

session five

your destiny

LIVING IN GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE:

- Personally
- In the Church
- In the world

Read Jeremiah 29:11

Now you are a Christian it's very exciting to know that God has a specific plan for your life. You are a unique person with unique talents and gifts – and you now have God Himself living in you. In your journey through life with Him, He wants to show you His plan for you. He promises that His plans will do you good.

Q: *What happens when you follow bad plans/bad ideas?*

Q: *What can you expect when you follow God's plan for your life?*



Read Ephesians 2:10

You are God’s work of art, His masterpiece! He has planned and prepared good things for you to do. The first step is to find out what His plan is for you - the next step is to put it into operation.

Let’s take an ordinary example of planning. Imagine the government wanted to build a local hospital. The first thing they would do is to ask an architect to design it. That design then becomes the guide and plan for the builders.

God has already got a master-plan for your life – He planned it even before you were born! Now, because you are in relationship with Him, He can show you His plan.

GETTING TO KNOW HIS PLANS

The plan for every area of life is found in God’s Word. In the bible you can find direction and wisdom for:

- personal life
- home life
- working life
- relationships
- finances
- reaching others

If we build our lives according to His written plan for us, we will see His purpose fulfilled. Good things will happen!

Here’s one good thing He plans for you:

Read Romans 8:28

Discuss what you think this means:

THE CHURCH – His plan for you!

Every person who has accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord is born again and automatically becomes part of the Church (*otherwise known as the Body of Christ*).

Read Acts 2:41-42

We read here that as soon as people received Jesus they were added to the Church. They started spending their time with other believers – praying, listening to God’s Word etc. **They didn’t go back to living isolated lives.**

Q: *Why do you think it’s important to spend time with other believers in Church?*

The Church is both:

- Universal – the world-wide Body of Christ in every nation
- Local – the Body of Christ in a particular locality

God’s plan for you will always include being a participating member of a local church where His Word is preached and the power of the Holy Spirit is active.



CALLED TO SERVE GOD AND OTHERS

Read Matthew 20:26-28

Jesus teaches a very important principle here and demonstrated it through His life. It's the opposite of what we learn in the world.

The greatest people in God's eyes are those who live to serve others.

Q: *What things can you do to serve others? (Think family, friends and church.)*

Serving and giving are part of your new nature in Christ. You still have something the bible calls 'flesh' which is your own selfish will and desires. At times you won't want to serve, but be served and take from others. At this point – ask God to help you to overcome your flesh and He will give you power to win.

Make the choice to live for God and be like Jesus:

- Willing to help
- Wanting to give
- Prepared to sacrifice so others can be blessed

Jesus said:- It's more blessed to give than receive. (ACTS 20:35)

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

As soon as you are born again you are placed into God's Kingdom and His kingdom is placed into you.

What is the Kingdom of God?

The Kingdom of God is wherever God reigns. Wherever the Kingdom of God is there is righteousness, peace, joy, health, provision and blessing.

Read Matthew 6:25-34

Jesus knows we can be tempted to worry about our lives. Everyday there is the potential to worry about something e.g.. work/college/finances/relationships/health/the future....

We have lots of needs which need to be met. Jesus' answer is simple:

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you" (MATTHEW 6:33)

Jesus is saying if we make His Kingdom our priority He will meet our needs.

How do we advance His Kingdom?

- Prayer
- Witnessing
- Works of power (e.g. healing the sick)

As we live like Jesus in the world – **thinking, speaking and acting like Him** – we will advance His kingdom and many will turn to God through our witness.

We can live like Jesus because we have the power of the Holy Spirit on the inside.

Points to remember:

God has a good plan for your life. As you read His Word and put it into practice His plan will unfold.

God's will for your life is success, blessing and fruitfulness. Part of that blessing is CHURCH and being friends with others believers. Another part of God's plan for you is that you reach non-Christians.

Action step:

Ask God to direct you every day into His plan for that day.

Ask God to show you which Church He wants you to be part of. [This will be somewhere where the Word is preached and the Holy Spirit is active.]

Get involved in your local church and find ways you can love and serve others.

Model yourself on Jesus and show the world what He is really like!

Finally: Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us... (HEBREWS 12:1)

