

THREE WISHES AND A WELL-LIVED LIFE

Follow Jesus. Live well. Spend your life on what matters.

BIG IDEA

We live well by following Jesus and spending our lives on what matters to God and others.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Josh imagined three wishes and remembered the Super Toy Run, a childhood dream with unexpected costs. Getting what we want can still leave us wanting more. Proverbs calls us to consider our path. Jesus asks what we gain if we win the world but lose our life. Micah points toward a better way: justice, mercy, and walking humbly with God.

READ TOGETHER

Proverbs 4:26
Consider your path.
Mark 8:34-37
Follow Jesus; guard your life.
Micah 6:8
Justice, mercy, humility.

ICEBREAKER — CHOOSE ONE

Option 1: If you had three wishes and could not wish for more, what would your first wish be?
Option 2: What did you desperately want as a kid? Did getting it live up to the excitement?

TALK IT THROUGH

- 1 What part of Josh's Super Toy Run story or the three-wishes question stuck with you? Why?
(If needed: unexpected costs of getting what we want; a dream becoming our identity.)
- 2 Read Proverbs 4:26. Where do you find it easiest to drift into a path without giving it much thought?
(If needed: your schedule, spending, screen time, relationships, or habits.)
- 3 Read Mark 8:34-37. What does Jesus mean by losing our life for Him and the gospel? How is that different from wasting it?
(If needed: surrendering control; loving and serving instead of chasing status or comfort.)
- 4 Which of Dr. McGarey's six reflections speaks most to your life right now, and why?
1. You are here for a reason 2. All life needs to move 3. Love is the most powerful medicine
4. You are never truly alone 5. Everything is your teacher 6. Spend your energy wildly
(If needed: take a next step, share a gift, reconnect, or learn through a difficulty.)
- 5 Read Micah 6:8. Where could you act justly, love mercy, or walk more humbly with God this week?
(If needed: stand up for someone, forgive, show patience, or ask God for direction.)
- 6 What are you spending your best energy on? Does it fit the life you hope to have lived?
(If needed: name a worthy investment or a lesser pursuit needing less attention.)

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Choose one person or opportunity God has placed in your life. Take one specific step this week to act justly, love mercy, walk humbly, or spend your energy for someone else. Share that step with your group.

Pray: Jesus, show us where our steps are leading. Help us follow You and use our lives with purpose. Amen.

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A SIMPLE 60-MINUTE RHYTHM

1 Connect 10 MIN

Welcome everyone and use the icebreaker.

2 Read 10 MIN

Recap the big idea and read the passages aloud.

3 Discuss 30 MIN

Use the questions; do not force all six.

4 Respond 10 MIN

Name a next step and pray for one another.

LEAD THE CONVERSATION

1. Start with the story. Let the wish question invite laughter before moving to deeper reflection.
2. Keep Jesus central. The six reflections help us examine life; Mark 8 gives us the invitation to follow Him.
3. Give people a choice. Ask which reflection meets their situation. You do not need to cover all six in equal detail.
4. Respect hard stories. Learning from pain does not mean that painful events are good or easy to move past.
5. Protect confidentiality. Follow up when someone is struggling; safety concerns need appropriate help.

DO: Invite several voices and let silence work.

DON'T: Rush to fix or require every answer.

HELPFUL FOLLOW-UPS

When someone gives a short or general answer, try:

Tell us more about that.

What makes you say that?

Where do you see that in your week?

What might one next step look like?

How can this group support you?

KEEP THE MAIN THING CLEAR

Getting what we want cannot guarantee a well-lived life.

Jesus asks us to follow Him with our whole life, not just agree with an idea.

The six reflections are conversation prompts, not a checklist for earning God's favor.

Acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly give our next steps direction.

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for the life You have given us. Show us what we are chasing and where our steps are leading. Teach us to follow You, love people well, and spend our time and energy on what matters. Give each of us courage for one faithful next step this week. Amen.

BEFORE GROUP

- Read the three passages.
- Choose 3-4 questions.
- Prepare your own honest answer.
- Leave time for the challenge.
- Notice who needs follow-up.