

THE JOURNEY

“Detours”

Week 1: LET’S GO

Week 2: ROAD TRIP

Week 3: DON’T GO ALONE

Week 4: BUCKLE UP

Week 5: RUMBLE STRIPS

TODAY: DETOURS

4 COMMON REASONS:

- 1) Construction (planned out and approved)
- 2) Planned events (Sartell Parade)
- 3) Accident (needs to happen on the fly)
- 4) Weather (needs to happen to keep safe)

IN A SPIRITUAL SENSE.....4 COMMON REASONS:

- 1) Bad decisions on our part (we make the choice to go another route)
- 2) The Devil is trying to detour God’s plans (Spiritual warfare)

The one who’s mission is to steal, kill, and destroy.
Maybe you are under attack.

- 3) People are trying to derail us! (Broken world....jealousy & selfishness)
- 4) God may be leading us a better or safer way than we had planned

Psalm 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delights in his way.

Let's be honest: *we don't like detours.*

You're driving to work, and GPS suddenly reroutes you.

The new path is longer, slower, unfamiliar.

-thinking, "This is NOT the way I planned."

Life is full of detours, isn't it?

You had a career path, but then the layoff came.

You had a relationship mapped out, but it unraveled.

You had a timeline for your dream, but delay after delay hits.

Detours are frustrating — not just because they slow us down, but because they make us feel like we're lost.

THEY TEST OUR FAITH!

But here's the truth: **Detours are often not a punishment; they are protection. They're not a delay of destiny — they're part of how God gets us there.**

GOD IS MORE INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING US THAN DELIVERING US!

God doesn't play the short game.....he plays the long game...

ETERNITY!!!

Look at the Hebrews being lead out of slavery and oppression in Egypt

Exodus 13:17-18 “When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, ‘If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.’ So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea...”

Point 1: God Sometimes Chooses the Longer Route on Purpose

In Exodus 13, God is leading the Israelites out of Egypt.

There was a shorter, faster road to the Promised Land

— the route through Philistine territory.

But God *intentionally* took them the long way around.

Why?

“If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.”

-God knew what they could not see

— that **the shortcut came with a battle they weren’t ready for.**

-So He rerouted them to grow them, strengthen them, and prepare them.

God sees what you can’t see. He knows what you’re not ready to fight.

Sometimes He’ll delay the promotion, the relationship, the breakthrough — not to hurt you, but to protect you from something you’re not yet built to carry.

Point 2: The Desert Isn’t a Dead End — It’s a Classroom

2024 Series TAKE GROUND! (8 week series)

-The desert wasn’t a mistake — it was a place of formation.

-In the desert, the Israelites learned who God was:

- Water from a rock
- Manna from heaven
- Guidance by cloud and fire
- Protection from enemies

HUGE: If God had taken them straight to the Promised Land, they might have had the blessing, but not the faith to keep it.

The desert was where their dependency on God was formed.

Sometimes, the detour is where God teaches you how to trust Him *before* you get the thing you’ve been praying for.

Detours develop what shortcuts never will: **Character. Endurance. Faith. Humility. Dependence.**

Romans 5:3-5 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Last week was about TEMPTATION, This week about TRIALS

I DON'T LIKE TRIALS OR TEMPTATIONS!!!

"Trials" are situations designed by God to draw us closer to him.

They're not designed to hurt or shame us; they're designed to help us.

James 1:2-5 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

James says when we face trials they are designed to strengthen us & matures us in our faith

- **Trials** come from the OUTSIDE and designed to **STRENGTHEN** us.
- **Temptation** starts on the INSIDE and is designed to **DESTROY** us.

I DON'T LIKE TRIALS OR TEMPTATIONS!!!

Point 3: Don't Despise the Detour — There's Destiny in It

Jesus took detours.

- He stopped at a well in Samaria to speak to a broken woman.
- He paused on the road to heal a blind beggar others were ignoring.
- He waited two extra days before going to Lazarus — not because He didn't care, but because **there was a greater glory in the delay.**

God doesn't waste detours. NO MATTER WHAT CAUSED IT!

He uses them to get us where He's taking us — *whole, healed, and ready.*

Your detour might feel like a delay, but in the Kingdom of God, **delay is not denial.** It's often preparation.

ADVICE.....THE RIGHT THING IS RARELY THE EASY THING!

PHYSICAL: Eat good and exercise!

FINANCES: Make more or spend less!

PRACTICAL:

Acting on what you *feel* rather than what you *know* is a swift route to trouble.

Learn to weigh the *pros* and *cons* of a situation.

REMEMBER:

God answers in three ways; yes, no, and *wait*.

GOD'S TIMING!!!

Wrestling with God

People wrestle with God for one of two reasons:

1. They don't know God's will and are trying to find it.
2. They know God's will and are trying to decide whether or not to do it.

God may reveal only a piece of the puzzle to us of the whole picture, but we can trust that He will ultimately take care of us.

NOTE: Waiting does not mean withdrawing from life. God often guides us while we are on our way. Don't let fear paralyze you from acting.

Proverbs 2:1-5 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

Conclusion: Trust the Guide, Not Just the Map

You may not be where you planned.

You may be on the longer road.

You may be walking through a desert, and it feels like nothing is happening.

But remember — **You're not wandering** **You're being led**

God led the people **around** — not away.

He didn't forget them. He was guiding them every step of the way.

So if you're in the middle of a detour right now

- your career
- your faith
- your family
- your mental health

Don't give up!!

Don't try to turn back to Egypt.

Don't despise the slow road.

He is the God of detours — and He gets you there right on time.

**Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;**

**⁶in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.**

1) **Trust** in the Lord with all your heart

Definition: firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something.

2) **Lean not** to your own understanding

3) In all your ways **acknowledge** him

4) And he will make your paths **straight**

TRUTH ABOUT GOD:

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

Romans 8:15-16 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

1 Corinthians 6:20 "You were bought with a price."

Psalm 100:3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Psalm 37:23-25

**If the LORD delights in a man's way,
he makes his steps firm;
though he stumble, he will not fall,
for the LORD upholds him with his hand.
I was young and now I am old,
yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken**

AND HE WILL MAKE YOUR PATHS STRAIGHT!!!

1) NEED TO PUT YOUR TRUST IN GOD!

2) LEAN ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING!

-Disappointed because it is not going the way you thought!

3.) Acknowledge HIM! Invite him into your situation!

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him!

4) Trust God even when it doesn't make sense!

-Even when it is the Hard Way!

MY PRAYER: Colossians 1:9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.