



Life Group Study Notes

"Friends & Family: The Lion King"

Ps. James Lowe - September 3, 2017

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- When you were a child what did you dream about doing or becoming?
- What kind of movies do you like to watch?
- If you were an actor, what kind of role(s) would you want to play?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

We are created and destined by God for a purpose.

Ephesians 2:10 ESV *For we are [God's] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

- Before God created anything he already had a purpose in mind for each of us.

Ephesians 1:4-6, 11 ESV *[In love God] predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved... In [Christ] we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will...*

- God's purpose for us is anchored in Christ and involves our adoption through him.

We face temptations to turn away from God and his purpose for us.

Genesis 2:15-17 ESV *The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

- Like the first humans we are tempted to live independent of God's authority.

1 John 2:15-17 ESV *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*

- We must take to heart God's warning, and choose to trust and obey him.

We have a spiritual enemy who seeks to lead us astray from the truth.

Genesis 3:4-5 ESV *But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

- Our enemy would have us believe we are better off by rejecting God's ways.

1 Peter 5:8-10 ESV *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.*

- Our enemy seeks to destroy us and is the source of much of our suffering.

We must turn from evil and embrace God and follow Jesus to fulfill our destiny.

Isaiah 55:6-7 ESV *"Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."*

- God is compassionate toward us, having provided for our forgiveness through Christ.

Philippians 3:8-14 ESV *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

- Following Jesus with all of our hearts and trusting him alone for our righteousness is necessary to fulfill God's purpose for us and to lay ahold of what God has for us.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- What are some things that hold you back from fulfilling God's purpose for you?
- How much of your identity is grounded in being God's redeemed child?
- What do you need to do to press in like Paul to God's calling for you?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for calling us and having a purpose for us.
- Ask God to open our eyes to the schemes of the enemy in our lives.
- Ask God to help us throw off the things that hinder us from pressing in to our calling.