



## IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

### WEEK 1

#### CONTENT:

What were the most wonderful years of your life? What made them wonderful?

#### **Read: John 10:10-11**

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

What does the apostle mean by thief in this passage? Who is the thief?

When you picture the enemy as a thief, do you picture him as one who breaks down your door and ransacks the place, or do you picture him more of a skilled jewel thief? Why is this important?

LEADERS NOTE: The word “thief” comes from the Greek word *klepto*, which means *to steal*. It gives a picture of a *bandit, pickpocket, or thief who is so artful in the way he steals that his exploits of thievery are nearly undetectable*. Jesus calls the enemy a thief in that he is very cunning in his approach. As believers we need to recognize that the enemy is cunning and will find ways of luring us without our knowing.

In what ways does the enemy steal from us? Explain

LEADERS NOTE: A thief takes what rightfully belongs to us. The things he comes to steal are not necessarily tangible things but rather intangible things. He comes to steal your joy, your peace and most importantly, your faith in God’s promises.

The verse says that the thief also comes to kill and destroy. How exactly does the enemy kill a child of God?

LEADERS NOTE: The term “kill” in the original greek does not mean to murder. The Greek word is *thuo*, which means *to sacrifice*. It originally referred to *the sacrificial giving of animals on the altar*. It could mean *to sacrifice; to surrender; or to give up something that is precious and dear*. It was particularly used in a religious connotation to denote *the sacrifice of animals*, and it had nothing to do with killing in terms of murder. Because Jesus uses this word to describe the work of the thief in John 10:10, He is telling us that if the thief hasn’t already walked away with everything we hold precious and dear, he will then try to convince us that we need to sacrifice or give up everything he hasn’t already taken from us.

How does the enemy destroy? Explain

LEADERS NOTE: This is the idea of a life that is devastated, trashed, wasted. That the enemy makes one ineffective for any kingdom work.

What does it mean that Jesus came to give life, if we are already living? Explain

LEADERS NOTE: The word life used here is *Zoe*, which means a life full of vitality. And abundant means exceeding. A life that is FULL of vitality and zest. This is the opposite of what the enemy intends for us.

Is your view of an abundant life like that of George Bailey who wanted more out of life? What would you consider to be examples of having an abundant life?

Read Romans 5:1-4. Does it surprise you that the apostle Paul considers suffering as something good? How does that line up with the abundant life?

How do we possess a ZOE life? What must we do according to this past week's sermon?

LEADERS NOTE: Abundant life happens when we trust the promises of God.

Read Romans 12:1-2. What steps does Paul say to take in these verses to prove that God's way is good and pleasing?

LEADERS NOTE: The verses tell us to do several things. 1) Present our bodies a living sacrifice. 2) Do not be conformed to this world 3) Be transformed by the renewing of our minds thru God's Word

Jesus goes on to describe Himself as the Good Shepherd in verse 11. How has He been your good shepherd?

Can you remember a time when He was not your shepherd? What was that like?

How would you share with someone that doesn't know the good shepherd that Jesus offers them an abundant life? What would you say to that person?

LEADERS NOTE: Let each person in the group verbalize what they would say and then challenge them to do it as an application step.

**Application:**

Take some time this week to read John 10:10-11 then journal by asking yourself

- 1) What is God saying to me?
- 2) What can I say in return?
- 3) How can I apply this to my life?

Make a list of who you will invite to a Christmas service and pray for them this week