

SERMON NOTES

Sunday 31st October

sunnysidechurch

Living Church: God's Plan and Initiative

Bible passages: Ephesians 3. 1-13; 1 Timothy 2.1-7

Introduction

- God has a plan
- God reveals his plan to his people in his time.

We are part of God's plan

- God uses each of us where we are
- God has a purpose for each of our lives
- God uses ordinary people but what he does with them is extraordinary
- God's plan will never be thwarted

We are part of something bigger

- We are not in this alone – we, with the whole of God's church are heirs together, one body together and together share in God's promises.
- The Church exists to show other people who God is and the difference he makes so that they too may encounter him in a living and real way.
- In and through our faith in Jesus we can approach God with freedom and confidence.

Conclusion

- What is God revealing to us at this time as church at Sunnyside?
- God calls the ordinary to be part of his plan.

- How can we take part? We can start by going deeper with Jesus, getting deeper as community and being bolder in our mission. Where is God already at work and how can we join his mission?

Some questions for discussion

1. What do you think and feel when you hear that God has a plan for your life?
2. Can you think of a time when you it was clear you were in a place God wanted you to be when it wasn't where you had planned or wanted to be. Share these stories with others if you are comfortable to do so.
3. Read Ephesians 3.1-13. Are there any words or phrases that are jumping out at you as you read.
4. Paul spoke about being a prisoner for the Gentiles, He could see his that his suffering had a purpose that was above his imprisonment. How do we respond to this in the situations we find ourselves in today? What are the things imprisoning us at this time?
5. What is God asking us to do as a result of what he has said to us through these passages? How might he be revealing his plan for us as a church at Sunnyside through his spirit today?

Don't' stay in the false peace of worldly comfort. Jesus is looking for gospel hooligans, who want to get messy and relevant and involved. He wants to use us in his kingdom work.

All he asks of you, all you can do, is keep listening to him moment by moment, and then take your next step whatever that might be. You provide your weakness and need. He provides his spirit, his strength, his wisdom. As we together live that way on mission, we will experience only what God can do

Sharon Fowler