



Who says it is a Good Life?

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The personal narrative lies at the basis of a person's sense of who he or she is. Consequently, finding ourselves means, among other things, finding the story in the context of which our lives make sense.

~ Stanley Grenz

Ephesians 2:8-10 NLT

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Matthew 11:2-6 NLT

John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?"

Jesus told them, "Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen - the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.

And tell him, 'God blesses those who do not turn away because of me.'"

It wasn't really the event itself that grew or eroded our faith; it was our interpretation of the event that determined which way we went. The conclusions we draw about God in the midst of our pivotal circumstance drive us toward or away from him.

~ Andy Stanley

John 10:10 NLT

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

Story Stealers

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Matthew 10:39 NLT

If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

5 Keys to Becoming You

1. Practical _____
2. Private _____
3. Personal _____
4. Providential _____
5. Pivotal _____

~ Andy Stanley - Five Things God Uses To Grow Your Faith

***The Good Life is _____ life,
the masterpiece made possible by the Master.***

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. There are moments in all our lives that are disorientating. John the Baptist sends a message to Jesus questioning whether he is the Messiah, Jesus tells the disciples "God blesses those who do not turn away because of me." Share about moments in your life when it felt like Jesus was allowing things to happen that didn't make sense. What did Jesus show you in those moments?
2. Pastor Matt listed 4 "Story Stealers". Which of these have been most challenging for you?
3. One of the Story Stealers is the Anesthetics we choose. Which Anesthetics do you gravitate toward?
4. Andy Stanley highlighted 5 Keys to Becoming You. Talk about how each one of these things work for you. Which of these things is the biggest strength for you? Which is the biggest challenge for you?
5. Take some time for listening prayer to hear what Jesus is saying about where you are moving towards "the good things he planned", the "rich and satisfying life" that Jesus has for you. Share your sense of where you are up to on the journey with each other and then make sure everyone is prayed for.

There are some books that we believe are particularly helpful in the journey of Apprenticeship with Jesus. These books have helped to shape our journey. None of these books are safe. Each one will challenge and change the way you see God, yourself and the world around you. For the list of books, please go to staalliance.org/reading/