

ICE BREAK

- Share a time when life threw you a curveball—when your plans suddenly changed in an unexpected way. How did you respond initially?
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STUDY

Let's focus on seeing God's plan through life's detours.

- 1. Read Acts 21:27-23:11** **a)** What was Paul's original plan? How did circumstances derail those plans? **b)** What do you think Paul might have been feeling while sitting in that Roman jail before Jesus appeared to him? **c)** Why do you think Jesus chose that specific moment to appear to Paul and encourage him?
- 2. The "curveball" question:** **a)** Have you ever felt like God was calling you to something, but then you encountered obstacles that made you question whether you heard Him correctly? Take a moment and elaborate on this situation. **b)** Dr Stepp shared how he lost his job and couldn't find work, then ended up in Croatia doing the most satisfying work of his life. Can you identify a time when God's plan for you was better than your own, even though it came through difficulty? **c)** What is the difference between a closed door from God and an obstacle that requires perseverance and prayer? How can we discern the difference?
- 3. The sovereignty of God:** **a)** Dr Stepp said, "God is like a master painter who doesn't waste a stroke." How does this image change the way you view the difficult or confusing seasons of your life? **b)** Was God surprised by the problem you're currently facing or the ones you have faced in the past? If not, what does that tell you about His involvement in your situation? **c)** Dr Stepp emphasized that biblical hope is active, not passive. What does "active hope" look like practically when you're waiting for God to open doors? **d)** Paul continued preaching even while imprisoned. What opportunities might God be giving you right now, even in the midst of limitations or difficulties?

REFLECT

- What current situation in your life feels like a detour from God's plan? How might God actually be using that situation to accomplish His purposes?
 - Dr Stepp mentioned that "repentance and grace are our constant companions on the way of discipleship." How does this truth free us when we've made mistakes or sinful choices?
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PRAY

- Pray for faith to trust God's plan even when circumstances seem to contradict it.
 - Pray for courage to continue serving God even when facing obstacles.
 - Pray for active hope rather than passive wishing in areas of waiting.
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REMEMBER

***God accomplishes His will, His way.
The twists and turns you face
don't derail His plan —
they're often part of it.***