



JOURNEY - February 24th Teaching Outline

(Meant 2 Live Intro VIDEO)

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 this series, Meant 2 Live, is all about...
- We know there is something so much more we were designed for...

MEANT 2 LIVE RECAP:

Our journey to discover God's intended life began with 2 important principles:

- **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.

Then, we were challenged with a choice...between 2 versions of life:

- Living for ourselves, making our own rules
- Living for God, living under His loving control
- Satan wants us to believe the lie that life lived for ourselves is best
- **DO YOU BELIEVE GOD'S VERSION IS BEST? Do you want it?**

This past weekend, this choice is what we talked about during the ski trip.

- I believe we have been lied to and scammed, and that is the worst feeling
- Satan has tried to trick us into thinking God's life is not the good life
- But the deep things we REALLY want, are found in God's life

(Ski Trip Highlight VIDEO)

So we have our 2 opening principles...our heart and God's glory...and a choice.

But what does God's version of life LOOK LIKE in the everyday of life?

RELATIONSHIPS RECAP:

Through healthy RELATIONSHIPS we experience God's amazing design for life.

First, our most important relationship is with GOD.

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...God delights in us

What if we realized 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. It takes effort, patience, and time.

- And 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

If we want to experience God's amazing, intended design for life we must have a meaningful, personal connection to God. If not, we are missing out on God's life.

The second relationship we talked about is with our parents.

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?

It just seems like our parents don't understand us, or our world.

BUT...We've got to recognize our parents are trying...trying to fulfill their role to teach us, protect us, guide us. It's just not always easy and parent's aren't perfect.

GOD IS AT WORK IN US...THROUGH OUR PARENTS.

God is bigger than your parents. He uses parents; we just don't always see it.

AND...Home groups are the place to talk about what's going on at home.

- Many of your homes are truly difficult and there's a lot to talk about
- Home groups is that place to be heard and cared for.

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.

IT IS POSSIBLE.

BUT, once again, this is impossible without TRUST:

- DO YOU BELIEVE...that God is working through your parents?
- DO YOU BELIEVE...our parents are part of God's design for the best life?

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

- Are you willing to **FORGIVE** your parents when they make mistakes?
- Are you willing to **TALK** to your parents when things are not going well?
- Are you willing to let God **GROW YOU** through the hard times w/ parents?
- Are you willing to be an **EXAMPLE** of Christ in your family?

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.

THIS WEEK: Our Friendships

Through healthy FRIENDSHIPS we experience God's amazing design for life.

You probably wouldn't argue...life is really good when we have great friendships.

- Everything is fun when you're with great friends.
- It feels so good to have friends that are there for you, help you, encourage you...

But wouldn't you agree that life is really bad when friendships are bad.

- What is worse than being abandoned, ignored, or hurt by a friend?

So here is the bottom line:

Your friendships will either drain you of God's life, or fill you with God's life.

Have we really stopped to recognize the power of our friendships?

- Your friendships deeply influence and affect your life.

BLIND FOLD GAME:

Pick a friend to lead you (from behind) to cross the auditorium...for good or bad

- o Can't touch your friend – talk only – and lead them while blindfolded
- o How did your friend do? They had the power to hurt you or help you

Let's take some time to define what a bad friendship looks like:

- Selfish, full of competition, shallow, and a negative influence in our lives.

(Mean Girls VIDEO)

Girls, you've experienced these bad friendships...

- They are jealous or angry...but still pretend that they like you
- They talk badly about you behind your back – gossip destroys people
- They are competitive – always want to make themselves look better than you
- They are selfish – ok with hurting you if it helps themselves
- They are shallow - no foundation...only friends because you look better with them, they are the cool crowd...just in a sport together...drink together
- Negative influence...when you are with them, you do things you don't really want to do, or know you shouldn't do

Guys, you've experienced these bad friendships...

- Shallow – hanging out with the popular crowd because you want to be known
- Shallow – no vulnerability at all...can't look weak in front of them
- Competitive – don't celebrate your success because they are jealous of it
- Negative peer pressure...pressuring you to do things you don't really want to do

Your friendships will either drain you of God's life, or fill you with God's life.

- Did I just describe any of your friendships?
- Did I just describe YOU as a friend?

Is this really what we want out of our friendships?

What is God's version for healthy friendships?

- It's a little like this...

(Tommy Boy VIDEO)

How does God define a healthy friendship? A real friend is...

SELFLESS

- Celebrates your victories
- Helps you even when it's inconvenient
- Cares for you when life is hard
- Doesn't mind if you do something better or look better than him or her

TRUST WORTHY

- You can trust them with your deepest secrets and greatest weakness
- You know they will be there when life gets hard

A POSITIVE INFLUENCE

- Challenges you to do right, not wrong
- Inspires you to work harder and stay stronger
- Encourages you to pursue God more and surrender more to Christ

HANDLES CONFLICT WELL

- Is honest with you when something is wrong in your friendship
- Knows how to forgive after a fight
- Doesn't hold grudges

There is a great example in the Bible of authentic friendships...

- David has just done the impossible, what all of Israel failed to do...kill Goliath.
- Jonathan, the king's son, had every reason to be jealous and hate David. David was to now become the new King of Israel instead of Jonathan.

1 Samuel 18:1-4

After David had finished talking with Saul, he met Jonathan, the king's son. There was an immediate bond of love between them, and they became the best of friends. And Jonathan made a special vow to be David's friend and he sealed the pact by giving him his robe, tunic, sword, bow, and belt.

- But Jonathan instantly realized David was like him...wanting to live for God.
- He knew how rare it is to find a great Christian friend.

Don't we want more friendships like Jonathan and David?

- Jonathan was selfless, celebrating David's victory,
- Jonathan was loyal...committing to his friendship with his gifts
- Jonathan was a positive influence in David's life

The bottom line:

Your friendships will either drain you of God's life, or fill you with God's life.

- **Cripple...or enable...**
- **Close you off...open you up...**
- **Empty you or fill you...**

I have a great friend that has experienced both bad, and meaningful friendships. He wants to share his story with you.

(Chris Miller TESTIMONY)

There is huge power in your friendships...but can we be honest for a moment?

1. What kind of friendships do you have?
2. What kind of friendships do you want?
3. What friendships should you invest more time in?
4. What kind of a friend are you?

There is a place to experience this...home groups!

If you have tasted some of these kind of friendship at home groups...stand up.

- Home groups is not the only place, but it's a great place to meet and connect and grow these kind of friendships that will help you experience the life God intended.