

*A practical guidebook to help us take God at His word
and live lives of freedom and power. --Jennie Allen*

Nicole Unice



The
Struggle
is
Real.

Getting better at life,
stronger in faith,
and free from the stuff
keeping you stuck

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
204 ODESSA AVENUE
PITTSBURG, CA 94565**

Fall Bible Study

**REV. HENRY L. PERKINS,
INSTRUCTOR
September 12, 2018**

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September 19, 2018

SEARCHING FOR THE GOOD LIFE
(Proverbs 3:1-18)

Remember, James tell us, “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault” (James 1:5).

A prayer for you:

Father, as we begin to look more closely at how Your wisdom directs our struggles, help us to trust in Your promises and believe that they are for each of us – in the life we are living right now. Amen!

A. The Good Life Inventory. Think about the last two weeks. Circle the number below of the statement that currently describe you. Answer honestly – this is for your growth! The only way we grow is with honesty, and the only person you would be lying to is yourself. Be courageously honest.

1. I am totally committed to knowing the truth about myself. I am not afraid to ask others around me to help me see blind spots or trouble areas in my life.
2. I have a peaceful and non-anxious presence, both inside and out.
3. Generally I feel that my soul is untroubled and undisturbed. I have nothing to hide.
4. I regularly and sincerely ask for forgiveness from my family, friends, and co-workers.
5. I respect my own heart, body, and soul as something to be cherished.
6. I treat conflicting patterns of thinking and behaving in myself with gentleness.
7. I have a clear sense of purpose in my life.
8. I have experienced deep compassion for someone who has hurt me.
9. I feel total freedom from my past hurts and regrets.
10. I experience joy on a daily basis.

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B. This Week's Focus:

1. I am totally committed to knowing the truth about myself. I am not afraid to ask others around me to help me see **blind spots** or trouble areas in my life. Yes No
2. I have a peaceful and non-anxious presence, both inside and out. Yes No
3. Generally I feel that my soul is untroubled and undisturbed. I have nothing to hide. Yes No

C. The Outward Expression of Inward Wisdom (James 3:17-18)

Read through each translation and circle the attributes that reflects “the wisdom that comes from heaven.”

New International Version (NIV)

The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

New Living Translation (NLT)

The wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

Amplified Bible (AMP)

The wisdom from above is first pure [morally and spiritually undefiled], then peace-loving [courteous, considerate], gentle, reasonable [and willing to listen], full of compassion and good fruits. It is unwavering, without [self-righteous] hypocrisy [and self-serving guile]. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness (spiritual maturity) is sown in peace by those who make peace [by actively encouraging goodwill between individuals].

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HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

1. How does this passage relate to the “Good Life” statements above?
2. As you go through your day, think about how “wisdom from heaven” shows up in your life – or doesn’t! Here’s a challenge for you (if you choose to accept it!): Lean into one or more of the attributes listed above as your goal for today.
3. Pay attention to your thoughts, feelings, and actions this week. Take note of whether you are committed to knowing the truth about yourself; whether you are generally peaceful and non-anxious; and whether you go about your days relatively untroubled with nothing to hide. We’ll come back to this.

D. Inviting God Into Your Struggle (Proverbs 3:18-35)

1. Identify our struggle?

2. Key Factors:

- Most of us are aware that we live in the gap between our ideal (the good life) and our reality (the Struggle).
- Identify the struggle as “the frustrating place between who I want to be and who I actually am.”
- Inviting God into my struggle is often easier said than done.

3. Processing My Struggles:

- Responding to my reluctance – Psalm 139:23-24/Phil 4:6-7

Things that may hinder my reluctancy:

- My struggles feel too petty to pray about.
- I’m too preoccupied/busy to stop and ask God into them.
- I don’t know how to pray about these things.

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- I used to pray about these things but didn't feel like I got any answers from God.
- What areas do you need help in?

4. Submitting to My Struggles by:

- Seeking God's help
- Allowing God to examine me.
- Obeying instructions to allow God to purge me
- Requiring "nothing is too small for God to solve"

5. What are you walking away with tonight as you invite God into your struggle?
