

ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

Watch For Dead Ends • January 31, 2010

ICEBREAKER:

Take some time to get to know each other with some open sharing:

Take a few minutes and find the following items in your wallet or purse. Share two of them. Something that ..

- you've had a long time
- you're proud of
- reveals a lot about you
- reminds you of a fun time
- concerns or worries you

INTRODUCTION:

Many times things do not work out, and we are tempted to take matters into our own hands and force our will on the situation. Usually this means leaving God out of the equation. Based on the Sunday message, how did David approach his dead ends?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. How do you react when your hopes and dreams are shattered? What do you do when you realize that there are losses from which it appears you cannot recover?
2. Lots of people wrap their relationship with God around the fulfillment of their dreams. Why is this a problem when we are faced with broken dreams?
3. What dreams do you associate with God's promises for your life? How have you responded to God when those dreams aren't fulfilled?
4. When David faced the first attempt on his life by King Saul, how did he initially respond? (See 1 Samuel 21)

5. Read 2 Samuel 15. Later in life, King David experienced a number of dashed dreams, culminating in his own son's (Absalom) conspiracy to take over the Kingdom from his father. If you were David, how would you have responded spiritually, emotionally, physically, and relationally to all these broken dreams?

6. David models for us a very different approach to dealing with life's dead ends. His approach focused on surrendering control to God rather than taking control.

What does it mean to "surrender your will" to God?
What does that look like in practical terms?
Is this a passive or active act of transfer?

7. When your hopes and dreams don't come true, what promises from God can we still hold onto?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Be honest, who is **really** in control of your life? You? God? A controlled substance? Pleasure?

When have you reacted negatively to God over a broken dream of yours? Are you ready to surrender your plans to God? List out the benefits of acknowledging God's control in your life.

If you are facing a control issue with God, will you pray what Jesus prayed before his death on the cross—"not my will, God, but your will be done"?

THINK ABOUT IT (Something to memorize or chew on)

He [Jesus] walked away, about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Luke 22:41-42 (NLT)