

Wednesday Bible Study: The Good Place
Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Opening Prayer

Episode Overview: The Trolley Problem

In Season 2, Episode 5 of *The Good Place*, Chidi is forced by Michael (a demon learning about ethics) to confront the famous *Trolley Problem*—a moral dilemma where one must choose whether to sacrifice one person to save five. Michael, in a darkly humorous twist, makes Chidi experience increasingly gruesome versions of the scenario in real life. The episode explores ethics, guilt, responsibility, and what it means to make the "right" choice when there are no perfect options.

Bible Themes

Biblical Theme: Seeking Wisdom and the Heart Behind Our Choices

Key Scripture:

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

— James 1:5 (NIV)

"The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

— 1 Samuel 16:7b (NIV)

Discussion

1. The Burden of Moral Choices

- *The Trolley Problem* presents a no-win situation, which reflects the complexity of real-life decisions. Chidi, a moral philosopher, is paralyzed by the need to find the "perfect" solution.
- **Ask:** Have you ever faced a decision where all the options felt wrong or incomplete? How did you choose what to do?
- **Biblical Connection:** Life is often morally complex, and God doesn't always give black-and-white answers—but God gives *wisdom* and looks at the *intentions of our hearts*.

2. Michael's Growth and Confusion

- Michael is struggling to understand human morality—not just as a set of rules, but as something deeper.
- **Ask:** What do you think it means to grow in understanding, not just knowledge? How does that relate to spiritual growth?
- **Biblical Connection:** Like Michael, we may start with misunderstandings of right and wrong. The Bible often speaks of spiritual growth as a process (Hebrews 5:13–14). Jesus emphasized mercy and love over rule-following (Matthew 23:23).

3. Grace in the Face of Failure

- Chidi's repeated failures in this episode are met with increasing frustration, but the group doesn't abandon him. They're learning together.
- **Ask:** How does grace play a role in moral failure? Have you experienced grace from others—or God—after making a hard or wrong choice?
- **Biblical Connection:** Romans 3:23 reminds us that all have sinned and fall short, yet grace is offered freely. God doesn't require us to be perfect decision-makers—only to seek God and love others genuinely (Micah 6:8).

4. **Roundtable sharing.** What did you learn from this episode and what questions would you ask of us?

Closing Prayer

“God, we face decisions every day that aren't easy. Help us to seek Your wisdom, trust Your grace, and grow in love for others. When we fail, remind us that You look at our hearts, and that Your mercy is greater than our mistakes. Teach us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. God be with us. Amen.”
