



SONGS: “Glorious Day”, “Goodness of God”, “Freedom of God”

TITLE: Welcome to the Good Life 🎵🎵

ICE BREAKER: What is the most precious material thing in your possession?  
How did you acquire it?

BIG IDEA: Don’t measure the good life by material blessings, but by the inward knowledge of a good God.

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 6

**6** I have seen another evil under the sun, and it weighs heavily on mankind: **2** God gives some people wealth, possessions and honor, so that they lack nothing their hearts desire, but God does not grant them the ability to enjoy them, and strangers enjoy them instead. This is meaningless, a grievous evil.

**3** A man may have a hundred children and live many years; yet no matter how long he lives, if he cannot enjoy his prosperity and does not receive proper burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he. **4** It comes without meaning, it departs in darkness, and in darkness its name is shrouded. **5** Though it never saw the sun or knew anything, it has more rest than does that man—  
**6** even if he lives a thousand years twice over but fails to enjoy his prosperity. Do not all go to the same place?

**7** Everyone's toil is for their mouth,  
yet their appetite is never satisfied.

**8** What advantage have the wise over fools?

What do the poor gain

by knowing how to conduct themselves before others?

**9** Better what the eye sees

than the roving of the appetite.

This too is meaningless,

a chasing after the wind.

**10** Whatever exists has already been named,

and what humanity is has been known;

no one can contend

with someone who is stronger.

<sup>11</sup> The more the words,  
the less the meaning,  
and how does that profit anyone?

<sup>12</sup> For who knows what is good for a person in life, during the few and meaningless days they pass through like a shadow? Who can tell them what will happen under the sun after they are gone?

### OPENING THOUGHTS:

How we measure blessedness is not how the Bible measures it. The world measures blessedness by material and social prosperity thinking these things will bring satisfaction and fulfillment. The Bible measures it by knowing God and finding contentment in every season, no matter what is in our hands.

### MAIN POINTS:

- 1) Wealth and not even family can bring lasting satisfaction and fulfillment, yikes!
- 2) Rich & poor, wise & fools end in the grave, but the wise person lives with open hands.
- 3) Life under the sun is depressing, we don't know what is good & can't control the future.
- 4) Knowing Jesus IS the good life--- He brings meaning to our past, present, and future.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. vv.1-6 Why do you think humans pursue meaning in material blessings? In what ways do you think family becomes an idol for people?
2. vv.7-9 The text says that rich & poor, wise & fools both end in the grave. What benefit is there to living a wise life if we both die anyway?
3. Reflecting on Matthew 5:3-11 (the beatitudes), where do you need to shift your thinking to view true blessedness vs. what the world tells us is blessedness?
4. Reflecting on the Beatitudes, which blessing do you most resonate with in this season of your life?
5. vv.10-12 What are some things that we are told by the world/culture that = living a good life? In what ways do humans try to control their future?

### FURTHER STUDY (IF APPLICABLE)

Romans 8:35-39 describes the never changing blessing of God's love despite our circumstances.

CHALLENGE: Accept the reality and the limits that are a part of being human and be encouraged to find opportunities for pleasure and delight in whatever circumstances we find ourselves.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.