

## The Good Place – Episode 1

Icebreaker: Where, or earth, would you like to spend eternity?

Watch Episode 1.

Discuss

- What is your initial impression of Michael and Eleanor? How does that change over the course of the episode?
- What does this episode say about how we reach the afterlife?
- How does that compare with other religions (outside of Christianity)?
- How does that compare with Christianity?
- How does that compare with how we live? (Do you live as if we have been saved by grace, or as if we are trying to earn God's favor?)

*<sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

- Would knowing that there is a point system reshape how you live your life? If so how?
- Does knowing God's grace/forgiveness allow you to live not as good as a life?

*What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup>By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? (Romans 6:1-2)*

*What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! (Romans 6:15)*

- Eleanor discloses a mistake to her "soulmate" Chidi. What is it? Did it surprise you? What is her take on it?
- What is the ethical dilemma that Chidi finds himself in?
- How does keeping Eleanor's secret create an ethical problem?
- How does reporting Eleanor's create an ethical problem?
- What would you choose to do and why?
- When faced with an ethical dilemma, how do you know what to do?
- Why might Eleanor's being there cause a problem for the entire neighborhood?

### One bad apple spoils the bunch

*<sup>33</sup>Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."<sup>[e]</sup> <sup>34</sup>Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame. (1 Corinthians 15)*

*Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: "Be<sup>[a]</sup> on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. <sup>2</sup>There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. <sup>3</sup>What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs. (Luke 12)*

What is Eleanor's strategy for staying in the good place? Will she ever be good enough?