



## CORNERSTONE REFLECTION GUIDE

### FEBRUARY 16, 2025

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**Title:** What is Good? | Growing in Goodness

**Preacher:** Rev. Matt Tuggle

**Scripture:** Hebrews 5:11-14; Mark 10:17-22

Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not defraud, honor your father and mother... How are you doing with these? In Mark 10:17-22, a rich young ruler who seemingly had it all and had it all together, asks Jesus what he must do to live a good life. Jesus then reminded him of the commandments, all of which he claims to have kept since he was young. But there was one thing he lacked—covetousness. He lacked freedom from the relentless desire to acquire more. The solution Jesus provides, which is to sell all of his possessions and give the money to the poor, results in the young man walking away in sorrow.

It's easy to play the comparison game. When we look at God's commandments, we may be tempted to focus on the commandments we are keeping. The truth is, we all have areas of our lives where there is plenty of room for growth. But growth comes at a price. **Sometimes we have to *give something up* if we are to *grow up*.** To cultivate lives that reflect God's goodness, to say "yes" to the life that God is calling us into, we will have to say "no" to something else.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What stuck out to you about this sermon? Was there an idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?
2. What are some practical ways we can reflect God's goodness?
3. Read Mark 10:17-22. Why does Jesus instruct the rich young ruler to sell his possessions and give to the poor (v. 21)? Is the issue with having wealth, or is

there something deeper at play? What does the young man's reaction in verse 22 reveal about his heart and priorities?

4. What are some challenges we face in saying "yes" to God in our daily lives? What obstacles (internal or external) tend to get in the way of showing goodness to others?
5. How can we be more intentional about setting boundaries and creating space to experience and grow in God's goodness?

## WEEKLY PRACTICE

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Saying "yes" to God allows us to experience true freedom and live life to the fullest, but it often comes at the cost of saying "no" to something else. Read Matthew 5 and take a personal inventory of how you are doing in the areas that Jesus highlights:

**Love of enemies:** Are there people in your life you struggle to love or forgive?

**Anger:** Do you find yourself harboring anger or resentment?

**Lust:** Are there any impure thoughts or desires leading you away from God?

**Retaliation:** How do you respond when someone wrongs you? Are you quick to retaliate, or do you extend grace?

**Honesty:** Are there areas where you need to be more truthful or transparent?

**Appreciation for what you have:** Do you often compare yourself to others, or are you content and grateful for what God has given you?

Take time to acknowledge and celebrate the areas in which you are growing and reflecting God's goodness. Then ask, what are some specific areas where you feel God is inviting you to grow in goodness and spiritual maturity? How can you respond to God's invitation in those areas, and what might you need to say "no" to in order to say a wholehearted "yes" to Him?

Write down a specific action or prayer for each area where you sense God's invitation. Make a commitment to take small steps in saying "yes" to God, trusting that His way will lead you to greater freedom and fullness of life.