced the river embankment to prevent seasonal flooding.

**Synonyms:** levee, bank



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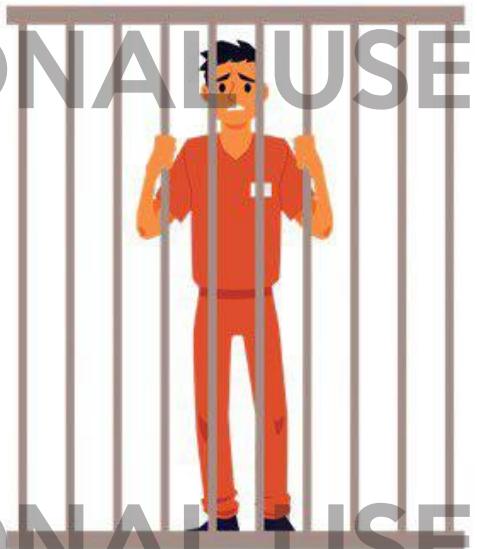
# penitentiary

Part of speech: noun

**Definition:** A prison for people convicted of serious crimes; a correctional institution

**Example sentence:** After the trial, he was sentenced to ten years in the state penitentiary.

**Synonyms:** prison, correctional facility



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**peculiar** PREVIEW

Part of speech: adjective

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**Definition:** Strange, unusual, or distinctive in a way that attracts attention



**Example sentence:** The experiment produced a peculiar result that the team could not immediately explain.

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Synonyms: odd, unusual

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## recalled

**Part of speech:** verb (to recall)

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**Definition:** Brought back to mind

**Example sentence:** She recalled the exact sequence of events from the meeting minutes.

**Synonyms:** remembered, recollected

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# PREVIEW

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Name:

Date:

**“A Good Man is Hard to Find” by Flannery O’Connor— Before Reading**

**Part A: Read the following statements. If you agree, circle AGREE; if you disagree, circle DISAGREE.**

1. People manipulate others when they want to cause harm..... AGREE DISAGREE

2. Honesty is a sign of strength..... AGREE DISAGREE

3. You are a victim of your own choices..... AGREE DISAGREE

4. All people deserve redemption..... AGREE DISAGREE

5. Good deeds are usually performative. .... AGREE DISAGREE

6. Compassion sees beyond flaws and mistakes..... AGREE DISAGREE

7. People are born either good or bad..... AGREE DISAGREE

8. Faith is tested through suffering..... AGREE DISAGREE

9. Experiencing injustice makes retaliation acceptable..... AGREE DISAGREE

10. Life does not always end up as planned..... AGREE DISAGREE

**Part B: Answer the following questions.**

1. What is the difference between bad and evil?

2. When have you seen someone prioritize appearance or being “respectable” over doing the right thing?

3. Have you ever made a choice that seemed small but had big consequences? What did you learn?

4. Is a good man hard to find (as the title suggests)? Explain.

A Good Man Is Hard to Find  
Short Story by Flannery O'Connor

Vocabulary Word	Part of Speech	Definition	Synonyms
seizing	verb	<b>PREVIEW</b>	
valise	noun	<b>NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE</b>	
conscience	noun	<b>PREVIEW</b>	
outskirts	noun	<b>NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE</b>	
plantation	noun		
predicament	noun	<b>PREVIEW</b>	
embankment	noun	<b>NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE</b>	
penitentiary	noun	<b>PREVIEW</b>	
peculiar	adjective	<b>PREVIEW</b>	

Name:

Date:

Reading Questions

1. Who is the driver and head of the household?

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2. Who is The Misfit?

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3. What does the grandmother secretly bring along? What does it reveal about the grandmother's personality?

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4. How is the grandmother characterized through her clothing choices at the start of the trip?

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5. What does John Wesley's description of Georgia as "a lousy state" reveal about his character?

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6. What can we learn about the grandmother from her comments about the boy without britches?

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7. What causes the car accident?

8. Who stops to “help” after the crash?

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9. Does the Misfit work alone? Explain.

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10. How does the setting affect the story’s plot?

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11. What is the symbolic meaning behind the Misfit noticing a sky that is neither sunny nor cloudy?

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12. How does the grandmother’s last line of dialogue (“Why you’re one of my babies”) affect the ending?

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13. What central theme does the story explore regarding “goodness”?

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14. How does the story examine the idea that an encounter with evil can lead to spiritual clarity and redemption?

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15. Identify one example of irony from the story.

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17. What does The Misfit's reflection about punishment ("I call myself The Misfit because I can't make what all I done wrong fit what all I gone through in punishment") reveal about him?

18. How does the story use moral ambiguity challenge the reader's sense of right and wrong?

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19. Why is the story called "A Good Man Is Hard to Find"?

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20. Is the grandmother a "good" person? Why or why not?

**21. EXTENDED RESPONSE:** For the grandmother, being “good” means being polite, respectable, or coming from a “nice” family, not about morality or compassion. Discuss in one paragraph (a minimum of 6 completely developed sentences) what being “good” means to you. Use someone you know or someone you know of that is a good example of a “good” person.

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