



JOURNEY - January 20th Teaching Outline

MEANT 2 LIVE INTRO:

Last week we introduced our new series, Meant 2 Live.

This fall we learned about God first created life to be in the Garden of Eden...

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

(All EPIC puzzle pieces, then CREATION piece & fill in the blank slide)

But what is God's intended design for our lives now? What does it look like?

- That's what this series is all about understanding...

(Meant 2 Live Intro VIDEO)

How do we live it? **FIRST** we have to choose between 2 versions of life:

- o Living for ourselves, making our own rules
- o Living for God, living under His loving control
- Satan wants us to believe the lie that life lived for ourselves is the good life
- But God's design is best. That's the real life we are looking for.

God's design is all about shaping our **HEARTS** for God – not just our behavior

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

God's design is all about bringing **GLORY** to God

- Living life as God intended is for our good & God's glory.

The big question: **DO YOU BELIEVE GOD'S VERSION IS BEST?**

- Are you willing to pursue it if it's hard? It's **NOT** always going to be **EASY**.

If you do believe God's version is best, and you want to begin experiencing it...

- Listen up, because that's what you will learn here at Journey

MEANT 2 LIVE Relationships INTRO:

So tonight, we begin our Meant 2 Live series by talking about **RELATIONSHIPS**.

We were built for relationships with others, just like our Creator.

- We are made in God's image, who exists in relationship – Father, Son, HS
- That's why loneliness is so painful. We are made for relationships.
- Relationships are how we experience life – love, laugh, cry...

Relationships determine the health of our soul.

- Rotten, bad relationships deeply affect who we are.
- In healthy relationships we learn, grow and are inspired.

Therefore, it's so critical to have good, healthy relationships in our life.

- And we have a **ROLE & RESPONSIBILITY** to make our relationships good.

TONIGHT: Our Relationship with God (Jan. 20th)

Our starting point for God's intended life is a RELATIONSHIP with Him.

In the Garden of Eden, we saw how God intended us to be with Him personally.

- Each evening Adam and Eve could walk with God in the garden. That's awesome!
- This kind of personal connection with God is His intended design

Genesis 3:8

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day...

Imagine be able to talk and laugh and ask God questions!

- Don't we long to hear God's voice, to see Him smile, to hear His answers?
- What would you ask God?

God's way of life is personal. He wants to be with us and wants us to know Him.

- What a **PRIVILEGE** our God wants to know us personally!

But what does it mean NOW to have a relationship with God?

- How can we have a relationship with a God we can't touch or see or hear?
- What does it mean to have a friendship with God?

Having a friendship with God seems almost impossible.

What are some words that come to mind when we talk about trying to have a relationship with God? What does it feel like?

- What seems to be the biggest barriers to having a friendship with God?
- What are some of the negative assumptions or views we have about God?
- EXAMPLES – Distant, talking to the ceiling, silent, mean
- (White board – write examples from audience)

This is a picture of God is a huge barrier to getting to know God.

- We believe this lie that God is distant, cold, and not personal.
- **But this picture we just created of God is not the God of the Bible.**

God desires something personal and close with you...

John 15:9-14

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. I no longer call you servants...I have called you friends.

1 John 4:19

We love Him because He first loved us.

This is not a love like, “I love pizza” or “I love Texas.”

- This is, “I would DIE for you because I love you so much” kind of love
- This is, “I am head over heels, totally in love you” kind of love

Speaking of being in love...most of you know I have twin boys, Kai and Riley.

- I have to confess, I am totally in love with these boys.
- I would do anything for them, I would die for them.
- I can't stop looking at them, playing with them, or kissing them.
- I just delight in everything they do.

(Kai & Riley VIDEO)

What if we realized that God DELIGHTS in us...

- God enjoys you! He laughs with you, He cheers for you, He hurts with you
- Stop and let that soak in...God looking down at you and smiling...

John 1:12

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

Your parents may not be perfect, BUT GOD IS.

- As our perfect heavenly Father, He delights in us. He wants to be with us.

God wants to be with us – like any other friendship:

- You've got to get to know each other, **SPEND TIME TOGETHER**
- What does spending time with God look like?
 - o Talking to God...just having a conversation with Him
 - o Example prayer – simple, short
 - o Thinking about Him during the day...thanking Him
 - o Reading His letter to us, the Bible
 - o Experiences with God – take a walk with God, sit out by the beach and journal, spending an evening with just you and Jesus, doing whatever you love, but do it for, or with Jesus.

Realize - There is more to come in this relationship

- We are living outside the Garden because of our sin...something is definitely not as it is meant to be.
- We are forgiven through Christ and have access to be with and talk to God...but there is so much more to come still.
- Sometimes God feels so far away, because things aren't completely restored yet.
- Someday we will be back in the touchable presence of God in heaven.
- Once again, walking with God, face to face, giving him a huge hug

(All EPIC puzzle pieces, then RESTORATION piece & fill in the blank slide)

But we live here and now, and God DOES desire something personal with us.

- So we press forward to get to know God.
- *I have experienced the beauty and struggle of a relationship with God myself.*

So what does that look like if you're a teenager?

(10th Grade GIRLS TESTIMONY – COUCH INTERVIEW)