

**The Good Life**  
**Week 1:**  
**April 24th, 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:

**The Rubix Cube was used as an example in this week's message. What is your all time favorite puzzle or board game?**

***INTRODUCTION***

This week begins a new series called **The Good Life**. It is a series that is going to focus on what it means to live the life that Jesus describes when he says "I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full." in John 10:10. The analogy of running the bases in the wrong direction forms the foundation for this series. What if running the bases backwards is the very thing that is costing us a good life? This first week we are going to use a passage from **Romans 12:1-2** as well as looking at the life of **Joseph** found in Genesis chapters 37-50.

***THIS WEEK'S KEY SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:1-2***

Read this entire passage: 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:***

- What do you notice with fresh eyes from this passage?
- What encourages you?
- What causes questions for you?

***ENGAGING THE MESSAGE:***

- What are some ways you have conformed to the pattern of this world? If you are willing, share with the group how maybe you have run the bases backwards.
- The correct pattern to running the bases is: home plate (connect/significance)-1<sup>st</sup> base (character/self-respect)- 2<sup>nd</sup> base- (community/someone)- 3<sup>rd</sup> base- (competence/success). What order would you put this pattern in terms of your life experiences?
- Joseph was thrown into a pit, but God used this to teach him dependence. What have been some pits that God has used to redirect you?
- Pastor Heather described how there are few things as redefining in life as when God puts you in the same position as the people you once dismissed. If you don't value others, you'll use them. How have you witnessed or experienced this in your life?

- **Significance begins and ends by connecting with God. Describe how you have/are experiencing home plate in your life?**

***LIVING IT OUT-APPLICATION:***

- **What was a take away for you from this first message in the series?**

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