

#2 "When You Want To Say No!"

Jonah 1:1-3 (NIV) The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

1. God _____ for your life.

According to the Bible, God's plans for your life include:

- **How you are to live.**

Micah 6:8 (NIV) He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

- **What you are to do.**

Jeremiah 1:4-5 (NIV) The word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

- **Where you are to live.**

Psalms 92:13 (NIV) Planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God.

Genesis 13:10-11 (NIV) Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company.

James 4:13-16 (NIV) Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while

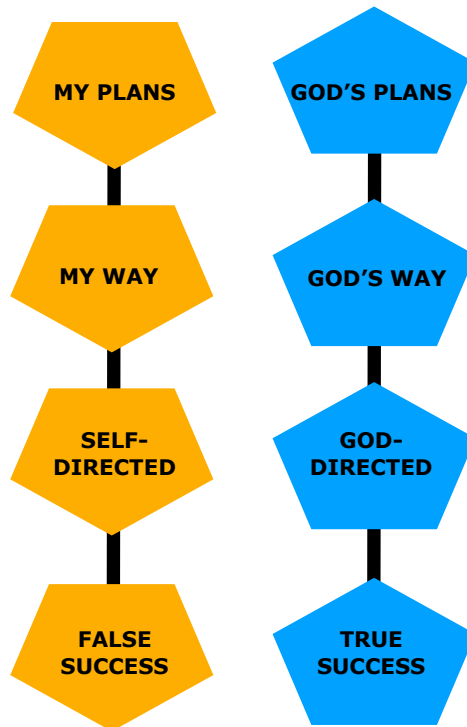
and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.

- The value you're to add to God's Kingdom and others.

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV) Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

2. God's plans require _____.



1 Corinthians 3:12-14 (NLT) Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward.

3. _____ results in wrong choices.

Jonah 1:3 (NIV) But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

What are the most common reasons people have for refusing to seek or follow God's plans for their life?

- "I know what's better for me than God does!"
- "Maybe I can get God to bless my plans?"
- "I don't know if I can really trust God to take care of me. Perhaps I can take better care of myself?"
- "Following God is too hard. The sacrifice won't be worth it."
- "I'm having too much fun to follow God. I'll consider it later."

Matthew 6:33 (NIV) But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.