

WEEKLY GAME PLAN

American Idols

Read John 15:13 NLT

Context: Jesus commands us to love others as He has loved us. On our own, this is impossible. But when we remain in Him as He remains in the Father we are able to obey Him as He has obeyed the Father. So when He tells us that we are to lay down our lives for our friends, that there is no greater love than this, we can do as He has done for us and truly put others before ourselves. Let's take our Sunday worship outside the church and worship God with our whole selves by laying down our lives for our friends.

Reflection Question: When you remember how Jesus laid down His life for you, how does this impact how you treat others? How can you lay down your life for another this week? What do you know God is calling you to lay aside in order to serve someone else this week?

Read Acts 19:8-11 NLT

Context: Paul spoke persuasively about the Kingdom of God, but people still didn't believe. That's because it's our job to tell people what Christ did on the cross. It's God's job to change the hearts of the people. Paul moved on to tell those who would listen and believe what God was saying through him. He did this for two years. And because of his persistence in obedience, "God gave Paul the power to perform unusual miracles."

Reflection Question: Why is it easy to give up telling others about Jesus when they don't believe right away? How can you persist through rejection? How can you know when to move on from one person to another? Who are you praying for God to change their hearts to be open to receive Him?

Read Acts 19:12-20 NLT

Context: An idol is anything that attracts our worship and affection away from God. This can be dangerous if we're not paying attention because we may think we are doing something in service to God, but that service becomes the idol that replaces our worship of God. God gave Paul the power to perform mighty miracles so that the people would be able to know that God was working through Paul.

When we are doing the will of God we are on the enemy's radar. When we are ineffective for God the enemy doesn't take the time to know us. We are only a threat to the enemy when we are serving God wholeheartedly.

Reflection Question: What may be taking up first position in your life right now: job, kids, significant other? How can you move good things around in your life so they are in the right position in your heart? Why would the enemy be aware of who you are? How is the world perceiving Jesus through you?

Read Acts 19:23-28 NLT

Context: Sometimes it's really hard to be challenged as to what we do with our free time, how we spend our money, who we choose to spend time with, or what we listen to. This is often because it exposes the truths about us that we would rather no one know. Demetrius didn't want Paul telling others that there is no god, but God, the Father, because he and his silversmith guild would lose hundreds of thousands of dollars. He also didn't want Artemis to lose her followers. It's a freeing thing to know that God doesn't need us to defend and protect His name. He defends and protects us.

Reflection Question: What has God been bringing into the light recently that you would prefer to stay hidden? What can you do to release this to Him? How can you give up a loss of money to greater heart service to the one true God? What are you fearful of losing that God would love to replace with something better, if you're willing to let it go?

Jonah 2:8 "Those that pursue idols forsake the mercy of God that could be theirs..." 1 John 5:21 NLT, Isaiah 42:8 NLT

Context: God offers us Himself. But He lets us go our own way if we choose to reject Him. What He won't do is share His top position with anyone, or anything, else. God has so much good in store for those who choose to worship Him alone. John begs us not to have anything to do with what might take God's place in our hearts. We have to completely destroy anything that would take God's place.

Reflection Question: What can you do to have the courage to remove those things from your life that are taking God's position in your life? How can you reach out to someone else to help you navigate this? Why is it wise to be accountable to a trusted friend to help you put God first?

End in prayer.