THE GOOD LIFE | MIDDLE SCHOOL | PART 4

BIG IDEA

Wise choices help you live the life God wants for you.

MESSAGE OVERVIEW

A man named Paul wrote a letter to Christians living in a busy city called Ephesus. They heard lots of different ideas about what makes life good. Paul reminded them that following Jesus changes how we see ourselves, love others, treat people, and make choices. This month we will discover what that means for us at school, at home, and with friends.

BIBLE PASSAGES

> *Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. — Ephesians 5:1–2*
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> *Be very careful, then, how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. — Ephesians 5:15–16*
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> *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. — Ephesians 5:8–10*
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> *Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." — Ephesians 5:11–14*

QUESTION TO THINK ABOUT

What kind of person do you hope to become as you grow up?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is a small choice you made that turned out to be more important than you expected?
2. Read Ephesians 5:15–16. What does it mean to make a wise choice? (Think about how it might affect you and others later.)
3. Who gives you good advice when you have a hard decision to make?
4. When is it tempting to do something just because everyone else is doing it?
5. What is one wise choice you could make this week at school, online, or at home?
6. Is there a problem, worry, or mistake you should talk about with a trusted adult instead of hiding it?

GROUP CHALLENGE

Pick one wise choice to practice this week. Talk about what you learned from reading Ephesians.

PRAY TOGETHER

Dear God, thank You for guiding us. Help us slow down, choose what is right, and be a light to others. Give us courage to ask for help and wisdom for each day. In Jesus' name, amen.