



AND: Planned AND Unscripted | September 6, 2017

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Some of us love to have a plan and others of us prefer to just go with the flow. What if the key to the most meaningful and most exciting life is both?

Key Verse

Luke 5:1-7 (NIV)

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

Discussion

Most of us fall into one of two categories: those who plan and those who don't. For those of us who plan, we often leave little to no room for the unscripted possibilities that can arise in life. For those of us who do not plan, our lives are full of unscripted possibilities, but the lack of a plan does not allow us to fully embrace and experience these possibilities.

1. Do you consider yourself a planner or someone who just goes with the flow? Why?
2. What are positives and negatives associated with planning? What about not planning?

While most of us are either planners or not planners, great things can happen in our lives we leverage "the power of AND" by embracing both. Ernie Johnson talks about this balance in his book *Unscripted*. While he has a clear plan for his life, many of the most exciting things in his life have come from embracing the unscripted aspects of life.

3. Can you think of a time when something unscripted in your life turned into an exciting possibility?
4. What are some ways you can combine the planned and unscripted parts of life?

The story in Luke 5:1-7 is a perfect example of Jesus challenging us to go where he asks us to, even when it doesn't match our plan. When Jesus calls us, we often have our own plan of how our life should go. We often think we know the direction our life should head in, but sometimes God shows up and directs us to unexpected places. Usually, we go reluctantly anticipating nothing to happen. Often times we are led to a place where more than we ever imagined happens.

5. Do you feel there is an unexpected place Jesus is calling you to go?
6. What are some things that you can control in the planned part of your life so you can be best prepared for the unscripted parts?

What's Next?

This week consider the ways that you can both work on your plan and leave room for God to speak truth into your life? An analogy to consider is sailing. It's our responsibility to buy a boat and learn how to sail. Then we can put our sails up and go where God calls you to go. What is your boat? What is your sailing school? Where is God putting wind in your sail?