

Wednesday Bible Study: The Good Place

Wednesday, July 30, 2025

Opening Prayer

Summary of Episode 12

In the episode titled, "Somewhere Else," Michael intervenes to give Eleanor, Chidi, Jason, and Tahani another shot at life on Earth. They're returned to the moments before their original deaths, with no memory of the afterlife. The idea is: if they had a second chance, would they choose to become better people?

Eleanor makes small but meaningful changes. But after a while, she slides back into her old ways—until she is inspired by Chidi's lecture on moral philosophy and seeks out answers.

Key Scripture: Luke 13:6–9 (Parable of the Barren Fig Tree)

"Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any.

So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'"

"Sir," the man replied, "leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it.

If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

— *Luke 13:6–9 (NIV)*

Discussion Points

1. God's Mercy Is a Second (and Third) Chance

In *The Good Place*, Michael becomes a kind of "godlike" figure who intervenes not to punish, but to offer mercy. This echoes the parable in Luke, where the gardener (representing Jesus) advocates for giving the tree more time to grow.

- Q: How have you grown by being given another chance to grow or screw up?

- Q: Do you sometimes struggle to believe you can change?

Related Scriptures:

- Lamentations 3:22-23 – *"His mercies are new every morning."*
 - 2 Peter 3:9 – *"The Lord is patient...not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."*
-

2. Change Is Hard Without Help

When Eleanor tries to be better on her own, she eventually falters. Only when she re-encounters Chidi and his moral philosophy does she begin to find direction again.

- Q: How does community help us live out our faith and values?
- Q: Are you trying to change something without letting others in?

Related Scriptures:

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 – *"Two are better than one..."*
 - Galatians 6:2 – *"Carry each other's burdens..."*
 - Hebrews 10:24-25 – *"Let us spur one another on toward love and good deeds..."*
-

3. Our Desires Must Be Reoriented

Even with a new life, Eleanor initially drifts back to her old patterns. True change requires not just new circumstances, but new desires and a transformed heart.

- Q: What are the desires or habits you return to, even when you want to be better?
- Q: How can you invite God to transform your heart?

Related Scriptures:

- Ezekiel 36:26 – *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you."*
- Romans 12:2 – *"Be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."*
- Psalm 51:10 – *"Create in me a clean heart, O God..."*

Group Reflection Prompt

Imagine you were given a literal second chance at your life starting today—how would your priorities shift? What would you do differently in light of God’s grace?

Season Review and Recap

What has been your favorite episode in this second season of the show? What did you like? What didn’t you like?

What is the overall moral theme you can share with us as it relates to yourself?

Closing Prayer

God of mercy and second chances, thank you for your patient love. Help us not to waste the time we’ve been given. Transform our hearts so we might bear fruit that honors you. Surround us with people who inspire us to grow, and give us the courage to keep trying even when we fail. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.