Small Group Guide

GRACE COMMUNITY | CHURCH

Discussion Questions

1. When you hear the phrase "the good life," what image or scenario first comes to mind? How does that picture compare to the image of a fruit tree planted by a stream?
2. Pastor Jeff asked the congregation to close their eyes and picture a fruit tree by a stream and then label it "the good life." Was that easy or difficult for you? What did that exercise reveal about how you currently think about flourishing?
3. Psalm 1 presents two ways of living: one rooted in God's instruction and one lived independently of it. In your honest experience, which way do you find yourself gravitating toward more naturally, and why?
4. Jeff mentioned that when we see someone give up possessions to serve as a missionary, or forgive their enemies, or live generously, we often admire it but do not truly desire it for ourselves. Why do you think there is a gap between admiring the good life and desiring it?
5. Joshua 1:7-8 describes God's instruction to Joshua to meditate on God's law day and night. What would it look like practically for you to stay near the stream this week? What keeps you from doing that consistently?
6. The sermon described the wicked as chaff -- light, insubstantial, easily blown away, and not nourishing to anyone. Can you think of a time in your own life when you felt like chaff? What was pulling you away from being rooted?
7. Jeff pointed to Daniel and his friends as a living example of trees planted by streams of water. They were taken into slavery but remained rooted and brought life even in a hostile environment. What does their example challenge you to consider about your own circumstances?
8. The sermon emphasized that the Hebrew word translated "watches over" in Psalm 1:6 carries the meaning of knowing -- intimate, relational, caring knowledge. How does it affect you to consider that God knows your life in that way right now, including the parts that feel unnoticed or forgotten?
9. Pastor Jeff offered this honest prayer as a starting point for transformation: "God, I want to want what you want. I want to see the way you see. I believe you. But I don't

feel it." Does that prayer resonate with where you are right now? What would you add to it?

10. The sermon asked: "Are the people around you receiving life through you?" How would the people closest to you answer that question about you? What would need to change for the answer to be yes more consistently?