



Discussion Guide

Ice Breaker: What is your favorite and least favorite Christmas song?

1. When was the last time it seemed as though God might be messing up your plans?
2. Take a few minutes to review Matthew 2 and Luke 2. How did God get people's attention in these chapters? What has God used in your life to get your attention?
3. Pastor Tom said, "When God tells us what to do it's not because He's simply the cosmic 'big boss' arbitrarily setting rules to make us miserable..." Instead he is wanting us to see His plan and trust Him. Read Psalm 40:5. How should this verse affect your thinking about the times when God changes your plans?
4. Review the section of your message notes that begins with, "God's purpose for our lives is:" Of the 3 "Always" statements, which one has been the most noticeable in your life? How long did it take you to come around to God's way of thinking?
5. Pastor Tom stated, "when we embrace God's plans and purposes for our lives, we receive 2 very costly gifts: significance and satisfaction. Have you seen this in your life or in the life of someone you know? Explain.
6. No matter how you are feeling as you approach this Christmas season, there are 3 things that will be true in 2020. Review those 3 truths in your notes. Which of these truths do you need to embrace, allowing it to change your thinking today? How can we support and hold you accountable in this?

Personal Guide

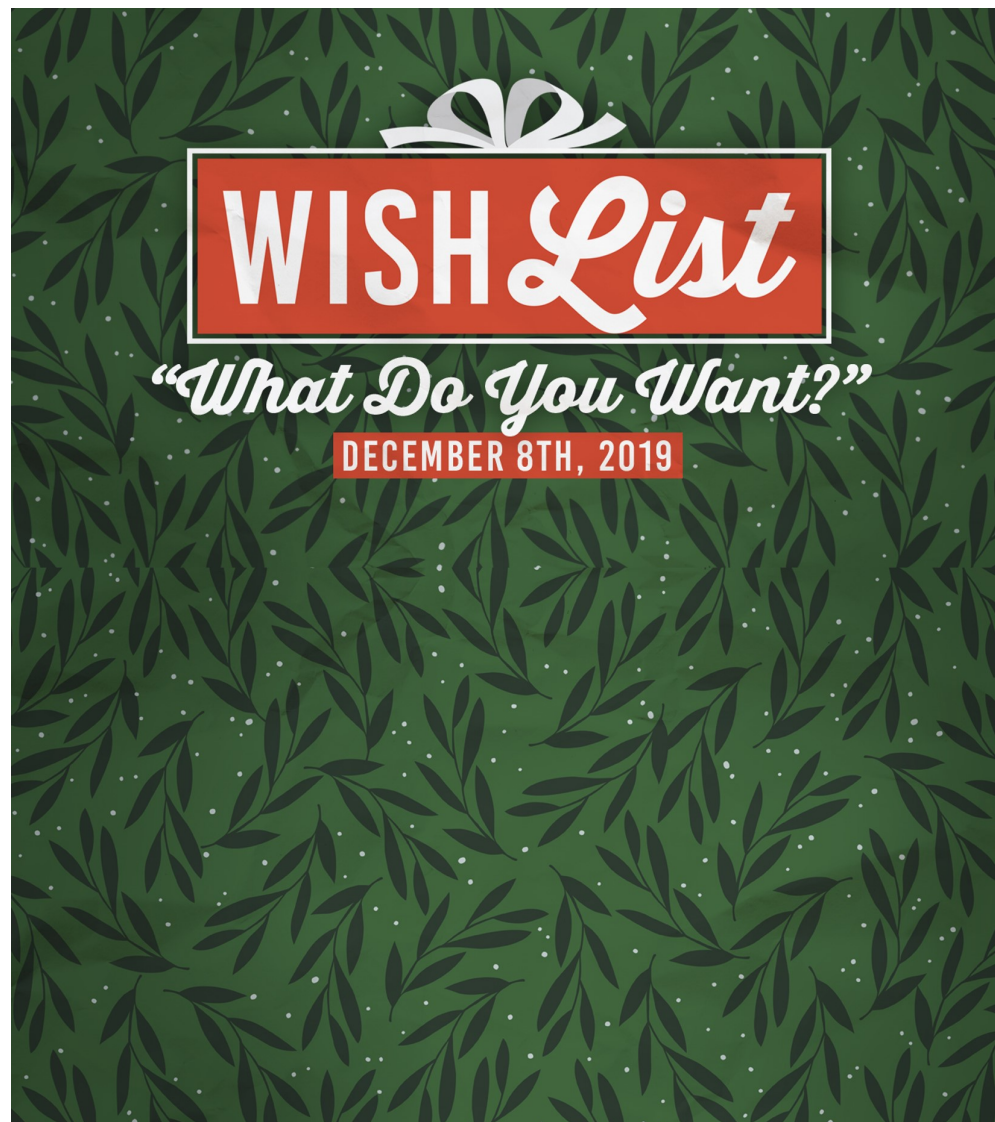
Day One: Proverbs 21

Day Two: Proverbs 22

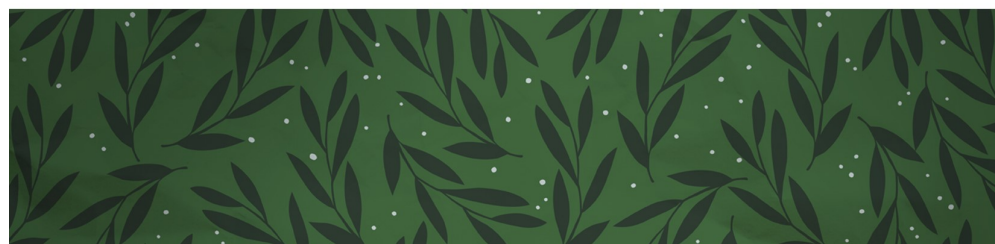
Day Three: Proverbs 23

Day Four: Proverbs 24

Day Five: Proverbs 25



**MESSAGE NOTES || SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION & PERSONAL GUIDES**





“What Do You Want?”

[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

Has it ever seemed like God is _____ your plans?

So what do we do when God puts us in _____ that are out of our control (note Proverbs 19:21)?

When it seems like God is messing up our plans (even at Christmas), He is:

1. Trying to Get Our _____

Note Matthew 2 and Luke 2

The problem is most of us have spiritual _____

God whispers to us in our pleasures, but He _____ to us in our pain. (C.S. Lewis)

Note Psalm 81:13

God wants our _____ because He knows we will be spared a lot of pain and trouble if we listen to Him and do what He tells us to do (note Proverbs 16:25).

He wants us to listen to Him so we can avoid a lot of unnecessary _____ in life.

When God tells us what to do, it's not because He's simply the _____ “big boss” arbitrarily setting rules to make us miserable...

2. Wanting Us to See His _____ (note Psalm 40:5)

God's _____ for our lives is:

- A. Always _____ than our plans—few of us really _____ how much God wants to do in us and through us...
- B. Always _____ than our plans—God is more interested in our _____ than our comfort. We would never develop character if all our challenges and _____ were removed.
- C. Always more _____ (note 1 Corinthians 2:9) - when we embrace God's plans and purposes for our lives, we receive 2 very costly gifts: _____ and _____.

3. Inviting Us to _____ Him

...there is only one way to _____ God (note Hebrews 11:6).

Every time God messes up our plans it's an opportunity for us _____ to trust Him instead of trusting ourselves or someone or something else.

What should be on your Christmas Wishlist?:

Maybe this Christmas season you're feeling _____. 3 things will be true in 2020:

- God still has a _____ plan for your life.
- God is never going to leave you and will be with you every _____ of 2020.
- You can know that ultimately the most _____ way to live is to get to know God, discover His purpose for your life, and start living that purpose.

God wants us to _____ Him (note Jeremiah 29:13).

Everyone starts out as _____.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“What Do You Want?”

[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

Has it ever seemed like God is messing up your plans?

So what do we do when God puts us in situations that are out of our control (note Proverbs 19:21)?

When it seems like God is messing up our plans (even at Christmas), He is:

1. Trying to Get Our Attention

Note Matthew 2 and Luke 2

The problem is most of us have spiritual A.D.D.

God whispers to us in our pleasures, but He shouts to us in our pain. (C.S. Lewis)

Note Psalm 81:13

God wants our attention because He knows we will be spared a lot of pain and trouble if we listen to Him and do what He tells us to do (note Proverbs 16:25).

He wants us to listen to Him so we can avoid a lot of unnecessary pain in life.

When God tells us what to do it's not because He's simply the cosmic “big boss” arbitrarily setting rules to make us miserable...

2. Wanting Us to See His Plan (note Psalm 40:5)

God's purpose for our lives is:

- A. Always larger than our plans – few of us really grasp how much God wants to do in us and through us...
- B. Always harder than our plans – God is more interested in our character than our comfort. We would never develop character if all our challenges and struggles were removed.
- C. Always more rewarding (note 1 Corinthians 2:9) – when we embrace God's plans and purposes for our lives, we receive 2 very costly gifts: significance and satisfaction.

3. Inviting Us to Trust Him

...there is only one way to please God (note Hebrews 11:6).

Every time God messes up our plans it's an opportunity for us to learn to trust Him instead of trusting ourselves or someone or something else.

What should be on your Christmas Wishlist?:

Maybe this Christmas season you're feeling discouraged. 3 things will be true in 2020:

- God still has a personal plan for your life.
- God is never going to leave you and will be with you every moment of 2020.
- You can know that ultimately the most rational way to live is to get to know God, discover His purpose for your life, and start living that purpose.

God wants us to seek Him (note Jeremiah 29:13).

Everyone starts out as seekers.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!