



Introduction

We are in the second week of the Advent series, *And Now For Some Good News*. Last week Pastor Jesse gave us the Good News that we don't have to be negative, nor do we have to play Junior Savior, because God is in control, and only Jesus, (and not our own efforts) can save those around us. This week we will come to understand God's Big Plan includes everyone who is His Child, even when we have a past history of failure, because His plan doesn't depend on us, but upon God.

Discussion

1. Was there a time in your life you struggled believing God had a plan for your life? Share with the group the struggle and how you overcame (or are currently overcoming) this area of your faith life.

2. Divide up your group so each smaller group can study and report back to the full group on the following individuals who are found in the genealogy of Jesus. Does God's plans depend on human perfection? Why or why not?
 - Tamar** - Genesis 38
 - Rahab** - Joshua 2
 - David and Bathsheba** - 2 Samuel 11-12
 - Ruth** - Ruth 1:1-5
 - Manasseh** - 2 Chronicles 33:1-16

3. Read Psalm 139:16 and Galatians 4:4-7. How does seeing how God worked out His promised plan for Abraham and Sarah through the birth of Jesus give you hope that God will continue to work out His plan for your life?

Think About It

One of the most quoted Bible Passages surrounding God's plans, comes from Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." Many Christians can quote this passage, but they do not understand the circumstances surrounding the verse. Jeremiah's message was for the disobedient Jews who were to be exiled to Babylon for their sinful behavior. Though the Jewish people had failed God, He was not going to fail them while they were being disciplined. It doesn't matter who you are, where you've been, what you've done or what's been done to you. God still has a plan for your life, if you trust Him.

Do Something

1. On your own, study the individuals from discussion question 2 who are found in Jesus' genealogy. Think of how God worked out His plan despite their imperfections. Ask yourself: If God can work out His plan despite others' imperfections, can I trust that God will help me overcome my imperfections that hinders His plan?
2. Take some invite cards from your campus to invite neighbors, coworkers, relatives and friends to one of our Christmas services. Be willing to walk them in the door, and be that influence to help them see our Savior this Christmas season!
3. Find time this week to practice the rhythm of blessing—sharing God's love with no strings attached. Donate to your favorite organization, volunteer at a shelter or school, encourage "the least of these" with your family and friends.