



1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

August 24, 2024

Excuses or Opportunities?

Contact Us

14647 S. 50th Street,
Suite 16
Phoenix, Arizona
85044
480-584-6116

Links

- Email
- Website
- Facebook
- Previous Lessons

Text your prayer requests any time



Foster Care Teens

Personal Care Items
We are always collecting "Personal Care Items" for teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the bin just outside our

See the sidebar for our new TEXT Prayer Request Line!
Simply text "I need prayer" to **844-533-3553** anytime, and our team of Prayer Warriors will be praying for you.

Beginning August 29th
Midweek Thursday Youth service 7pm!

Sunday



Excuses or Opportunities?

Last Sunday, we talked about making excuses instead of seizing opportunities. We started by listing some common excuses that we've heard or even use ourselves. We agreed that we're great at making excuses.

We said that excuses are really just false stories that we make up to tell ourselves to help justify why we don't do something. Many of these false stories are based in **FEAR**. Fear of failing, fear of the unknown, etc. which is ultimately caused by our lack of faith.

We said that the world is full of people telling us what we can't do or what is impossible and Satan is right there encouraging us to believe what they say until our excuses actually cause us to miss the amazing opportunities that God has for us.

We talked about how if God places desires in our heart then it has to be part of His plan and He will make sure we have whatever we need to accomplish His plan.

youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

This Week's Bible Verse

Jeremiah 29:11

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

[Visit our website here!](#)

We said that the problem is that God usually doesn't give us small desires. He usually gives us desires that are bigger than ourselves and bigger than we can ever possibly imagine. Very often they are impossible to achieve on our own and are only made possible by our faith that God will get us there.

We discussed the prophet, Jeremiah, who was a young teen at the time God called him to be "**a prophet to the nations**".

We said that God had appointed Jeremiah to be a prophet to the nations even before he was born just as God has given each of us a purpose even before we were born. Of course, Jeremiah had a list of excuses why he could not do what God wanted him to do. Fortunately, God had an answer to counter every excuse Jeremiah could come up with.

We looked at a few of his excuses and compared them to the excuses we may give that can cause us to miss the opportunities that God gives us.

It's Too Hard: Being a prophet is pretty demanding. You are the voice of God to His people, speaking whatever God tells you to speak, going wherever God tells you to go, and speaking to whoever God says needs to hear it.

God assigned Jeremiah his purpose before he was even born. With the promise of God's purpose we can boldly let go of fear, no matter how difficult it may seem, because we know that God is always with us.

I'm not talented enough: Jeremiah's first excuse was that he doesn't know how to speak because he is too young. He believed that he was not good at speaking and nobody would listen to him because of his young age. The Elders certainly would not listen to him.

Fortunately, God always has a way to overcome our weakness, our doubts, and our insufficiencies. We said that God's strength is made perfect in our weakness. God never sets us up to fail as He provides us with whatever we need to accomplish His purpose for us.

It's not the right time: Jeremiah felt very inexperienced and thought maybe in a few more years, he would be better prepared to take on such a huge task.

We said that God's timing is perfect no matter what else is going on. God tells us to **reject fear** because He will be with us. He doesn't just tell us what to do and

then leave us to do it on our own.

It's dangerous: That may be true, especially in Jeremiah's case. Prophets didn't always bring great news and in this case, Jeremiah was telling the Israelites that they were in very real danger of receiving God's judgement for defying Him and disobeying His Law. Israel had a history of killing prophets who brought news that they didn't like.

But, even though the path may be difficult or even sometimes dangerous, as it was for Jeremiah, God gives us the strength to endure even the toughest times and His protection is on us to bring Him glory.

Does it have to be now? As we said, God's timing is perfect so when God calls us to do something, He expects an immediate response. God commanded Jeremiah to get ready now and warned him that the Israelites were not going to like the message and they would be angry with him. But, God also reminded him that He would be with him and would protect him.

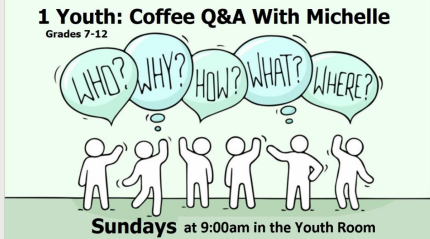
God's plan for you follows God's timing, not yours. When you accept your task and obey His commands, He will equip you, enable you, protect you, and will never leave your side so that together, you will accomplish His purpose no matter how the world responds to you.

In Jeremiah's case, even though the Israelites refused to listen and were conquered by the Babylonians, God continued to use him to bring His message for Hope and a Future while they were still in exile in Babylon. **(Jeremiah 29:11)**

Next time you find yourself making excuses for why you can't do something that God has placed on your heart, stop and think about it for a moment. Are you going to miss out on the amazing opportunities that God has given you by giving Him a list of excuses why you can't or are you going to trust Him and work with Him to accomplish whatever purpose He has for you?

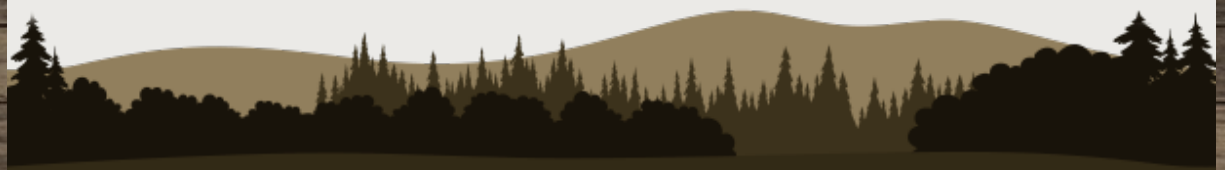
Don't miss God's calling for you with excuses.

Pre-Service Coffee Q&A
Sundays at 9:00am



Join us in the Youth Room every Sunday, starting at 9:00am, for refreshments in a casual atmosphere for an opportunity for you and your friends to ask questions and discuss answers to your most pressing questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, other Religions, Christianity, or just

about Life in general.



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Connect with us



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