

IN THE FUTURE

sermon by Emily Bingham



Grantham
Church
BRETHREN IN CHRIST

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American churches closing faster than new ones can open

More than half of Americans now say they are not members of a church

In U.S., Decline of Christianity Continues at Rapid Pace

An update on America's changing religious landscape

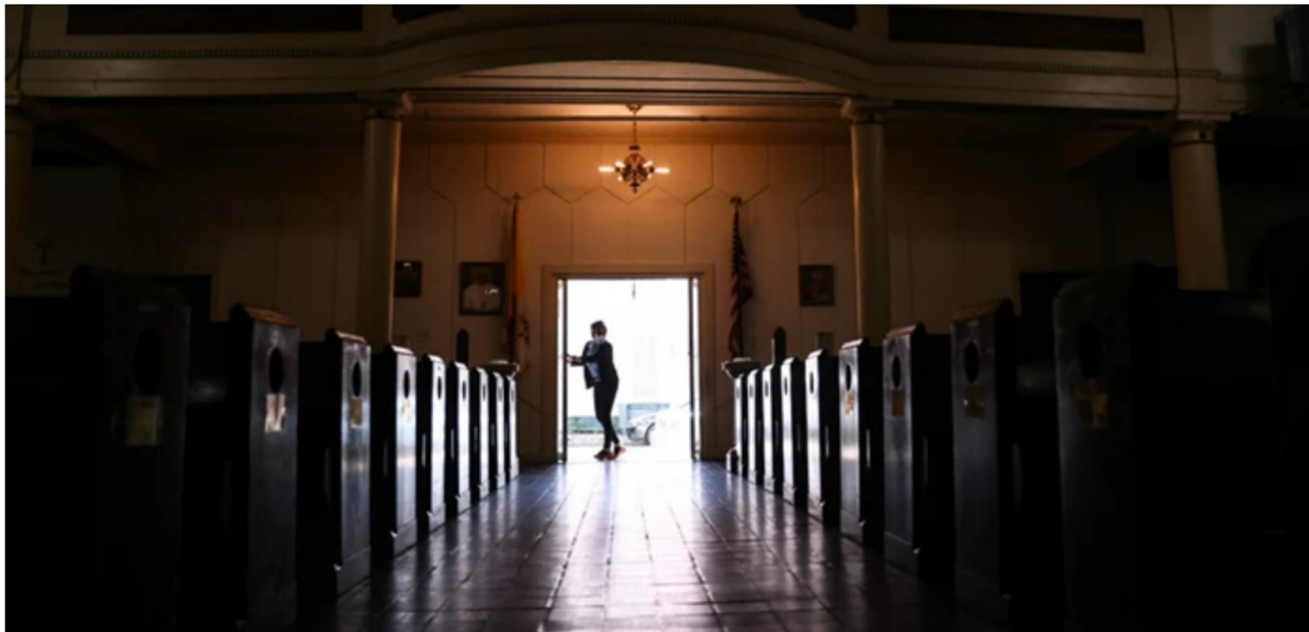


(Sungjin Ahn photography/Getty Images)

Decline of Christianity Shows No Signs of Stopping

New study projects that the religious identity in the US will drop below 50 percent by 2070.

DANIEL SILLIMAN | SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 09:05 AM



Gen Z is spiritually illiterate and abandoning church: How did we get here?

By TESSA LANDRUM Dec 27, 2019 Updated Oct 6, 2021



Jessica Rinaldi/Reuters

People worship at an Easter sunrise service in Scituate, Massachusetts, in March 2013.

**Predictions about the decline of
Christianity in America may be
premature**

IDEAS

AMERICAN CHRISTIANITY IS DUE FOR A REVIVAL


Our society is secularizing, and Christianity seems to be in long-term decline. But renewal is possible.

By Timothy Keller

FEBRUARY 5, 2023

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Psalm 78:4-7 (NLT)

4 We will not hide these truths from our children;
we will tell the next generation
about the glorious deeds of the LORD,
about his power and his mighty wonders.

5 For he issued his laws to Jacob;
he gave his instructions to Israel.
He commanded our ancestors
to teach them to their children,

6 so the next generation might know them—
even the children not yet born—
and they in turn will teach their own children.

7 *So each generation should set its hope anew on God,*
not forgetting his glorious miracles
and obeying his commands.

Born: 1999-2015



Who is Gen Z?

Technology

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Diversity

- About half of Gen Z is nonwhite

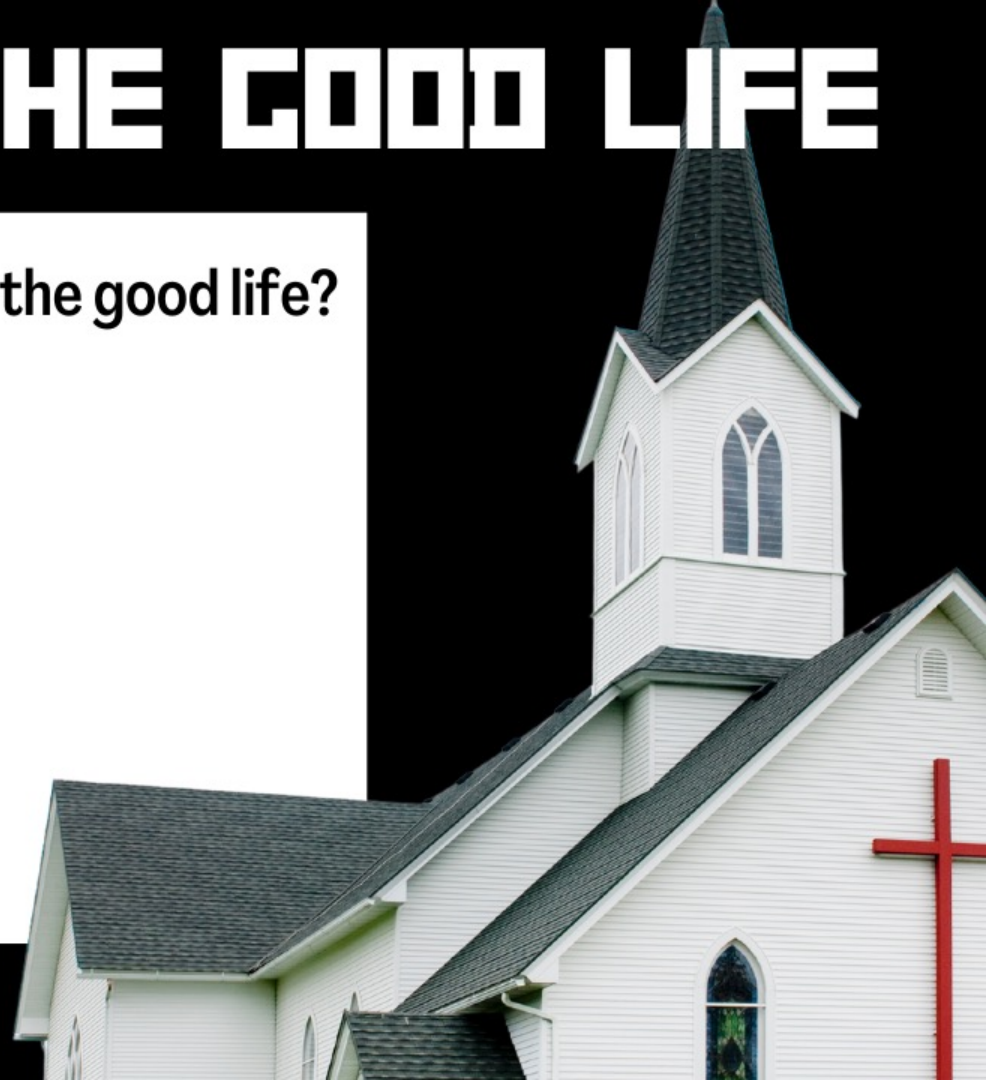
A Vision of the Good Life

Deuteronomy 6:1-3 (NIV)

1 These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, **2** so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. **3** Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

A VISION OF THE GOOD LIFE

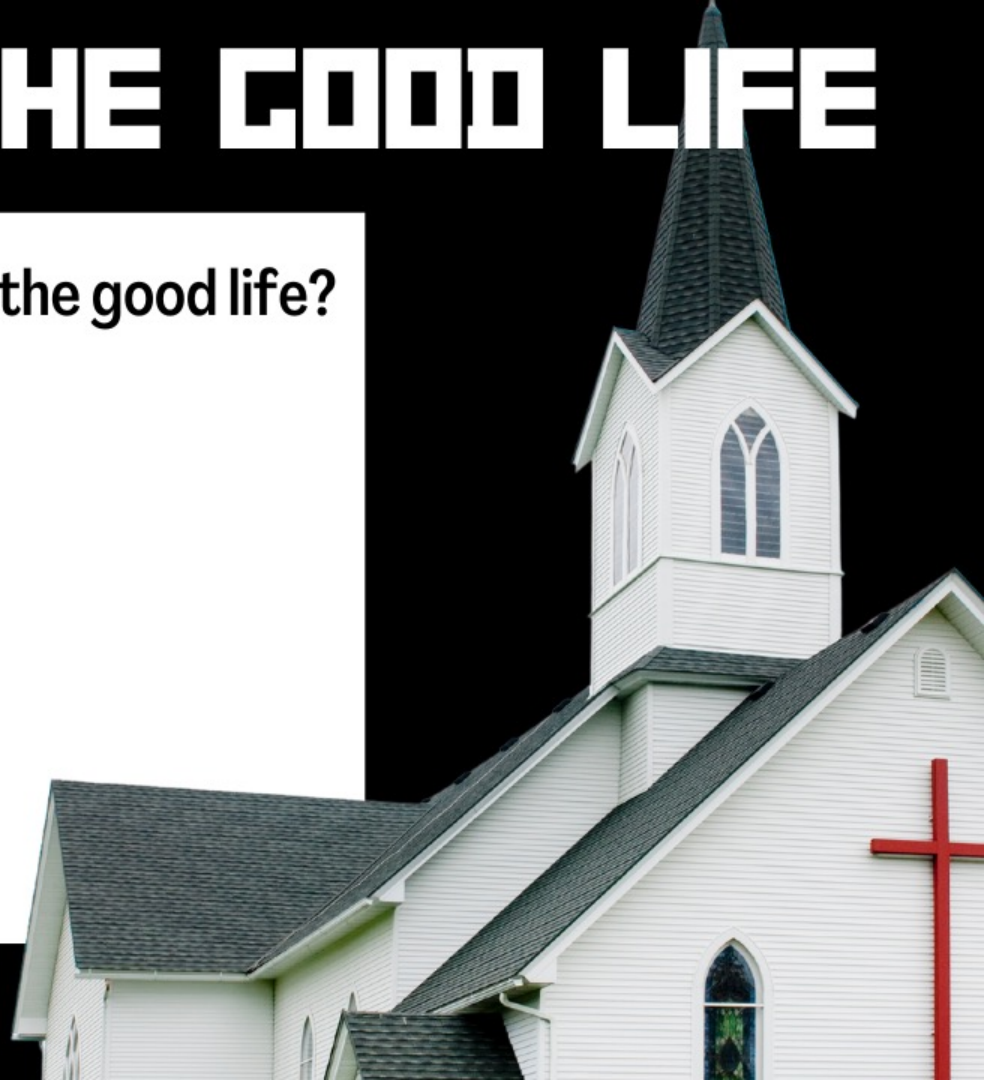
How can we give Gen Z a vision of the good life?



A VISION OF THE GOOD LIFE

How can we give Gen Z a vision of the good life?

1. Holistic Discipleship



Deuteronomy 6:4-6 (NIV)

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. **5** Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. **6** These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.

Matthew 22:34-40 (NIV)

34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together.

35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: **36**

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

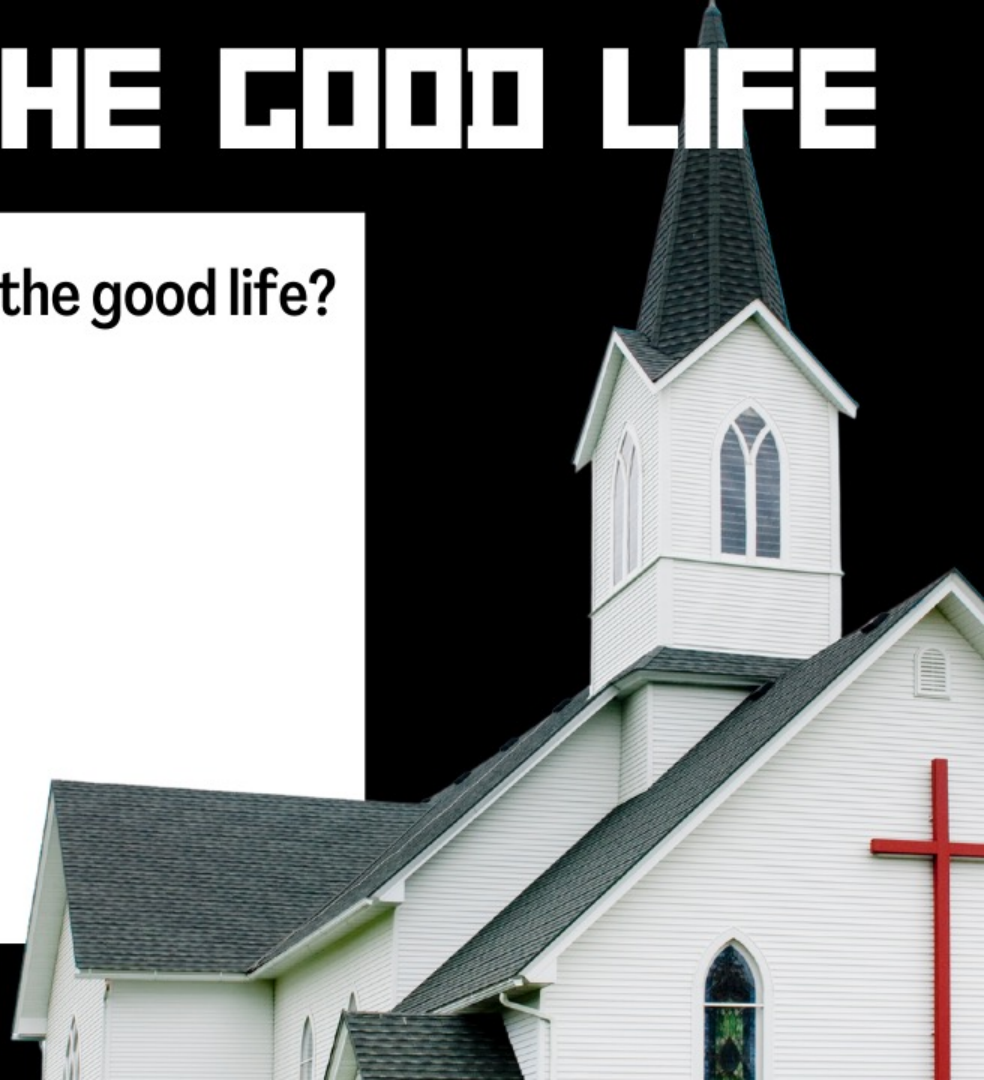
37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ **38** This is the first and greatest commandment. **39**

And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ **40** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

A VISION OF THE GOOD LIFE

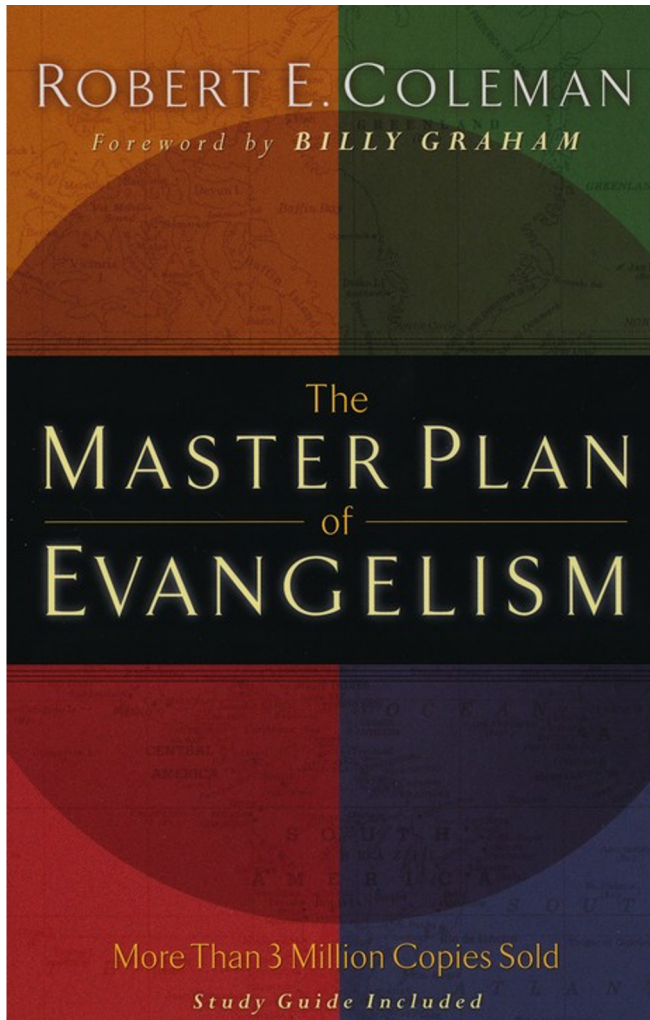
How can we give Gen Z a vision of the good life?

1. Holistic Discipleship
2. Incarnational Evangelism



Deuteronomy 6:7-9 (NIV)

7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. **8** Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. **9** Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.



“There is simply no substitute for getting with people, and it is ridiculous to imagine that anything less, short of a miracle, can develop strong Christian leadership. After all, if Jesus, the Son of God, found it necessary to stay almost constantly with his few disciples for three years, and even one of them was lost, how can a church expect to do this job on an assembly line basis a few days out of the year?”

- Robert Coleman

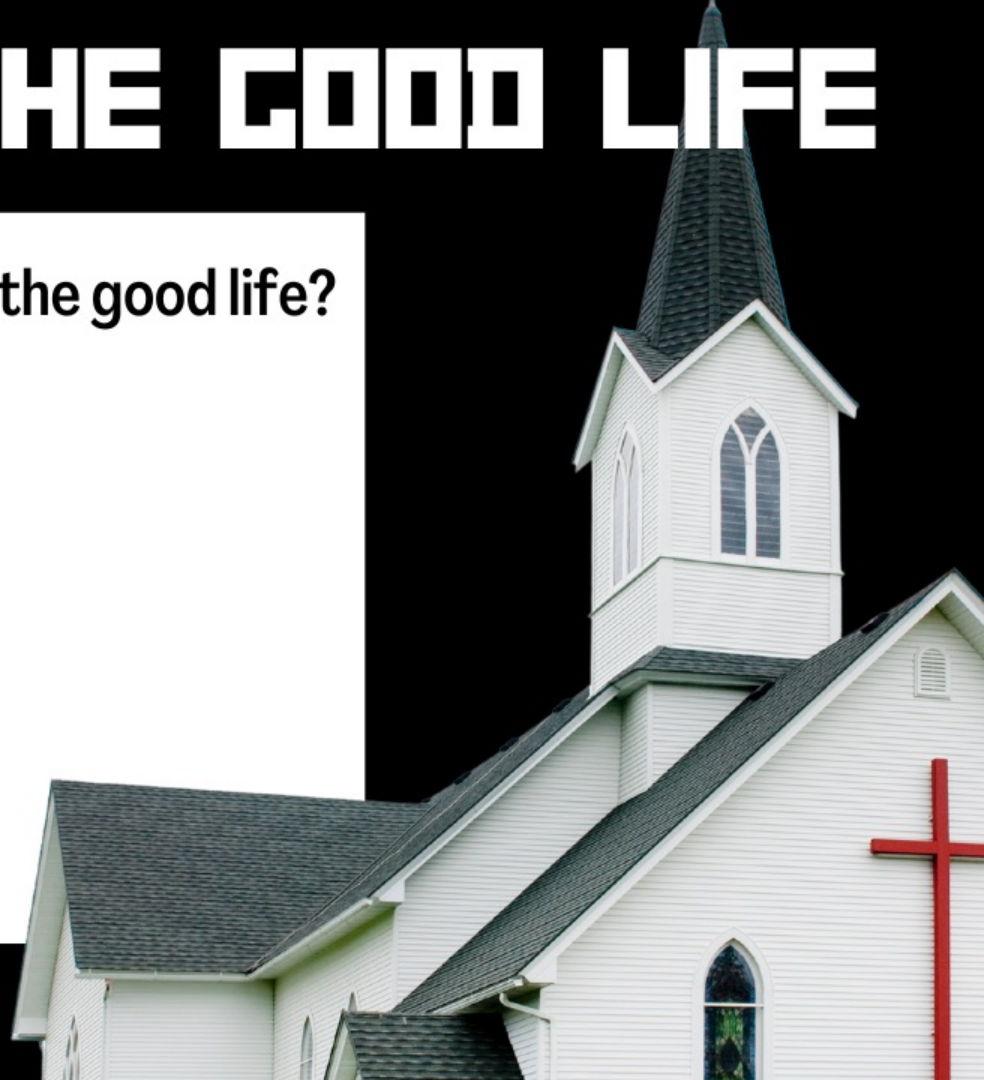
John 1:14 (NIV)

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

A VISION OF THE GOOD LIFE

How can we give Gen Z a vision of the good life?

1. Holistic Discipleship
2. Incarnational Evangelism
3. Cultural Engagement



Deuteronomy 6:10-19 (NIV)

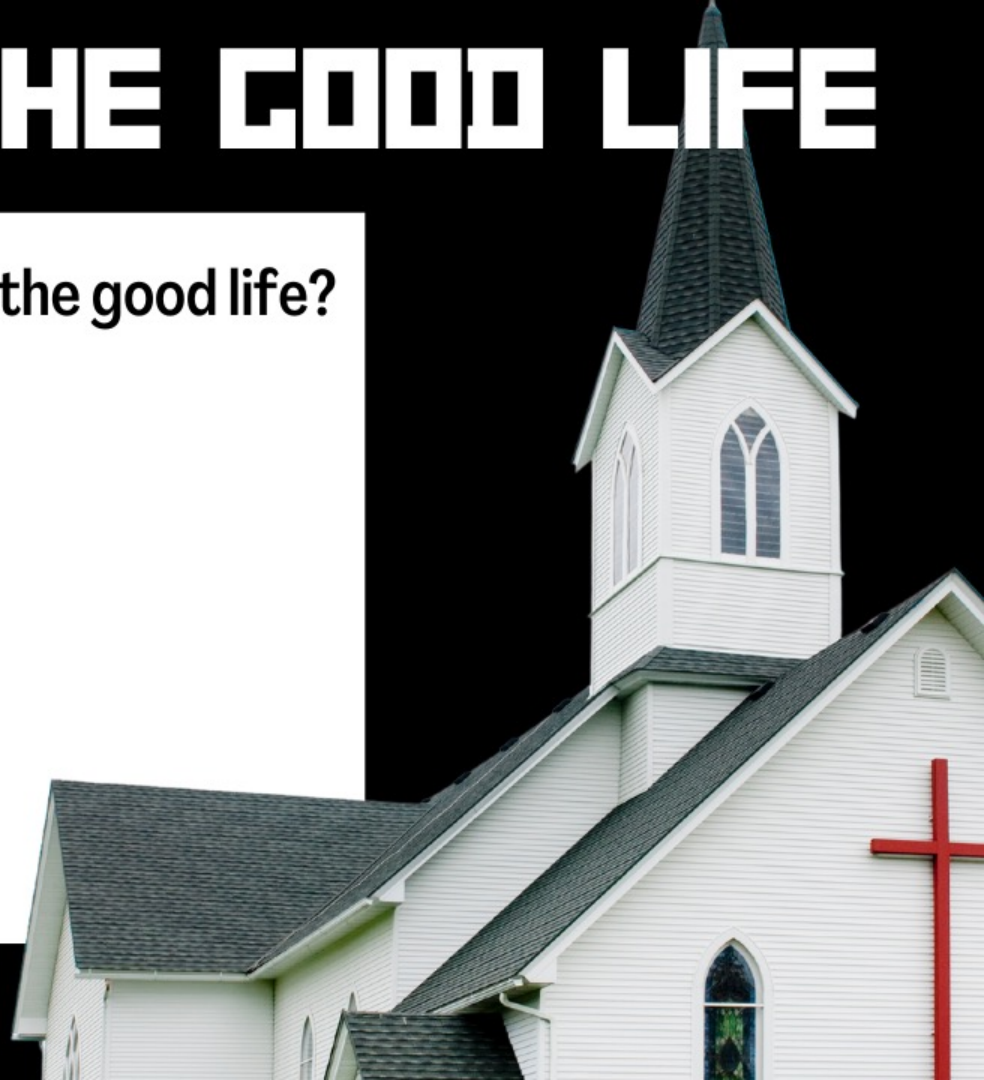
10 When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, **11** houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, **12** be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

13 Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. **14** Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; **15** for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land. **16** Do not put the LORD your God to the test as you did at Massah. **17** Be sure to keep the commands of the LORD your God and the stipulations and decrees he has given you. **18** Do what is right and good in the LORD's sight, so that it may go well with you and you may go in and take over the good land the LORD promised on oath to your ancestors, **19** thrusting out all your enemies before you, as the LORD said.

A VISION OF THE GOOD LIFE

How can we give Gen Z a vision of the good life?

1. Holistic Discipleship
2. Incarnational Evangelism
3. Cultural Engagement
4. Storytelling



Deuteronomy 6:20-25 (NIV)

20 In the future, when your son asks you, “What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the LORD our God has commanded you?” **21** tell him: “We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. **22** Before our eyes the LORD sent signs and wonders—great and terrible—on Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household. **23** But he brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land he promised on oath to our ancestors. **24** The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today. **25** And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.”

Psalm 145:3-13

3 Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.

4 One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.

5 They speak of the glorious splendor of your
majesty—
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.^[a]

6 They tell of the power of your awesome works—
and I will proclaim your great deeds.

7 They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

8 The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.

9 The LORD is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.

10 All your works praise you, LORD;
your faithful people extol you.

11 They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,

12 so that all people may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.

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