

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Week 4: Time to Dream: Trusting God to Open Doors,
Part 4

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Due to the COVID-19 virus many people have lost their desire to think BIG, even dream BIG. We believe that God is looking for people who want to dream **BIG dreams** - so big that you and I cannot accomplish the on our own. **GOD says**, “Think of the **GREATEST DREAM** for your life and I can **TOP THAT**. I can beat your dream, it's bigger than you can think, request, guess, dream, imagine, and I don't do it by pushing you. I'm not driving you, I'm pulling you and I'm working gently within you.” God's dream for your life is always bigger - always bigger than your dream for your life. Not only that, but when you line up with God's dream for your life, **HE ARRANGES THE CIRCUMSTANCES SO THE DREAM HAPPENS**. He does it in a way that you couldn't possibly arrange on your own!

AS with anything new, we all may need to re-adjust our thinking on dreams, so this series will include a **CONCENTRATED 40-DAY TIME TO DREAM CHALLENGE**.

WHY DO WE USE 40-DAYS? Why do we use about six weeks? Well, it takes six weeks to develop a new habit. If you're going to change your routine, if you're your going to change your thoughts, if you're going to grow, you

have to **DEVELOP NEW HABITS**. You have to do something every day for approximately three weeks for it to become comfortable, and then do it for another three weeks to actually turn it into a habit. JOIN us and find out if it is worth the challenge and see if God can make our **DREAMS COME TRUE!**

CROSSROADS' SPIRITUAL GROWTH CAMPAIGN is a concentrated 40-day spiritual boost to your life that we commit to doing together using multiple learning styles to equip & energize us for our future!

*“God can do anything -- far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request or dream in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working gently within us.”
Ephesians 3:20 (MSG)*

WHAT TO DO IN WEEK #4 OF TIME TO DREAM

1. Read the devotional sent each day.
2. Participate in the weekly encouragement and prayer.
3. Memorize this promise:
*“There is a right time and a right way to do everything, but we know so little!”
Ecclesiastes 8:6 (TEV)*

TIME TO DREAM – Day 22

“As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the real person.” Proverbs 27:19

GUARD YOUR HEART

HAVE you ever stopped to think that every choice you make reveals a lot about who you are? People can't see our hearts, but they can see our hearts by the choices we make. Maybe you've made some good choices in the past. That's great and is a reason to celebrate. Maybe, however, you've made some poor choices. Perhaps you've made some choices that you feel have ruined your credibility with others or even your reputation. Maybe the choices you've made over the years have caused you great pain and disappointment.

The good news is that yesterday ended last night, and today is a new beginning. Make the commitment in your heart to always seek God's wisdom and godly counsel when making decisions. When you are faced with temptation or find yourself in a vulnerable situation, remind yourself to ask the question “what would Jesus do?” (W.W.J.D.?) Above all else, guard and protect your heart so that the outward reflection others see through your choices in life is not you, but Jesus.

TODAY'S PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for Your faithfulness to me even when I am unfaithful to You. Give me the wisdom to make the right decisions that will honor You and allow my light to shine brighter for others to see. Thank You for Your love and forgiveness that is always available to me, even when I don't make the right choices in life. May my heart reflect Jesus in everything I do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

You were created to make a difference.

TIME TO DREAM – Day 23

“Teach me Your ways, O Lord, that I may live according to Your truth! Grant me purity of heart, so that I may honor You.” Psalm 86:11

IT IS WRITTEN

ONE of the biggest challenges we face is distinguishing the truth from the lies of the evil one. Just because everyone else is doing something or popular culture embraces something that is considered to be normal or acceptable doesn't make it right or true. The only way we can really know for sure what is right or wrong in important choices we make in life is by asking ourselves the question, “What does the Bible say?”

In Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus was tempted on three different occasions by Satan. However, Jesus exposed Satan's lies all three times by saying, “It is written...” Jesus used the truth of the Bible to overcome temptation and to expose the lies from the enemy. In the same way, we must do the same in all areas of life. This is the reason it is so important to memorize scripture. The next time you're confronted with temptation or placed in an awkward situation, ask yourself “What does the Bible say?” Then knowing what it says, stand on the truth by saying to yourself, “It is written...”

TODAY'S PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for becoming one of us so You could understand us and relate to us. Thank You for giving us Your Word as a source of hope, strength and wisdom. Today, I choose to stand on Your Word. Grant me purity of heart so that I may honor You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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TIME TO DREAM – Day 24

“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples.” John 13:35

A RIPPLE EFFECT

WE live in a culture where so many people have the attitude that if you’re ever going to get ahead in life, you have to look out for yourself. If we are not careful, however, we can make choices in life that may benefit ourselves but have negative implications on others. It’s important to remind yourself each day that, “It’s not about me”, and your choices in life will always have a ripple effect in a good way or a negative way on others.

When you find yourself standing at a fork of the road with choices and temptations, ask yourself, “How will this decision impact other people in my life?” Jesus said, you are to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39). That means when we are making choices in life, we must look after the interests, concerns, and cares of others just as we naturally look after the interests, concerns, and cares of our own.

TODAY’S PRAYER

Father, help me today to remember that my life isn’t always about me. Give me wisdom to know and understand how my choices in life can impact others for the good. Thank you for showing me Your love and looking out for my best interest, and give me the power to do the same for others in every choice I make. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

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TIME TO DREAM – Day 25

“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. You are the light of the world – like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” Matthew 5:13-16

SHINE BRIGHTLY!

WHEN Jesus taught His disciples about their roles and responsibilities in life, He wanted them to realize that ultimately, their lives would be put on display as an example for everyone to see. It is no different with us. How we live and the choices we make should be a positive example to those around us of who Jesus is and what He means to us.

Just as “salt” is used to preserve food and add “flavor” and create “thirst,” our choices in life should accomplish the same thing. Our lives should preserve the character of God. When we reflect His Character through our choices, we will be like an attractive seasoning that will produce a spiritual thirst in the lives of others. People will be drawn to us and will crave what we have. This is how we shine our lights. Remember, God has a plan and purpose for our lives. Make a commitment today to fulfill God’s purposes in your life by shining His light through the choices you make.

TODAY’S PRAYER

Father, Thank You for giving me a great plan and purpose for my life. Help me to shine Your light to others through the choices I make. I want my life to reflect Your character so that I can be the kind of example that will draw others to You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

TIME TO DREAM – Day 26

“Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.” Proverbs 13:20

THE RIGHT THEY

RELATIONSHIPS are one of the most important things in our lives here on earth. In fact, God is a relational God who desires a relationship with us, and because we are made in His image, He made us with a desire to be in relationship with others, and ultimately, with Him. Some relationships we have with others turn out well, while some can be very challenging. Either way, the people we choose to walk through life with will have a huge impact on where we will end up!

In this quiet moment, take time to take a “Friend-entory”. Are the people around you helping you make wise choices and building you up in your faith or are they causing you to make troubling choices or even causing you to get into trouble? We only have this one life to live. This is not a dress-rehearsal, so let's make sure the people we choose to spend the most time with are pulling out the best in us and pushing us closer to God.

TODAY'S PRAYER

Father, Thank You for Your word filled with incredible advice in finding the “right they”. I pray You would give me wisdom as I take an inventory of my relationships. Help me to see people as You see them. You look far beyond the surface to the heart, so help me to have an open heart to hear from You regarding my relationships. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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TIME TO DREAM – Day 27

“Don't be fooled by those who say such things, for “bad company corrupts good character.” 1 Corinthians 15:33

THE WRONG THEY

FOR many of us growing up, we probably heard a parent or teacher quote this familiar Bible verse! It is amazing how the simplest of principles can sometimes become the most complex. We can so easily fall into the trap of the “wrong they”. It may be big things that scream out our friends are the “wrong they”, or it may be small things that we might easily overlook. Things like a negative attitude, gossiping, lack of making wise choices, and lack of love for God can end up being huge things in the long run of a relationship if we allow them to have an influence on our character.

How do we spot it and know that our friends may not be the best ones for us? Just as was mentioned yesterday when we talked about the “right they”, we need to stop and take time to take a “friend-entory”. Are the people around you helping you make wise choices and building you up in your faith or are they causing you to make troubling choices or even causing you to get into trouble? The “right they” always help bring out the best in us, cheer us on to do well, and encourage us to grow closer to God. If you have friends who are the “right they”, be sure to thank the Lord for them. If not, ask Him to send you some new friends who are the “right they” right away!

TODAY'S PRAYER

Father, Thank You that You have a great plan and purpose for my life. As I look closely at the friendships in my life, help me to see things from Your perspective. Help me to have the courage to step back from the relationships that pull me down and keep me from growing closer to You. Thank you for helping me to find the right friends and be a friend of great character. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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TIME TO DREAM – Day 28

“After David had finished talking with Saul, he met Jonathan, the king's son. There was an immediate bond between them, for Jonathan loved David.” 1 Samuel 18:1

TRUE FRIENDS

MOST of us instinctively know the “right they” in our lives, but we don’t always pursue those relationships. Yet God wants us to have relationships with individuals who help pour into our lives and give us fuel in our tanks. In 1 Samuel 18, we read of exactly this type of relationship between Jonathan and David. They had the kind of relationship where they looked out for each other, believed the best about each other, and lifted each other up. Just as Jonathan and David had a strong bond and deep love between them, God desires that for us in our relationships with others.

So now it's your turn. Who can you call a true friend? Think about people in your life who may be flying under the radar because they are humble. Look for people who are constantly encouraging others, people who easily forgive wrongs, and people who are following God’s will in their lives. They are the “right they”, and are the people who will help you get to the next level in your relationship with God and ultimately, help you have a full and abundant life.

TODAY’S PRAYER

Father, Today, I desire to choose to pursue right relationships in my life. I may not have made good choices in the past, but I will not let my past define me. So I ask You to give me wisdom to know how to find the “right they”. Place the right people in my path and in my sphere of influence, people who know You and will help me draw closer to You. Where I need to change friendships, I am asking for Your help today to start choosing the right friendships for my life so I can begin to live the full and abundant life You have for me. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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