



BREAKING THE ICE

What's your navigation app of choice: Google Maps, Apple Maps, Waze or something else? Why did you choose that one?

What are some of your favorite traditions around the Christmas season?

Last week we talked about regret and repentance. The action step was to ask God where you needed to repent of regrets you had. How did you work through repentance and regret this past week?

MAIN CONTENT

This week our good friend Annie F Downs shared about where we are going and worry about the future.

1. How much do you worry about the future?

We don't know our future and we don't know how we will get there. Every day on our lives, we all have someplace we want to go but don't always know how to get there. That's why many of us use navigation to get where we need to go.

This week, Annie mentioned using the Waze app. In the waze app there are hazards and re-routes along the way. Just like the navigation app, in our lives we have hazards. And sometimes we wish God would reroute us so we don't worry, and we can know what the plan is.

Read Isaiah 55:8-9

God's ways are higher than our ways.

2. Describe a time when you felt God's way helped when your route didn't go as you planned.

Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, had a plan. He was going to marry Mary and they would live their lives. But Joseph's plan did not go the way he intended.

Read Matthew 1:18-25

In the midst of Joseph's plan for his life, he had some dark times. But in each dark time, he was re-routed.

God was in the midst of his re-routes. He just had to choose to believe and trust in God through the dark times.

Joseph had 4 dreams that re-routed what he thought his life was going to be. The first dream God gave to Joseph was that even though Mary was pregnant (big shock to Joseph) he was still on the right path and he wanted Joseph to keep going.

The second dream God gave Joseph was a warning to flee because Jesus' life was at risk. Joseph trusted God with the hazards that had appeared in his son's life. Because Joseph trusted God, Jesus life was saved.

3. Describe a time when you continued through a dark season where you weren't completely confident God would work it out.

4. How have you seen God protect you in a difficult season when you couldn't see the hazards around the corner of your life?

The third dream Joseph was given was that it was safe to go back to Israel, that the king that wanted to kill Jesus was dead. And the fourth dream given to Moses to move to Nazareth because things were no longer safe in Galilee.

Through all of these dreams you can see that Joseph trusted God with desires, timing, hazards and destinations.

5. Which is the easiest to trust God with: your desires, timing, hazards or destination of your life? Which is the hardest to trust God with?

We can't assume what Joseph felt through all of these scenarios. But we can read what he did and believed to be true after the dreams he had from God. Joseph put his trust in God and believed in the one that has bigger plans for us.

Have someone read the following scriptures out loud:

Isaiah 41:10

Don't panic. I'm with you. There's no need to fear for I'm your God. I'll give you strength. I'll help you. I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you.

Isaiah 30:21

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Matthew 6:33-34

People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.

6. Which of these scriptures resonates the most with you in your life right now? Why?

Jesus is the light in our darkness. When we put our trust in Him, he will show us the route we need to take.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you that you can take our worries from us. You know the path you have for us. Even in our dark times there's a light you have for us. Thank you for sending Jesus to be the light in our darkness. Help us lean into our group to share what is happening in our lives and to carry one another's burdens. Guide us, protect us, show us the plan you have for us and help us follow you. In your name, Amen.