

A Good Life
Week 3: 2nd Base- Community
May 8th, 2022

OPENING PRAYER

Have someone in the group invite God's Holy Spirit into our presence. Pray for your encounter with God's Word. Ask God to open your heart and mind to some new understanding and especially to a new way of applying this truth in our daily lives.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

~Safe Group	~Silence	~Sharing
~Confidentiality	~No Cross Talk	~Self-Aware
~Listen	~No Fixing	~"I" Statements
~Pause	~No Rescuing	~Handle Conflict Biblically

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"

Go around the room and briefly share your answer to the following question:

In honor of Mother's Day briefly share about a women who has had a positive influence in your life. (It might be a mom, relative, friend, co-worker, etc.)

INTRODUCTION

Happy Mother's Day! We are continuing our current series **The Good Life**. This week our attention turns to 2nd base in our baseball analogy, which is represented in the context of **Community**. Our focus is how we love others. We are going to go back to our foundational scripture for this series from our first week which is **Romans 12:1-2**, as well as **Proverbs 18:21**.

THIS WEEK'S KEY SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:1-2, Proverbs 18:21

Read these passages: Have someone in your group read these passages of scripture as everyone else follows along in their Bible.

DISCUSSION:

Go around the room and share from your heart, remembering the group guidelines.

EXPLORING THE SCRIPTURE (S):

*****We looked at Romans 12:1-2 in week one, as you initially engage with these opening questions, does anything new stand out now that we have been in this for a couple of weeks?**

- What do you notice with fresh eyes from these passages?
- What encourages you?
- What causes questions for you?

ENGAGING THE MESSAGE:

- This week's message stated, "We love people and use things." Unfortunately, in our humanity and in our culture those two often get switched we "love things and use people." How have you experienced this switched message in your life?
- When we love like God, one of things we should do is watch our words. Words have the power of life and death...*Proverbs 18:21*
 - When have words felt like death to you or done damage?
 - When has someone's words breathed life into you?
- Our words decide our relational world. Lying, being disagreeable and gossip do tremendous damage to others. Pastor Heather used the video illustration of Robinson Cano, former New York Yankee. Have you ever experienced a similar situation?
 - Were you on the receiving end or did you instigate it?

- How do you define forgiveness?
- Pastor Heather stated Loving like Jesus means you lay down the right to unforgiveness and pick up the responsibility to forgive.
 - Would you be willing to share about a time you picked up the responsibility to forgive?
 - Where are you at in that journey?
- How do you fight fair? (Rules of engagement)
 - Never call names, never raise your voice, never use the past, never get physical, never say never or always, never threaten extremes, never quote your pastor during a fight.
 - Which of these rules is your weakness?
- Keep your calendar- to love like God; you make time for the ones you love. Where do you need to make adjustments to your calendar?

LIVING IT OUT-APPLICATION:

- What was a big take away for you from this week's teaching?

CLOSING PRAYER: Spend some time in prayer as a group. Pray for one another, for those that might be absent and for prayer requests.