

God's Plans
Epic – Part 3
March 20-21, 2021
Dr. Jeffrey Allen Love

Series Key Verse: *“And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.”*
Hebrews 11:6 (p.926)

“Now the gates of Jericho were tightly shut because the people were afraid of the Israelites. No one was allowed to go out or in. But the Lord said to Joshua, ‘I have given you Jericho, its king, and all its strong warriors.’” Joshua 6:1–2 (p.171)

- **Faith Trusts God's Plan.**

1. **Seek God's plan.**

“...march around the town once a day for six days. Seven priests will walk ahead of the Ark.... On the seventh day... march around the town seven times... When you hear the priests give one long blast on the rams' horns, have all the people shout as loud as they can. Then the walls of the town will collapse...” Joshua 6:3–5 (p.171)

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” Matthew 6:33 (p.738)

2. **Obey God's plan.**

“‘Do not shout; do not even talk,’ Joshua commanded. ‘Not a single word from any of you until I tell you to shout. Then shout!’” Joshua 6:10 (p.171)

“If you love me, obey my commandments.” John 14:15 (p.823)

3. **Stay in God's plan.**

“When the people heard the sound of the rams' horns, they shouted as loud as they could. Suddenly, the walls of Jericho collapsed, and the Israelites charged straight into the town and captured it.” Joshua 6:20 (p.171)

“Fight the good fight for the true faith.” 1 Timothy 6:12 (p.913)

“It was by faith that the people of Israel marched around Jericho for seven days, and the walls came crashing down.” Hebrews 11:30 (p.927)

Next Step: ____ I am choosing to start or continue to trust God's plan for my life. I will take action on one of these three areas: _____. #1 Seek; #2 Obey; #3 Stay



ONE VOICE

Discussion/Groups Guide from the Weekend Talk

From the Weekend Talk of March 20-21, 2021

Epic - Part 3: God's Plans

Life Groups use these questions to go deeper into what we talked about this weekend. Dig into them so you will be ready for the discussion at your Life Group. If you are not in a Group, find out more at www.alivechurch.com/groups.

You can also use this guide to discuss the Talk with your family or friends.

Conversation Starters

- For what reasons do people typically make plans?
- Do you like planning and making lists, like Sheldon Cooper from the Big Bang Theory?
 - Have you ever set out to do something important without any kind of plan? How does that typically work out?
- Have you ever heard the saying, "God works in mysterious ways"?
 - Have you ever experienced God's mysterious ways? Talk about it.

Quick Review

- Looking back at your Talk Notes, was there anything you heard in the service that stood out or maybe even confused or challenged you?

Discussion Starters from the Weekend Talk

Refer to the Talk Notes and related Bible verses from this Weekend's Talk Notes.

The Weekend Talk encouraged us to remember that:

- **Faith Trusts God's Plan.** (Joshua 6:1-2 (p.171))
 - What about this passage in Joshua 6 requires trusting God's plan?
 - When have you had to truly and intentionally trust God?

To trust God's plan we also talked about three basic steps to doing so:

1. **Seek God's plan.** (Joshua 6:1-5 p.171); Matthew 6:33 (p.738))
 - How do you seek God's plan today? How have you personally sought God's plan?
 - What are some obstacles you face when seeking God's plan?
 - How often are the obstacles of your own making?
 - Read Matthew 6:28-34 to get some context for Jesus' instruction in verse 33. What is He talking about when He gives this instruction?

- Have you ever been distracted from seeking God’s Kingdom and ways and instruction “first”? What caused the distraction and how did you realize it was a distraction?
- What does Jesus say, in Matthew 6:33, that God will do when we seek first His Kingdom?
- What does it mean to seek the Kingdom of God? How do we do this?

2. **Obey God’s plan.** (Joshua 6:10 (p.171); John 14:15 (p.823))

- Have you ever struggled to obey God’s plan? Why?
- What helps you obey God?
- What specifically helps you obey Him?
- John 14:15 is pretty straightforward.
 - What does Jesus say is the best indicator of our love for Him?
 - Jesus *walks the talk* (see Matthew 14:31 (p.824)) and He expects us to follow His ways (See Matthew 13:15-16 (p.822)).
 - What does it mean to you that Jesus does *walk the talk*?

3. **Stay in God’s plan.** (Joshua 6:20 (p.171); 1 Timothy 6:11-14 (p.913); Hebrews 11:30 (p.927); Hebrews 10:24 (p.926))

- What do you think the people of Israel thought when they saw the walls collapse?
 - Do you think any of them were thinking, “Wow! It actually happened”?
 - How would you have reacted?
 - When have you seen God knock down a “wall” in your life?
- What was Paul’s encouragement to Timothy?
 - When have you held on to what God told you to do “without wavering”?
 - Who empowers us to live out God’s instructions?
- Read John 14:16 (p.823).
 - We looked at verse 15 earlier. What does Jesus promise in verse 16?
 - Are we called to live out God’s commands and instructions all by ourselves?
 - Can we ever expect to live out God’s perfect will on our own, without the Holy Spirit?
- Read Hebrews 10:24. We are not called to be on our own. We are called to be part of God’s church and we need to stay part of it
 - How can we *think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works* and why is this important.

Digging Deeper

To seek, obey and stay in God’s plan is very difficult. In fact, as we have seen, it’s impossible when we try to do it on our own. But God has given us a supernatural Advocate—the Holy Spirit—to help us. Take a look at a few more references from John’s Gospel that reveal

several other aspects of Who the Holy Spirit is and What He does. As you read each one, meditate on and pray about how God can work through you through the power of the Holy Spirit. All verses are from John 14-16 (p.823-824).

- He will be with us forever (14:16)
- The world at large cannot accept him (John 14:17).
- He lives with us and in us (John 14:17).
- He teaches us (14:26).
- He reminds us of Jesus' words (14:26; 15:26).
- He convicts us of sin, shows us God's righteousness, and announces God's judgment on evil (16:8).
- He guides into truth and gives insight into future events (16:13).
- He brings glory to Christ (16:14).

Next Step

My Next Step: _____ I am choosing to start or continue to trust God's plan for my life. I will take action on one of these three areas: _____. #1 Seek; #2 Obey; #3 Stay

- Use the link on the app or go to your Connection Card at www.alivechurch.com/card to indicate you are taking this Next Step so that we can pray for you.

What's Ahead

- **Our "Epic" Series continues this weekend for Part 4, "Out of the Fire."**
- **Have you signed up for our Alive Church Newsletter?**
 - Sign up here: www.alivechurch.com/newsletter

* The Life Transformation Bible is the New Living Translation of the Bible, including many useful tools to help you better understand God's Word, including our own Alive Church Life Transformation Discipleship Plan. They are available FREE. Let us know if you'd like to have one. We have a Kids Edition of the Bible, as well.