



Pursuing the Discipline of Guidance

Week of May 16th, 2021

Intro Discussion Question(s):

- *Optional Question - What did God reveal to you this past week in the Bible Reading Plan last week?*
- *Intro Question - Before any talk of guidance from God will be relevant or meaningful, a person must decide if they believe in God, and if they do, can He be trusted. If a person does not believe in God or trust God then they will not seek God's guidance. Why is this true?*

Read Bible Study Summary:

This study looks at the discipline of guidance through the lens of Jeremiah's encouragement to the children of Israel while in the Babylonian exile. They needed to understand God's willingness to give them guidance in their lives even in their captivity. There are four areas in which we must trust God if we are going to practice the discipline of guidance in our lives. These four areas are: God's Nature (His character) God's Intent (His purpose) God's Plan (His will) God's Attention (His responsiveness). The study ends with a practical look at ways in which we pay attention to God's guidance as well as ways God helps to discover His guidance in the first place.

Main Scripture

Jer 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jer 29:12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

Jer 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

There are four areas in which we must trust God if we are going to practice the discipline of guidance in our lives.

1. Seeking Guidance from God will only come when we Trust God's Nature

Jer 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,

- Who is this Lord who says, "I know the plans I have for you?"
- He is a righteous, holy, and just God, but He is also a compassionate God!!

- Exodus 15:11 Who among the gods is like you, LORD? Who is like you— majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?
- Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.
 - **Discuss the following** - *So while God is a righteous, just, and holy, He is at the same time, a loving, gracious and forgiving God. Even when we grow faint and stumble and fall, He offers forgiveness to those who repent! What a loving God. Of course there are always consequences to sin, and some of those consequences are painful and may last a lifetime. God even offers to help us deal with those things and find His plan for our lives! If our sin has caused us to miss plan A, God always has a plan B, or a plan C, or wherever you are in the alphabet! God's just that awesome!*
 - **Read Scripture**- Jer 31:3 *The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.*

2. Seeking Guidance from God will only come when we Trust God's Intent

Jer 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

- Some people that believe in God actually don't live for God because they don't like God. They believe He's mean!" They don't believe God's intentions for creation were noble, good or fair. However, If you decide that you don't believe in God, or don't believe He has a divine purpose for creation, then you are left with a pretty bleak prospect.
 - **Ask Question(s)** - *What are the implications for a person who does not trust God's intent?*
 - **Read Scripture**- 2 Timothy 4:3 *For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.*

3. Seeking Guidance from God will only come when we Trust God's Plan

Jer 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Instead of following God's guidance Adam and Eve had bought the lies of the enemy. Satan successfully caused them to believe that God's plan for their lives was selfishly motivated and manipulative. God's plan for a beautiful relationship and fellowship with humankind had been disrupted. He was heartbroken, but He was not willing to give up on the relationship. Thus began what we call the story of Redemption.

- **Discuss the following statement** - The way Adam and Eve were to put their trust in God was by saying no to the fruit that hung upon the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God's plan of redemption calls for us to place our trust in God by saying yes to the One who hung upon the cross for our sins!
- **Read Scripture** - Ephesians 1:3-14

4. Seeking Guidance from God will only come when we Trust God's Attention

Jer 29:12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

Jer 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

- When we pray, we don't have to worry about God's attention! He's listening to every word we are praying whether we are saying it with our mouths or thinking it in our hearts and minds. He loves it when His children talk to Him!! God will hear your prayers, your cries, your heart! And if you're not a believer, He wants you to begin trusting Him so He can adopt you into the family!
 - **Ask Question(s)** -Have you ever felt that God really wouldn't hear your prayers or pay attention to you even if you prayed? What were the reasons?
 - What is the truth when it comes to God hearing your prayers?

Read Scripture

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Seeking Guidance from God by being attentive to Him and allowing Him help us find that guidance is life changing!

- Are you willing to seek Him and His direction for your life? If you are, then I can promise you you will find Him and you will find His direction for your life! From Psalm 119:30-37 we discover at least four things we should do when it comes to God's guidance and at least four ways God helps us find His guidance. Read that passage and see if you can find those eight things.

Closing

- Don't forget the youth fundraiser coming up next week!
 - **Ask Question** - *What is the greatest challenge you are facing? Is there some way our group can help?*
- Pray together over those requests.