



JOURNEY - January 27th Teaching Outline

MEANT 2 LIVE INTRO:

This fall we learned how 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?

- And that's what our new series, Meant 2 Live is all about...
- We know there is something so much more we were designed for...

(Meant 2 Live Intro VIDEO)

The last 2 weeks, we have begun to describe this life that God intended for us:

- **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
 - o Satan wants us to believe the lie that life lived for ourselves is best
 - o The big question: **DO YOU BELIEVE GOD'S VERSION IS BEST?**
- **God's design is all about shaping our HEARTS – not just our behavior**
 - o Out of love, we give God control and our behavior becomes different.
- **God's design is all about bringing GLORY to God**
 - o Living life as God intended is for our good & God's glory.

LAST WEEK: Our Relationship with God (Jan. 20th)

*Through RELATIONSHIPS we experience God's amazing, intended design for life.
And our most important relationship is with GOD.*

But having a friendship with God can seem so hard.

- We believe this lie that God is distant, cold, and not personal.
- The Bible clearly describes a God who loves us and knows us

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

- God enjoys you! He laughs with you, He cheers for you, He hurts with you
- Just like I delight in my boys, Kai & Riley (Remember the video last week?)

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

- You've got to get to know each other, **SPEND TIME TOGETHER**, invest time
- Talking to God, thinking about Him, reading the Bible, music, walks, etc.

Is it easy to know God? No. Is there more to come someday? Yes.

- Someday we will be back in the touchable presence of God in heaven.
- But in the here and now, we press forward through the struggle
- **Are we doing are part? Putting in the EFFORT to get to know God?**

If we want to experience God's amazing, intended design for life we must have a meaningful, personal connection to God.

TONIGHT: Our Relationship with our Parents (Jan. 20th)

Another important relationship that allows us to experience God's intended life is with our parents.

Let's see what some teens had to say about their families and parents...

(Parents Intro VIDEO)

Parents and families can be crazy things...difficult things...but...

Through our relationship w/ our parents, we experience the life God intended.

- I know what you're thinking...my parents? You obviously don't know my parents.
- How do I experience a better, more satisfying version of life through my parents?

Let's start with this question, together...

Why do we have parents? What's their job, anyway? Just to drive us nuts?

- WHITEBOARD EXAMPLES from audience

What does the Bible say is the role of parents?

- Train (in the ways of the Lord) - Deuteronomy 6:6-7
- Teach - Deuteronomy 4:9
- Correct - Deuteronomy 21:18-21
- Protect – Ephesians 6:1-3
- Provide – 1 Timothy 5:8

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Love the Lord your God with all your heart...these commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children.

If our parents have a specific role...what OUR role as kids?

- WHITEBOARD EXAMPLES from audience

So then, what does the Bible say is the role of us kids?

- Learn from our parents - Proverbs 6:20; 10:1
- Honor, respect, and obey - Ephesians 6:1; Leviticus 19:3; Exodus 20:12

Exodus 20:12

Honor your father and your mother, *so that you may live long* in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

- This is a command with a PROMISE...we will be BLESSED if we obey our parents.

We're quick to judge our parents...but how are YOU doing at fulfilling your role?

Don't forget...Jesus defines that LOVE = OBEDIENCE

John 14:15

If you love me, you will obey what I command.

What's the problem, then? It seems simple enough...so why is it so hard?

- If parents have a job, and we have job, why doesn't it seem to work very well?
- **Why is it so hard sometimes to have a good relationship with our parents?**

(Freaky Friday - Mom fight VIDEO)

- It may seem crazy, like our parents are just out to get us...but here is the truth:

If we want to experience God's awesome intended life for us, we have to allow God to work in us, through our relationship with our parents.

BUT, once again, this is impossible without TRUST:

- DO YOU TRUST...that your parents are doing their best to do their job...*even when you don't understand or agree?*
- DO YOU TRUST...that God is working through your parents?
- DO YOU TRUST...our parents are part of God's design for the best kind of life?

Are you willing to TRUST that God is working for our GOOD through our parents?

“Yeah, but Mark, you don't know my parents! They are ridiculous...”

Some of you, honestly, live in homes with parents who are abusive, or addicted, or are cheating on mom or dad.

- My heart breaks for you...there is no easy answer for those homes...
- I encourage you to lean desperately on GOD and on your FRIENDS
- HOME GROUPS are the place to lean on Christian friends and talk about it

But let's be honest...for most of us, our parents are not that bad.

- Usually we are fighting when our parents are just trying to do their job as parents
- At the same, time, I know things often seem wrong, and hurtful from our parents

So what can we DO to allow God to work through our parents, especially when things don't seem right or fair?

1. FORGIVE

- Parents are not perfect, we are not perfect. We're all broken by the curse of sin

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

- Are you willing to forgive your parents, on a regular basis?

Colossians 3:13

Bear with each other and forgive...forgive as the Lord forgave you.

2. TALK ABOUT IT

- Are we talking about the things NOT going well in our relationship w/ our parents?

Example: It feels like our parent's expectations are way too high

- Maybe we can understand they don't really want us to be perfect...no, they are just trying to challenge us to really give our ALL.
- Maybe they can understand that you really are giving your all
- Then maybe you can set goals together that are realistic

TALK not YELL – set a time to sit down and set the tone right from the beginning. Be gracious, kind, and humble.

3. GROW THROUGH IT

James 1:2-4

Dear brothers and sisters when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For...when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow...

4. BE AN EXAMPLE IN YOUR FAMILY

1 Timothy 4:12

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

Here's the POINT:

→ We have to trust that God can work THROUGH my parents, even when I disagree with them, to help me grow.

→ We have to trust that God is using my parents to help me experience something better, or safer, or more satisfying in life.

If we want to experience God's awesome intended life for us, we have to allow God to work in us, through our relationship with our parents.

QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

Next week we will have real, live, parents here on stage to answer your questions... those hard questions that maybe you're afraid to ask your own parents.

Please help us by giving us great questions to ask these parents next week.

Questions like:

"Do you feel like you ever make mistakes? Is it hard to admit it when you do?"

"Why do you expect so much from me?"

"Why don't you trust me more?"

"How do you decide what my curfew is going to be?"