YOUR BIG

PART SIX: UNSTOPPABLE SURRENDER

God is the God who consistently uses evil to surprisingly serve a higher good. From Joseph, to Esther, to the cross, to the early church—a pattern emerges. If God is active in all of human history, you can choose which side you're on. It won't change the ultimate outcome, but it might change yours. So why not surrender?

BIG IDEA: Bad decisions change your story, not God's story.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. How often have you seen people make decisions that have changed their lives for the worse?
- 2. In the message, Chris said many theologians have struggled with the tension between the sovereignty of God versus the free will of human beings to make their own decisions. Do you agree that the both/and approach Chris talked about is a helpful explanation of this tension? Why or why not?
- 3. With your Bible or YouVersion, read Romans 6:1-4, 11-14.

Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

Romans 6:1-4 (NLT)

So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

Romans 6:11 (NLT)

- 4. The story of Esther sees God's purposes triumph regardless of the morally ambiguous choices of the characters in Esther. How does Paul's teaching in Romans help us to understand how to respond to the sovereign grace of God with our lives?
- 5. If bad decisions change your story but not God's, what incentive remains to continually choose bad decisions?
- 6. Do you keep making any bad decisions you might be ready to surrender to God?



WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Take some time to truly surrender to God some areas of your life where you have made bad decisions. Tell a friend. Celebrate the progress together and pray together in your struggles.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

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