

Series

Designed By God

God's Plan – faith passed on

- light to world Phil. 2:15
- known by love John 15
- sharing Gospel matters Rom. 10:14-17
- ambassadors 2 Cor. 5:18-21

Great Commission Mandate - Matt. 28:18ff

Deut. 6:5-9 "5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

- 1. Perspective Renewal vs.5
 - where we are looking matters
 - Matt. 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
 - focused on what we have or what we don't?
 - focused on what others have, or what we were entrusted?
 - perspective matters to gratitude

- a) Thankful people remember
 - God's Love for us, Rom. 5:8-11
- ⁸ "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation"

- God's Provision for Sin
- God's Promise of Holy Spirit John 14
- God's Promise of.....
 - Peace in all circumstances
 - Rest for the weary
 - Eternal Life
- b) Perspective Renewal
 - Sunday Service
 - Praise, Giving, Word of God, Prayer

- Communion
- Testimonies
- 2. Intentional Instruction vs. 7
 - a) Desire of God thankful people
- 1 Thess. 5:16-18 "Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"

b) Practice of Christ Followers

Phil. 4:4-7 "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Col 2:6-7 "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

- c) Patterns matter
 - grace at our meals
 - bed time prayers
 - participation in worship & response

- 3. Verbal Evidence vs.7
 - known by how we talk
 - a) peppered in everyday speech
 - weather, government, health care, work, family, money etc.
 - start with thanksgiving for what we have, then honesty about the issues
 - b) words and our witness
 - known for how we speak about things and others

2 Cor. 4:13-15 "Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, 14 knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. 15 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God."

Psalm 100 "Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! 3 Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! 5 For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."

- c) modeled and caught
- Eph. 5:19-20 "19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"
- 4. Environment vs.8-9
 - markers and mileposts
 - birthdays, anniversary, graduations, life events
 - do we have markers of God's provision?

Joshua 4 setting

Joshua 4:6-7 "that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' 7 then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever."

- a) marking God's work in your life
 - family history
 - answered prayer
 - moments of decision with God
 - pictures of significant events
- b) measuring mileposts
 - marking progress and commitments
 - taking care not to forget in good times
 - Deut 6:10-12

So What

- 1. Desire of God
 - thankful people!
 - perspective important
- 2. Intentional Instruction
 - Establishing patterns, taking opportunity
- 3. Verbal Evidence
- 4. Markers and Mileposts