



WEEK 2 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CONNECT - ICEBREAKER

This week we are talking about the **IDOL** of our PLANS! Some people are planners while others like to fly by the seat of their pants. While there is a time and place for both,

Which do you naturally gravitate to? Do you like to plan ahead? Is being spontaneous your love language? Can you imagine life without a set plan? If you don't have a plan in place in advance do you feel lost? Discuss

CONSIDER

What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?

CHRIST

1. Last week we discussed how this ICON series is challenging us to take a hard look at things that we may be making an idol of; often times without realizing it. **Have you ever made a plan in life and later came to realize that you idolized that plan? Maybe you are now realizing a plan you currently have for the future that you have been idolizing? Maybe it was having kids by a certain age? Early Retirement? Being a CEO? A trip? What plans have you idolized in the past or are currently idolizing?**
2. God's plans are the most important plans and should take priority. I think if we are honest sometimes our plans really turn out to have no purpose and they just make us busy. If Satan can't make us bad he will make us busy. Busy is not part of His plan for us. God wants us to have time to listen to Him and His plan. **What are some things you can do right now in your own life to prevent busy plans from taking over? What can you do to put God's plan for your life at the center?**

Read Colossians 1:16

3. This verse points out and reminds us that God created EVERYTHING! Think about that, everything.... From the tiny particles (protons and neutrons) that we can't see all the way to the largest animal on earth (blue whales). But when this verse is talking about the "visible and invisible" that God created, they aren't just talking about things of this earth. They are also talking about things not on this earth; Outer space, heaven, hell, and the unseen God etc. **When you think of Christ and the invisible/unseen, what comes to mind? Does it make you nervous or excited? How does the mystery in all of this make you feel?**
4. This verse also talks about how God created authorities. Authority can feel like a negative word in our culture today. In fact in the Greek language there are up to 6 different words that can mean authority/power. Clearly throughout history we have felt some type of way about

authority. This verse is saying that not only is God the ultimate authority but He created authority. He knew that we would NEED this in our lives. Another way to think about God's authority is to think about a fence you would put an animal in like your beloved dog. You LOVE your dog therefore you protect it by putting a fence around him or her so they don't run away and get hurt. God's authority is like that; because He loves us there is authority. **Google the definition of authority and discuss the differences between God's authority for us that comes out of a place of love and the world's definition of it that can come from a place of control. What is culture really saying about it today?**

5. Read Jeremiah 29:11

We can't talk about planning without talking about control. Some of us have to admit that part of the reason we plan is because we feel like it gives us control. But let's be honest, we don't have that kind of power or authority (see what I did there?) to change God's plans. **So who is really in control of your life? Based on this verse does it give you comfort to know that God does have a plan? Or would you rather go with your plan? What part of your life do you need to hand to God and give Him the control?**

CALLING

Read Luke 14:28-30

This scripture is asking us to fully count the cost of our plans before we finalize and make our plans. To make sure when we say yes to something that we mean it! So we don't have to back out or bail before seeing things come full circle:

- God, help me to put you at the center of my planning. Help me to give the future plan of _____ over to you.
- Heavenly Father, help me to count the cost of every yes I give out, especially _____ this week.

Daily Devotions: Read and engage with the ICON Daily Devotions. Text JOINGOD to 81411 to have them texted to you each morning at 7:00AM or tap on *Study* in Northside's App to find the Daily Devotions.

Further Study & Reflection:

- Read *Breaking Busy: How to find peace and purpose in a world of crazy* by Ali Worthington
- Additional Scriptures:
 - **Ecclesiastes 3:1** - Evaluate what kind of season you might be in to help evaluate if you're on the right path to planning with God.
 - **Ephesians 2:10** - What do you think God might be preparing you for? Look back on your life and what has already happened that He prepared you for?

Memorize: "The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty." **Proverbs 21:5**