



Journey Teaching Outline – Series INTRO January 13, 2010

EPIC SERIES RECAP:

This fall, we learned how the Bible as an epic story, not just a dusty book of rules.

And it was a lot a fun along the way. (Journey Fall Highlight Video)

Let's review what we learned, but tonight, let's make it a contest...

1. CREATION & INNOCENCE (Puzzle Piece):

God has an intended design for life and it's best.

- We saw it in the Garden of Eden in Genesis...
- Beauty and peace - no sin, no pain, no knowledge of evil, no heartache
- Fellowship with God – walking and talking with God in person
- Fellowship with each other – Adam and Eve in a perfect relationship
- Total satisfaction – every need and desire fulfilled in God

This was God's intended design and it was **AMAZING**.

2. THE CURSE & THE PROMISE (Puzzle Piece):

But sin happens; Satan convinces Adam & Eve that they can't **TRUST** God's rule

- They decide for THEMSELVES what was good or evil, instead of God

Sin ruins everything. Everything changed.

- Adam and Eve are banished from God's presence in the Garden
- Sin carries on through time to us all...death, broken relationships, pain...

The story could have just ended here, but God had a plan to rescue mankind.

God promises rescue.

- God makes an unbreakable promise to Abram to restore life
- Through the nation of Israel, God would rescue mankind

3. THE LAW (Puzzle Piece)

Generations later, God gives the Old Testament law to Israel through Moses.

- The law began God's rescue by restoring *His presence & rule*.

But...We fail to keep God's law - we need a Rescuer.

4. GRACE (Puzzle Piece):

BY GOD'S GRACE, the perfect son of God, Jesus, died in our place, taking our price for our sin, and offers us forgiveness and life.

Jesus is our undeserved rescue.

5. RESTORATION (Puzzle Piece):

The end of our story is the future, as Christians, we get to look forward to:

- Christ comes back a second time, whips Satan's butt, the literal heaven on earth begins, no more sadness, pain, suffering, eternity begins with us and God

All things are made perfect again.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE RESCUED?

Our sin separates us from a holy God and has earned us death. But Jesus paid that price by dying on the cross in our place. He then offers us forgiveness and that forgiveness **RESCUES** us from our sin that destroys life as it was meant to be.

So Christ's rescue means to be **FREE** from the destruction of sin in our life, so that we can be with God again, living under His loving rule, and experience the full, satisfying life that God intended.

Rescue means to be free from the destruction of sin so we can live life as God intended.

**(Applause for contestants...contestants and Rich exit stage)
(Mark enters stage)**

SO HERE'S THE BIG QUESTION:

**What does this "intended life" look like...here and now in my life?
How can I live it? How can I experience it?**

First...we have to understand THERE ARE 2 BASIC VERSIONS OF LIFE:

One version we see all around us...it's NOT God's intended design:

- No personal connection to God...not knowing Him & feeling distant from Him.
- Always putting yourself first
- Deciding for ourselves what is right and wrong
- Doing whatever feels good no matter how harmful it might be
- Shallow friendships filled with comparison, competition, and back-stabbing
- Harmful, unhealthy boyfriend/girlfriend relationships
- Living in heartache from big mistakes
- Fighting with your parents and having no relationship with them
- Being consumed with what other people think about you
- Trying to find love and value by getting attention through looks or performance

This is the counterfeit version of the intended life:

"It's all about trusting something else besides God"

EXAMPLE: Tiger Woods - Super star, extremely successful, super rich...the counterfeit version of life we buy into thinking is the good life. Look at the reality: He cheated on his wife and his life is falling apart! That's what happens when we chase the fake versions of the good life and live by our own rules. It looks great on the outside, but when we don't follow God's rule, it ends in heartache & pain.

So there is this tension: we're surrounded by one way of living but we know there is something more. We know things are bent and broken. Maybe we've been living with our eyes half open. We were meant to live for so much more, but we've lost ourselves.

We were MEANT TO LIVE. And that's exactly what our new series is all about.

(Meant to Live Video)

We know all about this counterfeit version of life. But we WANT WHAT'S BETTER.

God's intended life is what we are looking for.

God's Version: "It's all about radical trust in GOD"

- Living for someone besides yourself
- Putting God as your #1 priority
- Spending time getting to know God personally and enjoying friendship with Him
- Having real, meaningful friendships with people
- Honoring God in your boyfriend/girlfriend relationships and being pure
- Avoiding the heartache of big mistakes in your life
- Finding forgiveness when you DO make those big mistakes
- Learning from your parents and having a relationship with them
- Honoring God in your school, sports, families...representing Christ each day
- Understanding that your true and value beauty isn't found in what you look like or do, but found in your identity as a child of God. He delights in who you are.

God's intended life starts with a RELATIONSHIP w/ Him – not just obeying rules.

- God's way of life is personal. He wants to be with us and wants us to know Him.
- This is a strange concept...to have a relationship with someone we can't see.
- We will be talking a lot about that next week: how to have a relationship with God.

Tonight, here's what I want you to understand about LIVING GOD'S WAY OF LIFE:

1. It's all about shaping our hearts for God – not just our behavior

Matthew 22:36-37

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment.

Out of love, we give God control. Out of love, our behavior becomes different.

1 John 5:3

This is love for God: to obey his commands.

Example: I don't cheat on my wife with another woman just because it's some rule for husbands to follow. I don't cheat on my wife because I LOVE her and would never want to hurt her. Love is the motivation, but following the "rule" is how I display that love.

It's all about shaping our hearts for God – not just our behavior

2. It's all about bringing glory to God

- Although God wants us to enjoy life, that is not the end goal.
- Ultimately, by living life as God intended it, it brings glory to God.
- A pure relationship with a girlfriend not only makes life better for us, it brings glory to God. God is glorified by our holy lives.
- **Living God's version of life is for our good AND the glory of God.**

In a relationship with God we bring glory to God as we live under His loving control.

That's where we find the life we all ache to have.

BUT THERE IS STILL THIS BATTLE between these two versions of life...

And what's at the heart of this battle? TRUST

- We have to believe God that His version of life is best
- Remember the Garden of Eden? Satan tricked Adam and Eve into not trusting God's rules...and look what happened.

Don't forget, Satan, God's enemy, wants you to believe God's version is NOT best

- Satan wants you to believe you will find real satisfaction in the clothes you wear, becoming famous, having a lot of money, going on exotic vacations, being a star athlete, getting all the girls, or being a super model.
- But they are fakes! It's all a lie! You will never find REAL satisfaction there
- God's enemy, Satan, wants you to reject God's way. He is working against you...

When we don't believe God's version is best, we choose to live for ourselves:

- We make the rules, based on what we want to do.
- We decide what is right and wrong...just like Adam and Eve in the Garden.

REVIEW:

There are two versions of how to live life:

- One is "all about radical trust in GOD"
- It starts with relationship,
- It's about shaping our hearts – not just our behavior
- It brings glory to God

- The other is lived for ourselves – "It's all about trusting something else besides God"
- We see it all around us...and sometimes it looks really good...but don't be fooled
- In this fake version, we live under our own control, deciding right and wrong
- Satan desperately wants to fool you into believing God's version is NOT best

Remember: IT'S ALL ABOUT TRUST

- We have to believe God that His version of life is best

DO YOU BELIEVE GOD'S VERSION IS BEST?

- Are you willing to pursue it even if it's hard?

Here's the reality – it's not always the easy life, the fun life, etc.

- Sometimes the satisfying life is hard, takes patience, and can feel lonely.
- But there is only one place to find true peace and satisfaction and it's **WORTH IT.**

IT'S ALL ABOUT TRUSTING GOD and living for Him.

And it's FOR OUR GOOD and GOD'S GLORY.

This series is all about helping us understand what it means to live the life that God intended.

- What does it look like?
- How can we live it?
- That's what we will be studying.