



HIGHLANDS FELLOWSHIP

At the Movies • The Game Plan • Jeremiah 29:11-13 • 07/14/2019

Review of last weeks discussion:

Review of last weeks taking it home:

Last week we were encouraged to consider who we might be a good friend to. Was you able to reach out to them and take initiative to encourage them or have a conversation? If so, how did it go? If not, what prohibited you?

We were also encouraged to consider what steps we might take to strengthen our current friendships. What steps were you able to take? How did it go? Is there anything you will do differently moving forward or make a regular habit?

This weeks Main Point

How do I know God's plan for my life?

Opening Doors

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Think back to the years before adulthood, when you were trying to figure out where you wanted to be in life as an adult. (Maybe it was plans for college, a career path or general life planning). What was the best piece of advice you received?

If you could live your life over, what key decision or decisions might you make differently? How would life be different today?

Which of the following statements do you most closely identify with?

- I've always had a clear sense of destiny and knew what I was placed here to do/be
- I've been searching to find my place in the world and the reason why I'm here

From an early age, many of us dreamed dreams about what we wanted to be “when we grew up.” Some of us became those things, but probably only a small minority! Life has a way of taking our dreams and sending us in different directions. It leaves us feeling a little off balance and lost in the world. Sometimes we struggle for years to feel like we fit in, and sometimes serious questions arise, like “Why am I here?” and “Does my life really matter?” In our Scripture texts today, we will see that the answers to these significant life questions have already been answered by God for us! We matter to Him, and He has a wonderful plan for our lives. We are not accidents, but are people who can live with purpose and direction as we follow His plan for our lives.

Digging In

Discuss the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

ASK SOMEONE TO READ JEREMIAH 29:11-13.

Who is speaking in these verses? Why is that significant given what is said?

How do you explain the promise made and the reality that believers don't always face "smooth sailing" in life?

These three verses introduce this study and lay a foundation for the things we will discover as a group. Jeremiah prophesied during difficult days. The Jewish people had been taken into captivity in a far-away land, and their lives had turned out very different than the ones they dreamed about having when they were children. The Lord used the prophet Jeremiah to remind the Israelites that even though things were not as they had planned or hoped for, He was with them and was working in the midst of difficult days. God's plan was to do good things for them, and to restore their hope and futures in ways they'd only dreamed of as captives in a foreign land. Scripture helps us answer three significant questions that often arise as we contemplate our current state. The answers to these questions remind us that we have an important destiny as God's people, and that our lives matter.

ASK SOMEONE TO READ ROMANS 10:17 AND 1 CORINTHIANS 15:58.

Where does faith come from?

How does Romans 10:17 answer the question, "How do I know God's plan for my life?"

Although it is true that faith is our response to the gospel, it is also true that the message itself awakens and makes faith possible. Speaking a truth aloud builds faith and confidence in that truth. We cannot believe what we do not hear. God is at work even in our response to His gracious offer of forgiveness. Hearing and responding to the Word of God is the beginning of faith in Him, and it's how we continue to grow in our faith every day.

In your own words, what did Paul exhort the Corinthians to do in verse 58? Why?

How might knowing the end spur us on to stand firm?

The question about what God's plan is for our lives isn't as elusive or mysterious as we tend to think. As we continue to reolutely obey Him, standing firm to do the things His Word exhorts us to do, we live out His purposes in our lives. Ultimately, God has the same plan for every believer. Be unwavering in your faith and whatever you do, do it for God's glory (1 Cor. 10:31).

ASK SOMEONE TO READ ROMANS 12:2 AND JAMES 1:5.

How do these two verses help you understand God's plan for your life?

Is it possible for you to truly know God's plan for you life if you allow yourself to conform to the world's standards?

In this week's message, we heard it put like this: We live out God's plan for our lives when we separate ourselves from the world's thought patterns and practices and when we ask God for help.

How can you separate yourself from the world's thought patterns and practices and at the same time live out the clear purpose God has given you to go and make disciples?

ASK SOMEONE TO READ MATTHEW 25:40 AND GALATIANS 6:9.

What do these two verses teach you about God's plan for your life?

Can a person insulate him or herself from other people and live out God's plan for his or her life? Why not?

With the commands to love our neighbors and to be patient come promises. God recognizes our love for other people as demonstrations of our love for Him (Matt. 25:40). He knows it is easy for us to give up and grow weary, but we will reap eternal rewards if we don't lose heart. We can be faithful, because God is faithful.

Taking It Home

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What do you now understand God's plan for your life to be?

Which of the five ways to live out God's plan for our lives stands out to you the most today: be unwavering in your faith, separate yourself from the world's thought patterns and practices, when struggling, ask Him for help, love your neighbor as yourself, or be patient? Explain.

How can this group help you better understand and live out God's plan for your life?