



Sermon-based reflections connect the week to the weekend!

Dig deeper into the talk each week, in a small group or independently. Challenge yourself to see how the message actually makes sense and applies to your everyday life.

Message Info: Keep it Simple, 9/17/23 - Life tempts us to run in so many directions. Bombarded with opinions, we can easily be derailed and disoriented. But God has a plan for each of us; a fulfilling purpose. We miss it when we overcomplicate things. The right choice isn't usually easy, but it's simple: follow Jesus. He's not hiding in heaven or far across an ocean. He is right there with you. (*Passages: Acts 9:1-19, Jeremiah 29:11, 2 Timothy 1:7, Deuteronomy 30:11-14*)

Discussion Questions: Take your time and dig into these questions.

Do our paths always center around Jesus? Where do we get our next steps from? What are your motives? Do we make decisions out of fear? Or overcomplicate things?

Read Acts 9:1-19. What stands out to you in this passage. Why?

There was no one more passionate about persecuting believers than Saul. And apparently that reputation went before him. Ananias' reaction to God's instruction was fearful. But he couldn't deny God. He made the decision to obediently carry out God's directions. Was it easy for Ananias to obey? What can we gather about Ananias, his life and his character, from this story?

In the whirlwind of life, we can get caught up in the motions. Sometimes we're tempted to submit to our feelings. Even our faith journey can feel hectic or confusing at times. But it comes down to an encounter with Jesus, where we decide if we are going to follow him. Saying yes to the next step, one at a time. When Jesus is our center, all the other stuff sets itself right in due time. What is God revealing to you? Is there something you've thought about a long time and have put off? What might you be withholding that you need to yield to God?

Following God is not a miserable or boring existence. In Jeremiah 29:11, God promises an amazing future. In 2 Timothy 1:7, God tells us of the awesome power at work in us. Come, believe, follow. Simply acknowledge him, and allow him to be God of your life. He'll show you your next step! What next step does he have for you? Will you say yes?

Weekly Challenge: Pick a Life Group to visit and consider joining!