

Eph 1:1-12, Eph 3:8-13

I. Introduction – “Tell Them Where You’re At” (Relatable and Reflective)

Opening Remarks:

Personal Sharing of the past 3 months

1. The passing of Gmama	...
2. Not being able to work for the moving furniture company, Construction Job with Mom's coworkers husband	...
3. Camp friends tour in General	...
4. Seeing the woman I so patiently waited to see after about 2 ½ months	...
5. Writing this sermon about as Im Titling it: "God's Plan Observed."	...

Each of these helped me...

Connect to the congregation:

“And maybe you’re there right now, where I was at the beginning of this summer or in a season of your life. Maybe right now you’re walking through something and asking: *‘Why is this happening?’* Or *‘What good could come from this?’* Or maybe you’re on the other side of something, and you’re just now realizing: *God really carried me through that.*”

II. Thought Exercise – “God’s Been Working All Along”

Big idea: Invite the congregation to reflect on their past — not just what’s happened, but how God’s presence can be traced through it.

Prompt for Reflection:

“I want you to take a moment. Think back over your life — your story so...

Make it personal for them:

... Everything that has happened in your life that’s not coincidence. That’s God’s plan being worked out — even when we don’t see it.

Bridge to the Bigger Picture:

... “So let’s zoom out for a moment. Let’s not just look at our lives. Let’s observe *God’s plan*, from the beginning of creation to the cross and beyond.”

III. God’s Plan Since the Beginning

Main Idea: From creation to the fall, God wasn’t surprised. His redemptive plan was already in motion.

Creation was intentional

- **Day 1:** Vs 3
- **Day 2:** Vs 6
- **Day 3:** Vs 11
- **Day 4:** Vs 14
- **Day 5:** Vs 20
- **Day 6:** Vs 26-28
- **Day 7:** 2:2-3

Humanity was created for relationship

The Fall didn’t surprise God: Lets read that shall we. Genesis 3:1-7 []

But here’s what’s key: God wasn’t surprised. He didn’t go into panic mode. He didn’t say, “Now what do I do?”

He already had a plan.

God's first promise of redemption: Genesis 3:15

Key point

If God had a plan in the chaos of Genesis 3, He still has a plan in your life today.

IV. God's Plan of Salvation — Always in View

Main Idea: The cross wasn't God's backup plan. It was His plan from before time began.

Jesus was always the plan

Revelation 13:8

God knew the cost and created anyway

John 3:16 reads: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"

Lets read the context surrounding it John 3:13-18 (We see...)

Lets Read Ephesians 1:4–5 again

Turn to Romans 5:6–8

Even Jesus knew the Plan... While he was on Earth.

In the temple, Jesus read from Isaiah 61:1-2 in Luke 4:18-19 and explains it after in 20-22

He knew.

John (Jesus as the 7 things) Jesus even had 7 "I am" statements that showed how he was self-aware of who he was and the purpose for Him being on the Earth.

1. "I am the Bread of Life" *John 6:35*

2. "I am the Light of the World" *John 8:12*

3. "I am the Door" (or Gate) *John 10:9*

4. "I am the Good Shepherd" *John 10:11*

5. "I am the Resurrection and the Life" *John 11:25*

6. "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life" *John 14:6*

7. "I am the True Vine" *John 15:1f*

And Further into Luke **He even Prophsied his own Death. Because He knew.**

In the Gospel of **Luke**, Jesus foretells His death and resurrection on **three clear occasions**

1. Luke 9:21–22 — *The First Prediction*
2. Luke 9:43–45 — *The Second Prediction*
3. Luke 18:31–34 — *The Third Prediction*

V. Application — Our Place in the Plan

You haven't missed the plan

Philippians 1:6

Turn to Romans 8 and vs 18-39

Encouragement:

You may not see the full picture yet...

Invitation to reflect:

Call to action

“What Makes a Good Relationship – With People and With God”

I. INTRO – “RELATIONSHIP RULES”

Opening Question: “Think of the best relationship you’ve ever had — maybe a spouse, a close friend, or even your parents. What made it work?”

Brief Responses or Personal Example:

“You might say: we trusted each other. We had boundaries. We made time for one another. We listened. We finished each other’s sandwiches”

Transition Thought

Goal: To connect the elements of a strong relationship — like love, trust, communication, obedience, and boundaries — with what it means to walk closely with God

Big idea: The same things that build strong relationships with people... are the very things that strengthen our relationship with God.

II. Core Relationship Traits and Their Spiritual Application

1. LOVE – The Foundation

Matthew 22:37–38 - Jesus is crystal clear: the greatest commandment in all of Scripture isn’t about behavior first — it’s about love.

John 14:15 - Love for Jesus isn’t proven just by singing or saying we love Him — it’s shown when we trust Him enough to obey Him.

Romans 5:8 - God didn’t just say He loved us — He proved it. And not when we were cleaned up and church-ready. But while we were broken, rebellious, and stuck in sin.

1 John 4:19 Our ability to love God and others comes from one truth: **He loved us first.** We don’t initiate the relationship — He does.

2. TRUST – The Anchor

Proverbs 3:5–6 - Trust means letting go of control. It means admitting we don't always understand what God is doing — and being okay with that.

Isaiah 26:3–4 - Peace comes from trust. Not from having all the answers, but from knowing who your Rock is.

Psalms 56:3 - This verse doesn't say "*I'm never afraid.*" It says "*When I am...*" Faith and fear can exist at the same time — but fear doesn't have to win.

Jeremiah 17:7–8 - Trust in God roots you. It feeds your soul like water to a tree.

3. FAITHFULNESS / OBEDIENCE – The Loyalty Test

1 Samuel 15:22 - God isn't looking for performance — He's looking for a surrendered heart.

James 1:22 - You can listen to sermons all day long. You can read devotionals. But until you actually *live* what the Word says, you're only deceiving yourself.

John 14:23–24 - Jesus draws a direct line between love and obedience

Matthew 7:24 - Obedience builds your life on something solid. It protects you when the storm hits — because the foundation holds.

4. COMMUNICATION – The Lifeline

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 - Prayer isn't just for crises. It's a rhythm. A lifestyle. A constant flow of conversation with God through joy, pain, confusion, and thanksgiving

Jeremiah 33:3 - God *invites* us to talk to Him. And He promises to answer — not always with the answer we want, but with the wisdom we need.

Psalms 119:105 - This book — Scripture — is not just history. It's God's voice to you. It lights your path when life is dark

Luke 5:16 - Even Jesus — the Son of God — needed to get alone and pray.

5. BOUNDARIES / STANDARDS – The Guardrails

1 Peter 1:14–16 - Holiness means *different*. God calls us out of the world's patterns.

Hebrews 12:6,11 - Discipline isn't rejection — it's love.

2 Timothy 2:21 - Living by God's standards makes you *useful* to Him — ready to be deployed for Kingdom work.

Psalms 119:9,11 - God's Word sets the boundary lines — not culture, not feelings, not popular opinion.

6. TIME TOGETHER – The Fuel of Relationship

Psalms 27:4 — “*One thing I ask from the Lord... to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.*”

David didn't just want blessings from God — he wanted *God*. His greatest desire was time with Him.

Mark 1:35 - Jesus — the Son of God — *prioritized* time alone with the Father. If *He* needed that rhythm, how much more do we

Luke 10:39–42 - Martha was doing — Mary was sitting. And Jesus said **Mary got it right.**

James 4:8 - God doesn't play hide-and-seek. He wants closeness — and He responds to pursuit.

III. Closing – Reflect and Respond

Summary Recap:

**Strong relationships are built on: Love, Trust, Faithfulness / Obedience,
Communication, Boundaries / Standards, Time Together**

Closing Scripture: John 15:4–5 — “Abide in me, and I in you... apart from me you can do nothing.”

Encouragement

Invitation to reflect

Call to action