



THE GAMBLE

BAD BETS WE STAKE OUR LIVES ON

CHASEOAKS.ORG/THEGAMBLE





WELCOME

Copyright © 2021 by Chase Oaks Church.
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Published by Chase Oaks Church.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotes are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®.


Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 and 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission.

All rights reserved worldwide. Printed in the United States of America.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME	3	A Note From Our Senior Pastor
USING THIS GUIDE	4	Read This First
THE WINNING COMBO	5	Keys to a Successful Experience
BAD BET 1	6	Do What Feels Right
BAD BET 2	14	Stay Safe With Similar People
BAD BET 3	22	Accomplish at All Costs
BAD BET 4	30	Accumulate More
BAD BET 5	38	Play the Comparison Game
LEADER RESOURCES	46	How to Go Further and Faster Together





“YOU’VE GOT
TO KNOW WHEN
TO **HOLD’EM**,
KNOW WHEN TO
FOLD’EM, KNOW
WHEN TO **WALK
AWAY**, AND KNOW
WHEN TO **RUN.**”

• **KENNY ROGERS.**
THE GAMBLER

**WHEN IT COMES TO
THE WAY WE LIVE, WHO
DOESN'T WANT TO GO**

BIG?

We all want to make the most of what we have and hear others say, “Now that’s a person who really lived. They made it count—they hit the jackpot.”

But the truth is, the odds are stacked against us living that type of life. Most people miss it. I’m convinced there are five big bad bets that many of us stake our lives upon: things we wager our chips on that seem to promise so much but, in actuality, deliver so little. Whether we know it or not, these things are working against us and holding us back from joy, meaning, and significance.

Jesus came to offer us a different way to live. He wants to guide us to a life that is really life. His way is counter-intuitive in our culture and will often cost us something in the short term. But if we double down on what He tells us to do, it’s guaranteed to deliver.

Over the next five sessions, I invite you to join me as we examine how we play the game of life. We’ll look to God’s wisdom to uncover some of the bad bets we base our lives upon. You’ll want to grab a few friends because this journey isn’t meant to be done alone—we go further and faster together. Feel free to organize your own group or jump into one at the church.

You’ll find all you need here in this written guide, along with five video teaching sessions available to stream for free at chaseoaks.org/thegamble.

I can’t wait to hear how God works in your life over these next few weeks. Thanks for jumping in!



JEFF JONES

Senior Pastor of Chase Oaks Church

USING THIS GUIDE

This guide is here to help you have a great journey. Here's a brief overview of the different sections of this study.

1

NAME THE GAME

Each session will look at a specific bad bet we face in our culture. To get started, read this brief introduction together and consider a question or two, in order to prep for the discussion ahead.

2

SET THE TABLE

After the starter questions, watch a short teaching video from Jeff Jones, Senior Pastor at Chase Oaks Church. This video (typically six to nine minutes long) will help you think about the bad bet and what the Bible has to say about it.

3

SHUFFLE THE DECK

In this section, you and your group will discuss the video from Jeff, read the Bible together, and think about how these concepts relate to your own lives. Please note: this section is a guide, not a restraint. You don't need to go through every question; you may even come up with better ones of your own, which is great!

4

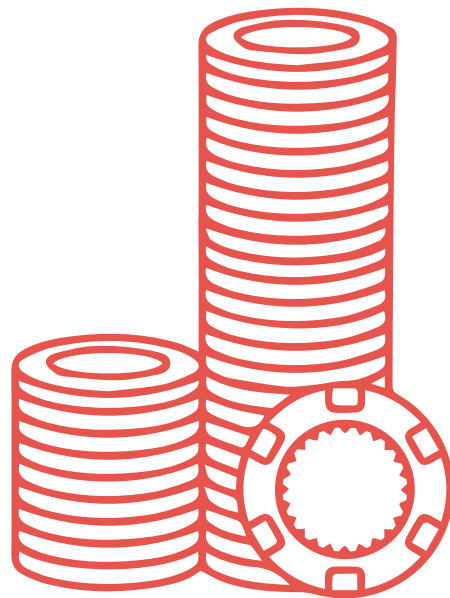
CLOSER LOOK ACTIVITIES

This section has reflection exercises to wrap up your group discussion time. Do these short activities to help your group apply the concepts of the study and take them to a deeper level.

5

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

If you want to explore the concepts further on your own during the week, we've provided five short Bible verses and reflections for you to read. These devotionals will provide a great way to connect with God's Word in between sessions.



THE WINNING COMBO

KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE

GET IN A GROUP

The Gamble is a group experience. If you're not in a group, feel free to form your own, or go to chaseoaks.org/thegamble to find one.

SHOW UP

Try to be at every group meeting. It takes time and commitment for people to move from being friendly with one another to becoming true friends.

JOIN IN

Do your best to participate. Your voice matters.

BE REAL

You don't have to bare your soul—just be yourself.

