

Pioneer Congregational Church
Wednesday Night Bible Study Discussion Guide

Bible Study: Exploring *The Good Place* (Season 1, Episode 3)

In Episode 3, Eleanor struggles to become a better person after realizing she doesn't truly belong in "The Good Place." Chidi agrees to help her, but her selfish tendencies make it difficult. Meanwhile, chaos ensues in their community due to Eleanor's past misdeeds. This episode explores the tension between self-centeredness and the desire for personal growth.

Biblical Themes for Study

1. Transformation Through Grace

Eleanor's journey mirrors our spiritual journey. Just as Eleanor doesn't "belong" in The Good Place, we recognize that we are not inherently "good enough" to earn heaven. However, the Bible reminds us that transformation is possible through God's grace:

- *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."* — Ephesians 2:8-9

Discuss: Why do you think grace, rather than personal effort alone, is essential for transformation?

2. Accountability in Growth

Chidi acts as a mentor to Eleanor, much like the role of accountability partners in our faith.

- *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."* — Proverbs 27:17

Discuss: How can we support others in their journey of faith and personal growth?

3. The Struggle with Selfishness

Eleanor's initial refusal to change highlights the challenge of dying to self, a key principle in Christian life.

- *"Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.'" — Luke 9:23*

Reflect: What are some practical ways we can deny selfish desires to grow spiritually?

Discussion Questions

1. What parallels do you see between Eleanor's struggles and the human struggle to live a good life? How does this compare with Jiyanu's struggle?
2. What are some of the ways in which we struggle to accept and love ourselves?

3. Who influences us in how we love ourselves? Who hinders us? How can we mitigate the challenges of loving ourselves appropriately? How does Jianyu's understanding of self-love differ from Eleanor's?
 4. In what ways can we overcome feelings of unworthiness and accept God's grace?
 5. In your life or in the life of someone you know, what areas could improve if one understood God's love and affirmation?
 6. Eleanor learns that growth is a process and doesn't happen overnight. How does Philippians 1:6 encourage us about the journey of faith?
 - o *"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*
 7. What areas in our life have taken time to process and grow? What areas do you wish would hurry the heck up?
-

Practical Applications

1. **Identify Your "Chidi":** Find someone who can mentor or guide you in your spiritual growth. Alternatively, consider mentoring someone else.
 2. **Confess and Surrender:** Reflect on areas where selfishness may be holding you back. Pray for the Holy Spirit to transform those parts of your life.
 3. **Commit to Small Steps:** Just as Eleanor starts with small changes, commit to one actionable step this week to grow closer to God (e.g., daily prayer, serving someone selflessly, etc.).
-

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Mother Father God, thank you for the gift of grace and the opportunity to grow into the people you have called us to be. Help us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow you daily. Give us the courage to seek accountability and the humility to accept your guidance. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.