

CITYWEST CHURCH

17.05.2026 - 10 AM

GOOD LIMITS

Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.

Psalm 16:5–6 (NIV)

Two weeks we talked about Abraham standing outside the tent.

A man living between limit and abundance.

God gave Abraham a promise larger than his current reality:

- *barren years*
- *aging bodies*
- *unanswered waiting*
- *but a future filled with stars*

And many of us know what it feels like to live in that tension: between what God promised and what we presently see.

But Psalm 16 gives us another perspective on abundance. Because sometimes abundance is not found in having more.

Sometimes abundance is learning to recognise the goodness of God within the boundaries He has given us.

David says:

“The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places.”

That’s a strange statement in a world obsessed with endless expansion.

We usually think blessing means:

- *no restriction*
- *no limitation*
- *no waiting*
- *no restraint*

But David understood something powerful: sometimes the boundary itself is part of the blessing.

1. GOD'S PRESENCE IS THE TRUE MEASURE OF ABUNDANCE

Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.

Psalm 16:5 (NIV)

Before David talks about inheritance, land, or blessing — he talks about God Himself.

This is important.

Because abundance in the Kingdom is not first about possessions. It is about presence.

Abraham learned this too. Genesis 15 begins with God saying:

“Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”

Not:

“I will give you a reward.”

“I AM your reward.”

Sometimes we become so focused on what is missing that we stop recognising Who is with us.

The world defines abundance by accumulation. The Kingdom defines abundance by communion with God.

You can have little and still be rich in peace. You can walk through difficulty and still carry joy. You can live inside limitation and still experience the fullness of God.

Paul understood this tension.

“I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation.

Philippians 4:12 (NLT)

The secret was not circumstances. The secret was Christ.

Tim Keller said:

“If your god never disagrees with you, you might just be worshipping an idealised version of yourself.”

Sometimes God lovingly allows boundaries because He wants us to discover that He is enough.

Maybe the season you're in feels smaller than you hoped:

- *smaller opportunities*
- *smaller capacity*
- *smaller resources*
- *smaller outcomes*

But abundance is not measured by size.

The question is: Is God present there?

Because where His presence is, abundance can still exist.

2. BOUNDARIES CAN PROTECT THE INHERITANCE GOD IS BUILDING

“You make my lot secure.”

David saw boundaries differently.

He didn't see them as punishment. He saw them as protection.

Every river needs banks. Without boundaries, water becomes destructive.

In the same way, God's boundaries preserve life.

Culture says:

“Freedom means no limits.”

But Scripture teaches:

Real freedom is found within God’s wisdom.

The Sabbath is a boundary.

Purity is a boundary.

Rest is a boundary.

Stewardship is a boundary.

Forgiveness is a boundary against bitterness.

And often the very limits we resist are the things protecting our souls.

Abraham had to learn this. God gave him a promise, but not immediate fulfillment.

There were years of waiting between the word and the miracle.

Why?

Because God was not only preparing the promise for Abraham.

He was preparing Abraham for the promise.

A.W. Tozer said:

“It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply.”

Not because God enjoys pain — but because maturity is often formed in seasons of limitation.

Some of us are frustrated by boundaries:

- *delayed answers*
- *closed doors*
- *slow growth*
- *hidden seasons*

But maybe what feels restrictive is actually preserving your future.

Not every open door is God’s will.

Not every opportunity is healthy.

Not every expansion is a blessing.

Sometimes God's "no" is protection.

Sometimes His pace is mercy.

And even the boundary can become a blessing.

3. JESUS REDEFINES WHAT TRUE INHERITANCE LOOKS LIKE

Psalm 16 ultimately points us toward Jesus.

In Acts 2, Peter connects Psalm 16 to Christ's resurrection.

For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave.

Acts 2:27 (NLT)

Because Jesus becomes the ultimate picture of abundance through surrender.

The cross looked like limitation:

- *rejection*
- *suffering*
- *weakness*
- *loss*

Yet through what appeared limited, God released salvation to the world.

This is the upside-down nature of the Kingdom.

Life through death. Strength through weakness. Resurrection through surrender.

2 Corinthians 12:9 says:

"My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." (NLT)

The world avoids weakness. But God often works most powerfully there.

Jesus shows us that abundance is not found in controlling everything.

It is found in trusting the Father completely.

Maybe you're carrying disappointment because life doesn't look as expansive as you imagined.

But don't miss the inheritance already in front of you:

- *God's presence*
- *His faithfulness*
- *His peace*
- *His shaping work in your life*

Because sometimes the richest places spiritually are not the largest places naturally.

Abraham stood beneath the stars, learning to trust God for abundance.

David stood within boundaries and called them pleasant places.

Both reveal a profound truth:

God's goodness is not absent in limitation.

At Citywest, we want to become people who trust that:

- *God is good in the waiting*
- *God is good in the restraint*
- *God is good in the hidden seasons*
- *and God is good even when life feels smaller than expected*

Because abundance is not always the removal of limits.

Sometimes abundance is discovering that God Himself is enough within them.

And sometimes even the boundary is a blessing.

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS:

- 1. Which boundary or limitation in your life have you struggled to see as “pleasant,” and how might God be using it to shape or protect you?**
- 2. Can you think of a time when a boundary, delay, or even a closed door ended up becoming a blessing or protection in your life?**
- 3. David says, “Lord, you alone are my portion.” What helps you recognise God’s presence and abundance even in seasons that feel smaller, slower, or more restricted than expected?**