



JOURNEY – March 3rd 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.

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...

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?**

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

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, reading the Bible, music, walks, etc.

Is it easy to know God? No. It takes effort, patience, and time.

- 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.

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.

What if we believed GOD IS AT WORK IN US...THROUGH OUR PARENTS.

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.

LAST WEEK: Our Friendships Part 1 (Feb. 24th)

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

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.

We know what badly, ugly friendship looks like...

- Selfish, full of competition, shallow, and a negative influence in our lives.
- They drain you of God's life
- **Is this really what we want out of our friendships?**

What is God's version for healthy friendships?

- **Selfless**
- **Trustworthy**
- **A positive influence**
- **Handles conflict well**

The bottom line:

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

There is huge power in your friendships...

- Where are you investing your time?
- What kind of friendships do you want?
- What kind of friendships are you building?
- What kind of a friend are you?

THIS WEEK: Our Friendships Part 2 (March 3rd)

If friendships either drain or fill us...shouldn't we choose our friends WISELY?

Tonight we are going to do things a little differently...

- 6 & 7th grades to the Journey Room
- 8-12th - Conversation / small group format...everyone sit together

Blind fold game – friend leading you from behind to cross the auditorium...your friends are leading you for good or bad

- o Playing for CASH (\$1...haha)
- o You can touch them – lead by shoulders
- o Everyone on one side / touch stage and far wall
- o Pair up – choose your friend WISELY

Pursue Wisdom - Discussion

- Ever gotten in trouble with one of your friends? What happened?

Proverbs 13:20

Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and suffer harm.

- From this verse, what is the result of having a relationship with a wise person?
- What is the result of having a relationship with a fool?
- What does a “wise” person look like?
- Why would you want to be a wise person? Why is wisdom so valuable?
- How can it specifically help you in your daily life?
- What does a “fool” really look like? What things does a “foolish” person do?
- Is it easy to recognize a foolish or wise person right from the start? How?
- Do you agree with the following statement? Why?
“Your friends determine the direction and quality of your life.”

Pursue Wisdom – Mark teaching

Your friends will affect your life...guaranteed.

- It's easy to go with the crowd and follow our friends.
- The question is...will following them make you wiser or more foolish?

The real challenge is DESIRING wisdom and understanding the true benefits.

- God has an intended design, and wisdom helps us experience it.
- God's Word helps us avoid harm, danger, evil, and false satisfactions.

Do you realize...our friends affect our DESIRE for wisdom?

- If they don't pursue it...why would we? You might even get teased for being wise.

Wise friends are out there, they're just a little harder to find.

- They may not be the loudest, funniest, most popular kids at school.
- Even if they don't always get it right...but who around you is interested in God's way of choosing right over wrong?

"A wise person is someone who knows the difference between right and wrong and chooses to do what's right...even when it's really hard."

- Who do you know like that?
- Are YOU like that?

Pray and ask God to develop wisdom, and a hunger for it, in your life.

- That starts by being around wise people – and it's worth the search

Answer to yourself silently...

- Do you WANT to be wise? Are you seeking wisdom? Do you hunger for it?
- Which of your friends are wise?
- Which of your friends are fools?
- Are you in danger of suffering harm because you are hanging out with a fool?
- Are you willing to make a change with the amount of time you spend with foolish people?

Acceptance Magnet - Discussion

- What made you start hanging out with the friends you have right now?
- Share a story of how you met one of your friends...
- In general, how do we pick the friends we hang out with?
- What role does feeling accepted play in choosing our friends?
- Would you say the friends you have are the people you feel most accepted by?
- Is it possible that you might have a different group of friends if you felt more accepted by another group of people?

Acceptance Magnet – Mark teaching

I want to propose an idea:

"You don't really choose your friends, your friends choose you."

When you think about choosing friends, do you perform interviews or something?

- No. We tend to gravitate towards people we like and who accept us the most.
- Picture a new kid at school and think about where he'll sit at lunch...with a group that makes him feel like an idiot, or a group that will talk to him?

Acceptance is such a strong drive in our life. We all wanted to be liked, right?!

- Ever feel like you're a different person around different groups of people?

It's a dangerous concept...letting friends choose us based our need for acceptance

- It's so easier to be pulled down a road we didn't intend to go
- It's so much easier to be pulled down, than to pull others up (Chair illustration)

Give people here at Journey & Home Groups a chance to accept you & know you.

It's equally dangerous to NOT provide acceptance to others.

- If you have a good group of positive friends, be grateful for that huge blessing.
- And be the acceptance others are looking for.

Aren't we called by Christ to accept others unconditionally?

Answer to yourself silently...

- When it comes to friends, am I just looking for someone to accept me?
- Am I in a crowd I know I shouldn't be with just because they accept me?
- If you do have a good group of friends...how can YOU be accepting of others?
- Have you invited someone else to be a part of your friendships?

(To Save a Life Video)

Take some time to answer these questions on the sheet provided:

- 1. As a whole, are my friends draining me, or filling me, with God's life?***
- 2. What do I want? (Do I want to be wise? Do I want wise friends?)***
- 3. What is one thing I can do to make a positive change in my friendships?***
- 4. What is one thing I can do to help make someone else feel accepted?***