

UNSTOPPABLE VISION

The Transformation for Adult LifeGroups

God has an unstoppable vision for my life.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2018/SEPTEMBER 19, 2018

TODAY'S TEXT

Text: Jeremiah 29:11-13, Romans 12:1-2

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 hope and a future.¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

FIRST THOUGHTS

° We all have different approaches and attitudes about planning. What about you? Are you a planner or a procrastinator? Probably somewhere in-between. Take this quick quiz to help you know:

On a scale of 1 meaning never and 5 meaning always, rate yourself on each statement:

1. _____ I pick my clothes for the next day before I go to bed.
2. _____ I don't like surprises.
3. _____ I'm in always in a hurry.
4. _____ I write things on my to-do list that I've already done just to cross them off.
5. _____ When faced with an important decision, I usually say "I need to wait until I'm less tired/stressed/distracted/busy/etc. to make this decision."
6. _____ I like to start the day off with my most difficult tasks first.
7. _____ I like watching multiple Netflix series/reading multiple books at the same time.
8. _____ I work best under pressure.
9. _____ I Christmas shop throughout the year.
10. _____ I left some of the above questions blank because it was too hard to give myself a score so I'll come back to them later.

Planner Score: _____

Procrastinator Score: _____

Watch the Video

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Jeremiah 29 is addressed to the Jewish exiles in Babylon. As a punishment for the sins of Judah, God was going to send the Babylonians to destroy Jerusalem and the temple and to carry away many of the people to Babylon. At the time Jeremiah wrote Jeremiah 29, Nebuchadnezzar had already removed some Jews to Babylon (see verse 1), although the total destruction of Jerusalem and the temple was still to come. Jeremiah writes to the exiles to tell them that people would return to the land after 70 years (verse 10). Then he reassures them in verse 11 that God has not forsaken them. They will be restored. God's plans for His Chosen People were "for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope" (NLT). This verse applied only to the Jews who were in exile in Babylon during the sixth century BC. However, the sentiment expressed is so beautiful and encouraging, is there not any sense in which it applies today? The answer is, yes. Believers in Christ can be confident that all things will work together for our good (Romans 8:28) and that God has a future planned for us. We have been given promises to rely on, just as Israel was. So, if by quoting Jeremiah 29:11 we are thinking of our security in Christ, then the wording is appropriate, even if the historical context does not apply. God does have a glorious future full of hope planned for us. This does not mean everything will always go our way or be easy. It does mean that no matter what happens, God will not abandon us and He will use even our mistakes and suffering to accomplish something good in our lives.

DISCUSS THE VIDEO**> Read Jeremiah 29:11 again.**

- What's most encouraging to you about this verse?
- How can we take this verse out of context? Think especially about the words "prosper" and "hope". What did these mean to the Jewish people Jeremiah was writing to? What do they mean to us?
- Have you ever felt like you had only "vague directions" from God about His will for your life? What did you do?
- What would life be like if we had a clear, step-by-step plan for every day of our life from God?

> Read Romans 12:1-2 again.

- What have been some of the easiest sacrifices you have made in following God? What are some of the hardest sacrifices you have made in following God?
- In what part of your life do you feel the most pressure to conform to the pattern of the world?
- How does God transform our minds?
- There are 3 words used here to describe God's will: "good, perfect, and pleasing". What does each of these words reveal to us about God's will?

Take 20 . . .

Choose one or more of these Take 20 Challenges to complete this week:

- Take 20 minutes to read Romans 12-15. These chapters conclude the greatest letter Paul wrote. They contain the practical application of living out a transformed life as described in Romans 12:1-2. Ask God to transform your mind as you read His Word.
- Take 20 minutes to write a list of the obstacles God has helped you overcome in your life. As you look at it, offer a prayer of thanks for what He has done.
- Take 20 seconds to write out Jeremiah 29:11. Put it somewhere you can see it every day—on your mirror, dashboard, or make it the screen saver on your phone or computer.
- Take 20 minutes to ask a family member or friend how they have discovered God's will in their lives.

UPCOMING LESSONS

Focus more on the idea of God's Unstoppable Vision by reading Week 1 in your Personal Devotional Guide.

9/23	Unstoppable Truth—We trust God's Word.
9/30	Unstoppable Love—We love all people.
10/7	Unstoppable Families—We partner with families.
10/14	Unstoppable Community—We practice community.
10/21	Unstoppable Generosity—We give generously.
10/28	Unstoppable Mission—We live beyond ourselves.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

17th – Ezekiel 42-44; Revelation 22 | **18th** – Ezekiel 45-46; Luke 1 | **19th** – Ezekiel 47-48; Luke 2 | **20th** – Daniel 5-6; Psalm 130; Luke 3 | **21st** – Daniel 7-8; Psalm 137; Luke 4 | **22nd** – Daniel 9-10; Psalm 123; Luke 5 | **23rd** – Daniel 11-12; Luke 6