

EQUIP CARD

DECEMBER 4, 2016

Discuss a time in your life when you had spent a great deal of time and energy coming up with a plan only to have someone or something interrupt that plan. What kind of feelings did the interruption bring?

How did you handle it?

How have you experienced the truth that God's purpose is often different (trumps) your plans?

Is there a way that God seems to be trying to interrupt or change your current plans?

How is this impacting you?

Are you obedient or is the fear of What and How stopping you?

Are there any "what if's" that cause your fear? If so, what are they and how are those fears affecting you?

Read: Proverbs 3:5-6

This scripture challenges us to trust in God rather than our plans; why is so difficult?

How have you seen trusting in your plan and leaning on your "own understanding" lead you into trouble?

Verse 6 tells us to "submit to Him" in ALL our ways. In what "ways" or areas of your life are you not currently submitting to Him?

Read: Luke 1:26-55

In this story you notice that Mary's comfort and acceptance of this plan is gradual, she does not initially jump for joy or praise the Lord. Her first two responses are, "What" and "How." Her second response is one of humble submission, "I am the Lord's servant." It isn't until later that she praises (thanks) the Lord for this Holy Interruption, "My soul glorifies the

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Lord..." How have you seen this progression of fear and questions to humble acceptance to joyful praise come true in your own life?

If you are in the midst of a "Holy Interruption" right now, which stage are you at?

- a. Doubtful (fearful) questioning
- b. Humble Obedience
- c. Joyful Praise

Instead of trying to jump straight to the end, how can you seek and trust in God to help you just get to the next step in the journey?

One thing that pastor Kyle pointed out this Sunday was that "Obedience trumps Understanding." In what area of your life are you possibly being disobedient right now because you just don't understand?

In the book of Mark there is a story of a man who wants Jesus to heal his son but he is struggling to believe that Jesus can. In the midst of his doubt and fear he says to Jesus, "I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief." (Mark 9:24). If you are struggling to trust God's purpose and plan for your life and "what's next," maybe your first step needs to be to make this your prayer until you have the faith and courage to take the next step.

Extra Reading:

- * 1 John 4:7-21
- * Jeremiah 29:11-14
- * Daniel 3
- * Romans 8:18-28