Jeremiah 8:5 "… why do these people stay on their self-destructive path? Why do the people of Jerusalem refuse to turn back? They cling tightly to their **lies** and will not turn around." (NLT)

LIES WE BELIEVE ABOUT LIFE

1. You can HAVE IT ALL.

Ecclesiastes 2:4-11 "4 I also tried to find meaning by building huge homes for myself and by planting beautiful vineyards. 5 I made gardens and parks, filling them with all kinds of fruit trees. 6 I built reservoirs to collect the water to irrigate my many flourishing groves. 7 I bought slaves, both men and women, and others were born into my household. I also owned large herds and flocks, more than any of the kings who had lived in Jerusalem before me. 8 I collected great sums of silver and gold, the treasure of many kings and provinces. I hired wonderful singers, both men and women, and had many beautiful concubines. I had everything a man could desire! 9 So I became greater than all who had lived in Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me. 10 Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for my labor. 11 But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere." (NLT)

Luke 12:15 "Then Jesus said, "Beware! Don't be greedy for what you don't have. Real life is not measured by how much we own." (NLT)

2. You shouldn't have to WAIT for what you want.

Proverbs 16:32 "Better to be patient than powerful; better to have self-control than to conquer a city." (NLT)

Proverbs 21:5 "Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty." (NLT)

3. You can do ANYTHING you set your mind to.

James 4:13-15 "13 Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." 14 How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. 15 What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." (NLT)

Romans 12:6-8 "6 In His grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. 7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. 8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, given generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly." (NLT)

4. BEING HAPPY is the most important thing in life.

Ecclesiastes 8:15 "So I recommend having fun, because there is nothing better for people in this world than to eat, drink, and enjoy life. That way they will experience some happiness along with all the hard work God gives them under the sun." (NLT)

Matthew 5:3-12 "3 Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them! 4 Happy are those who mourn; God will comfort them. 5 Happy are those who are humble; they will receive what God has promised! 6 Happy are those whose greatest desires is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully! 7 Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them! 8 Happy are the pure in heart; they will see God! 9 Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them His children! 10 Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them! 11 Happy are you when people insult you and persecute you and tell all kinds of evil lies against you because you are my followers. 12 Be happy and glad, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. This is how the prophets who lived before you were persecuted." (TEV)

5. People are BASICALLY GOOD.

Genesis 6:5-6 "5 The Lord observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and He saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. 6 So the Lord was sorry He had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke His heart." (NLT)

Romans 7:18-25 "18 And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. 19 I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. 20 But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. 21 I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. 22 I love God's law with all my heart. 23 But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. 24 Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? 25 Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin." (NLT)

6. Life should be EASY AND FAIR.

John 16:33 "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." (NLT)

Matthew 7:24-27 "24 Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. 25 Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. 26 But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. 27 When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash." (NLT)

BOTTOM LINE

1 John 2:15-17 "15 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. 17 And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever." (NLT)