

Summary

Pastor shares wisdom on discovering God's purpose for our lives, addressing a question from the church's youth. He explains that while Jesus summarized life's purpose as loving God and loving people, we often struggle to know God's specific plan for us. Using Abraham's call as an example, the pastor emphasizes that God rarely reveals His complete plan upfront, but instead guides us step by step as we walk in faith. The message provides practical steps for discerning God's will while acknowledging that we must trust God's goodness even when His plan isn't fully clear.

The pastor outlines four key steps to know God's will: getting into God's presence through Scripture and prayer, following the Holy Spirit's promptings, seeking godly counsel from mature believers, and taking the first step of obedience. He emphasizes that the Christian life is not a solo journey but a relay race where we're accountable to one another and called to pass the baton of faith to the next generation.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You this morning grateful for Your love and Your perfect plan for each of our lives. As we gather together to discuss Your Word, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to be receptive to Your Spirit's leading and give us wisdom to apply these truths to our daily walk with You. May our time together draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one piece of advice you received as a young person that you still remember today, whether you followed it or not?

Key Verses

1. Matthew 22:37-39
2. Jeremiah 29:11
3. Genesis 12:1
4. Hebrews 11:8
5. Colossians 2:7
6. Psalm 119:105
7. Psalm 32:8-9

Questions

1. How do you typically respond when you're uncertain about God's direction for your life? Do you tend to wait for clarity or step out in faith?
2. The pastor mentioned that God says 'I know the plans I have for you' but doesn't always tell us what they are. How does this make you feel, and how can we find peace in this uncertainty?
3. What does it look like practically to 'get into God's presence' through Scripture and prayer in your daily life?
4. Can you share about a time when you felt a prompting from the Holy Spirit? How did you discern whether it was truly from God?
5. Who are the people in your life that you turn to for godly counsel? What qualities make someone a good spiritual advisor?
6. The pastor said the Christian life is 'a relay race, not a marathon.' How are you doing at passing the baton of faith to the next generation?
7. What's the difference between being a 'disciple' versus a 'donkey' in following God's will? Which do you tend to be more like?
8. What 'first step of obedience' might God be calling you to take right now, even if you can't see the whole path ahead?

Life Application

This week, commit to spending intentional time in God's presence through Scripture and prayer, asking Him to reveal the next step He wants you to take in your spiritual journey. Additionally, identify one person in your life who could benefit from godly counsel or encouragement, and reach out to them as part of being your 'brother's keeper.'

Key Takeaways

1. God's ultimate purpose for our lives is simple: love God and love people, as Jesus taught in the Great Commandment
2. God has a good plan for each of us, but He rarely reveals the entire plan upfront - instead, He guides us step by step as we walk in faith
3. Knowing God's will requires four steps: getting into God's presence through Scripture and prayer, following the Holy Spirit's promptings, seeking godly counsel, and taking the first step of obedience
4. The Christian life is a relay race, not a solo marathon - we're called to be accountable to one another and pass the baton of faith to the next generation
5. God's Word is like a lamp that shows us just enough light for the next step, not a floodlight that illuminates the entire path ahead

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the reminder that You have a good plan for each of our lives, even when we can't see the whole picture. Help us to trust You one step at a time, to be faithful in seeking Your presence through Your Word and prayer, and to be sensitive to Your Spirit's leading. Give us courage to take the next step of obedience You're calling us to, and help us to be faithful in encouraging and holding accountable those You've placed in our lives. May we be disciples who follow You wholeheartedly, not donkeys who need to be dragged along. We commit our paths to You, knowing that You will direct our steps. In Your precious name, Amen.