

4. Can I Start Over?

1 John 1:9 NIV - 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

For better or worse, your story is your story; you can't go back and rewrite it. But if you feel you have gone off of God's script for your life, you have the promise of 1 John 1:9. You can be forgiven and purified. It is a pivot point from which you can realign and take a new direction.

Take a moment to reflect on where you were headed before the Covid19 crisis interrupted you. This imposed quarantine gives you the opportunity to pivot to a better ending. Maybe your priorities have changed. What do you think might change in your life once the quarantine has lifted?

WRAP-UP

Nobody planned for their lives to be subjected to this Covid-19 pandemic. And it may cause us to ask questions like, why it happen, did I do something to deserve it, and what do I do now. God's plans and His provision for you are intact. This is not a result of God's anger toward you. As we navigate the uncharted waters ahead, we know we can trust God and His promises to us. If we continue to walk in His ways, we will be in His will. And if we are unsure of His will, we need only check the scriptures. He calls us to love the Lord with all our hearts, all our soul, all our strength and all our minds, and our neighbor as ourselves. Don't waste this opportunity to become less self-focused and more God-focused in your life.

Memory Verse

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members' needs: _____

Challenge- Look for new ways to express your love to God this week

"When Life Goes Off Script"

Unscripted #1

INTRODUCTION

It is pretty safe to say none of us saw this coming. Our world is under lockdown, threatened by a pandemic. Most of us had some other plan for our lives in mind. In fact, you may have invested a considerable amount of time and energy planning out your life only to find that it has gone wildly off script right now. It may be the most dramatic, but it probably isn't the first time your life went off script. Sometimes it is a result of the decisions we make, but other times it is a set of circumstances we have no control over. Changes in relationships, health, the economy can all knock us off course. And when that happens, we have questions, but don't worry, God has answers. Let's see what God has to say about our lives going off script.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

What is one thing you thought was going to happen in your life but didn't?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

1. Where is God in All This?

Maybe you are wondering how God can possibly be moving in your life with everything that is going on around us. But He is still moving. We see it through His providence, that is, in the fact that He is taking care to see His vision for your life through to fruition. God's plans are not hindered by your present circumstances. In Genesis chapter 22, when God told Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, Abrahams plans to be the Father of many nations appears to be going off script.

But what did Abraham tell Isaac that God would do (Gen 22:8)?

Genesis 22:8 NLT - 8 "God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together.

Abraham knew and trusted the promise of God that he would be a father to many nations. And because he trusted and feared God, he followed God's instructions even when it didn't seem to make sense.

Genesis 22:9-14 NLT - 9 When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. 10 And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. 11 At that moment the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!" 12 "Don't lay a hand on the boy!" the angel said. "Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son." 13 Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. 14 Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the LORD will provide"). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

When he was ready to kill Isaac God stopped Abraham and revealed the ram that was to be sacrificed in place of Isaac. Not only was God faithful to provide a ram that day to replace Isaac, He provided the Lamb of God, Jesus, to replace us.

Abraham's name for that place was a testament to God's providence: *Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the LORD will provide").*

Has there been a time in your life when God has asked you to lay down something that was dear to you? If so, share that experience-how you decided to trust God, what did you learn through the experience about God's provision?

2. Did I Do Something to Deserve This?

John 9:2-3 NIV - 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him."

When bad things happen, it is not uncommon for people to presume that they somehow deserve what has happened. That was the case when the disciples asked Jesus why a man was born blind. His blindness became a means of revealing God's glory to the world.

You should not be afraid of God. The scripture tells us several times that God is gracious, compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Instead of fear, allow your trial to become a testimony of God's provision and His glory in your life.

What did Jesus tell us about the trouble of this world? How did He encourage believers about the trouble they would experience?

John 16:33 NIV - 33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

What are the things about the current situation that make it difficult to rest in God's peace? What can you do to regain that peace?

3. What Should I Do Now?

If you are asking, "What should I do now?" then you might be asking God to reveal His will for your life. Perhaps you feel you took a wrong turn and you aren't sure how to recover.

We can see God's way and His will revealed to us through the scriptures. When asked what he must do to inherit eternal life, Jesus asked the expert in the law what he found in the Law.

Luke 10:27-28 NIV - 27 He answered, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" 28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

We don't need to decipher God's concealed will for us when He has given us His revealed way. If you walk in His way, you will be in His will.

What can you do each day to love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind? How can you love your neighbor in this crisis?