

SMALL GROUPS

This week's sermon launched a new series called Blueprints, exploring the truth that God has already designed a plan for our lives. Using Jeremiah 29:10-11 as the foundation, we examined what it means to stop trying to design our own lives and start discovering what God has already designed for us. We looked at three key truths: the architect sees what we cannot, the blueprint is good even when it feels delayed, and we are a work of God's design.

Key Takeaways

- You were never meant to design your life. You were meant to build the life that God designed for you.
- God's plan is not reactive. It is redemptive. You have never surprised God.
- Do not judge the blueprint by the page you are currently living on.
- God's timing is part of God's design. The waiting is not wasted.
- God's plan is not just about where you are going. It is about who you are becoming.
- Whatever God builds through you can never sustainably exceed what you have allowed him to build in you.
- The architect never loses sight of the plan he has for you.

Opening Question

Use this to get the conversation started. Keep it light and accessible.

Have you ever tried to build or assemble something without reading the instructions? What happened? What made you finally give in and look at the directions, or did you ever?

Discussion Questions

Work through these together as a group. You do not have to cover every question. Let the conversation breathe.

1. Getting into the Word

In Jeremiah 29:10-11, God speaks a promise of hope and a future to people who are living in exile in Babylon. Their lives look nothing like what they expected. Why do you think God chose that moment, in the middle of difficulty and displacement, to deliver this particular promise? What does that tell us about how God operates?

2. The Architect Sees What You Cannot

The sermon used the image of a thick set of blueprints. A person unfamiliar with construction sees only confusing lines and numbers, while the architect sees the entire finished building on that same page.

- Where in your life right now are you only seeing the lines and struggling to trust that God sees the finished picture?
- Pastor Mack said, "We're trying to evaluate an eternal architect with a very limited view." How does that perspective challenge the way you tend to respond when life does not make sense?

3. Do Not Judge the Blueprint by the Page You Are On

The sermon referenced Joseph in the pit, Moses in the desert, and David hiding in a cave. None of those moments looked like the fulfillment of a promise, but none of them were the final page either.

- Can you think of a season in your own life that looked like a dead end but turned out to be part of something God was building? What did you learn from it?
- Is there a current situation where you are tempted to judge God's goodness based on one painful or confusing page? How can the group pray for you in that?

4. The Blueprint Is Good Even When It Feels Delayed

God told the Israelites in Jeremiah 29:5-7 to build houses, plant gardens, and raise families right where they were, even in exile. He essentially told them to be faithful in the waiting season rather than putting life on hold.

- What is something you have been putting off or withholding from God until your circumstances change? What would it look like to be faithful right where you are today?
- Pastor Mack said, "Sometimes what feels like delay is actually a development taking place on the inside of you." Do you believe that? What makes it hard to accept?

5. You Are a Work of His Design

Ephesians 2:10 describes us as God's workmanship, created for good works that God prepared beforehand. The sermon made the point that God's plan is not just about where you are going but about who you are becoming.

- Are you more focused right now on what God is doing around you or on what God is doing in you? What is the difference?
- Pastor Mack asked, "Are you becoming bitter or are you becoming better?" How would you honestly answer that question in your current season?

6. Surrender and Trust

Toward the end of the sermon, Pastor Mack addressed the possibility of bitterness or resentment toward God for not doing what we expected or wanted.

- Is there any area where you have been holding a wrong attitude toward God, perhaps feeling like he has let you down or is not holding up his end of something? What would it look like to surrender that to him?
- Pastor Mack said, "You can try to have the life that you want or you can surrender it and get the best life that God has designed for you." What is the hardest part of that exchange for you personally?

Practical Applications

Choose one or two of these to commit to before your group meets again.

Identify Your Page Take some time this week to honestly assess what page of the blueprint you feel like you are living on right now. Write it down. Then write down one truth from this sermon that speaks directly to that page.

Stop Putting Life on Hold

Identify one thing you have been delaying, whether in your faith, your relationships, your giving, or your obedience, because you are waiting for circumstances to change. Take one concrete step toward that thing this week.

Examine Your Heart

Spend time in prayer asking God to search your heart, as the sermon referenced from Psalm 139:23-24, where David asked God to examine him and reveal anything unclean or out of place. Be honest about any bitterness, resentment, or frustration you have been carrying toward God. Write down what comes up and bring it to him in surrender.

Open Hands Prayer

Pastor Mack asked the congregation to open their hands and imagine placing in them whatever they have been trying to control. Do this as a personal practice this week. Name what you are holding. Then physically open your hands and say out loud, "God, you are the architect. I trust you with this."

Revisit Your Blueprint If you have not yet attended the Next Steps class mentioned in the sermon, consider signing up. The sermon highlighted that understanding your spiritual gifts, personality, and God-given design is part of walking in the purpose God has already planned for you.

Closing Prayer Focus

Close your group time by praying together over these areas:

- Surrender of personal plans and timelines to God
- Trust in God's design during seasons of waiting or confusion
- Freedom from bitterness or resentment toward God
- A renewed belief that God is working even when it cannot be seen or felt