

THE BIBLE DOESN'T SAY THAT

WEEK 2

“ These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group or Bible class. ”

We underestimate how much we overestimate our capacity to detect deception. We think something has great value because of how it looks, and we can decide something is true because of how it sounds. Many non-biblical sayings just sound like they are in the Bible. For example, “God has a plan for your life” sounds good. It is comforting to believe that God has our future all mapped out. But is that in the Bible?

1 Where do people get the idea that “*God has a plan for your life*”?

2 WHO IS “YOU”? Read **Jeremiah 29:10-11**. What would be a legitimate application of this text, and what would be taking it out of context?

3 If God has something very specific in mind for you, He will make it clear. But most of us are going to live our lives with more options and less clarity. Rick said, “*God’s plan for your life is more like a coach with a game plan than a builder with a blueprint.*” What is the significance of that statement?

4 PROBLEMS WITH “THE PLAN”: (a) *It makes knowledge more important than obedience.* If God’s plan for your life is a blueprint, then you must not move until you get clarity. You wind up doing nothing for fear that you’ll do the wrong thing. But the Bible does not emphasize clarity nearly as much as it does obedience. Many Bible heroes did what God asked without fully comprehending the purpose or knowing the outcome. Why does God value obedience over understanding?

5 PROBLEMS WITH “THE PLAN”: (b) *It makes God seem like a control freak.* Believing in the sovereignty of God does not mean He must be a micromanager. How can portraying God as working off of a detailed blueprint actually make people angry at Him?

6 PROBLEMS WITH “THE PLAN”: (c) *It makes “you” the star of the story.* “*God has a plan for your life*” appeals to that fallen part of my nature that wants life to make a big deal out of me. But the reality is that in God’s big story the applause all goes to Jesus. Read **Romans 8:28-30**. What is God’s macro-plan for every life, and why is it essential to understand that “*I am not the star of the story*”?

7 Jesus is the plan so live *on purpose*. God’s specific plan for one person reveals His plan for every person. Read **Ephesians 1:9-11**. How can we participate in God’s plan?

ACTION STEP As you go through this week remember that God’s plan is for you to be more like His Son (**Romans 8:30**). Most of what happens in your life will be as an “extra.” It will go unnoticed, but it will not be unimportant. Here is the unspoken and unpopular truth: most of the Christian life is a daily grind of trying to be more like Jesus in small, inconspicuous, selfless, unapplauded ways. What are some of the unnoticed and selfless ways you can be more like Jesus this week?