

A Good Life
Week 2: 1st Base-Character
May 1st, 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:

Baseball is considered a favorite pastime. What is your favorite, sport, hobby or activity?

INTRODUCTION

Everyone wants a Good Life don't they? There is actually a pattern to a good life. This is week 2 of our series **The Good Life** and we are using the analogy of baseball to discuss how God wants us to experience a good life by running the bases the right way. This week our focus is how to go from home plate to first base. Our scriptures to help us on this journey are found in **John 15:5-8** and **Romans 6:6-18**.

THIS WEEK'S KEY SCRIPTURE(s): John 15:5-8, Romans 6:6-18

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):

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

ENGAGING THE MESSAGE:

- 1st base is about Character; it is arguably the toughest base to get to. In fact, the majority of baseball players get thrown out on their way to first base. How would you define Godly Character?
- Pastor Heather used the illustration of the “bean boozled” jellybean. The things you can’t see ultimately shape who you become. How have you witnessed that in your own life? The life of others?
- You can fake character for a while but under pressure our true character leaks out. Describe a positive example of this that you have seen in someone’s life.
- Using our passage from Romans 6 as a foundation, Pastor Heather referenced 2 types of boundaries; solid lines and dotted lines. Solid lines are wrong for everyone, dotted lines are wrong for me. If you are willing, would share some dotted lines that you have created for yourself?

- Part of “remain in me” from John 15 and staying connected to the vine requires some pruning. How have you experienced the pruning in your relationship with Jesus?

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.