



## What's Your Plan?

Tupos Student Ministries

Wednesday Night Live – August 17, 2011

**Acts 5:38-29** = "...If they are planning and doing these things merely on their own, it will soon be overthrown. But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You may even find yourselves fighting against God!" (NLT)

### I. Planning Without God

#### a. Who Does The Planning In Your Life

- i. Is it you? Is it mom/dad? Is it God?
- ii. New school year... need a plan of action!
- iii. Plan = "arrangement / preparation / map out"

#### b. What's Your Plan?

- i. This could go 2 ways: of man or God
  1. "Of Man" (v.38b) = it will be overthrown (it will not work out, you'll be turned over)
  2. "Of God" (v.39) = will never be overthrown!
    - a. "Won't be able to stop..." (NIRV)
    - b. "...there is nothing you can do about it..." (Msg)
    - c. Sounds like = Our God! (Romans 8:31 = "If God is for us, who can ever be against us?" [NLT])
- ii. Seriously... why try to plan your life out rather than praying about, studying about, and thinking about what God wants with your life?
  1. Or even, what God wants you to do with this school year. (Write that out on your handout now)
 

"What God Wants Me To Do With This School Year"



When Jimmy was a little boy, he wanted to be a cowboy. He spent countless hours in front of the television, watching reruns of "Gunsmoke" and "Bonanza." He just knew that someday he would live on a ranch, wear a big cowboy hat, and ride the range just like all his cowboy heroes.

When he was seven years old, Jimmy said, "Dad, I want to be a cowboy when I grow up. Will you help me be a cowboy?"

"Sure, son," said his dad, smiling down at his little cowpoke. As the years went by, Jimmy grew into a fine young man. As you might expect, he outgrew his childhood fantasy of becoming a cowboy, and turned instead to girls, sports, studying, and preparing himself for a career in the business world.

One day Jimmy went to his father again and said, "Dad, I want to go to college and get a good education. Will you help me?"

His dad said, "College? Son, you can't go to college. When you were seven, you said you wanted to be a cowboy. So I bought you a ranch in Texas with 50 head of cattle! There's no money for you to get to college. Besides, you need to take care of that ranch. It's all yours."

"But Dad!" said Jimmy. "I was just a child when I said that! I didn't know then what I know now! I don't want a ranch! I want an education!" Have you ever wondered why God doesn't answer your prayers exactly the way you want him to? Maybe it's because we're like Jimmy. As God's children, we don't always know what's best for us.

Instead of grumbling about "unanswered" prayers, we should be thankful God doesn't always answer our prayers the way we think he should. If he did, we might end up like Jimmy—with a ranch instead of an education. God knows exactly what you need, even when you don't. In fact, the Bible teaches that when you pray, the Holy Spirit actually prays for you, too. (Romans 8:26-28) Because of this, we can relax and know that whatever happens will be according to God's will. **[Hot Illustrations 1.0, Jimmy's Ranch]**

- iii. Sounds like God's plan is always better. Do you believe that? So... what's your plan?
  1. As we struggle with our plan vs. God's plan, the Bible says we can find ourselves "fighting" with God!

### II. Fighting With God

#### a. Have You Been Fighting With God?

- i. Fighting with God? Is that possible?
- ii. Hosea 12:3-5 = "Even in the womb, Jacob struggled with his brother; when he became a man, he even fought with God. Yes, he wrestled with the angel and won. He wept and pleaded for a blessing from him. There at Bethel he met God face to face, and God spoke to him—the Lord God of Heaven's Armies, the Lord is his name!" (NLT)
- iii. This reminds me of one of my first WNL messages with you guys... back in July 2007 called "Are You An Enemy of God?" (James 4:4-5)





### b. Friend of the World / Enemy of God

- i. Friendship with the world = hostility to God
  1. Friend = **companion, associate**
  2. Hostile / enemy = **adversary, foe, rival**
  3. CEV (v.4) says **"You people aren't faithful to God! Don't you know that if you love the world, you are God's enemies? And if you decide to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God."**
- ii. What's a friend of the world do?
  1. Don't spend time with Him ("stuff" b4 God)
  2. Talk like the world (speech = sinners)
  3. Walk like the world (places you go)
  4. Think like the world (in your head)
    - a. Ex: music you listen to... "Satan's in the car with me! AHHH!"
- iii. Can't be a friend of God and the World (Rev 3:15-16)
  1. **"I wish you were hot or cold. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth"** (NASB)

### c. Friend of God / Enemy of the World

- i. Priority! = "Give God what's right, not what's left"
  1. **"You must never sacrifice your relationship with God for the sake of a relationship with another person"** (Charles Stanley)
- ii. What's a friend of God do?
  1. Spends time with "best friend"
  2. Tells others about Him
  3. Listens to Him / Talks to Him (prayer)
- iii. Result = The Spirit will dwell in me (v.5)
  1. Dwell = **inhabit, reside, settle (not temp)**
  2. **"he's a fiercely jealous lover." And what he gives in love is far better than anything else you'll find..."** (James 4:5, Message)

### d. Do You Have God Fighting For You?

- i. Don't fight with God... (plan of man)
- ii. ...Have God fighting for you (plan of God)

## III. Being "Of God"

### a. How To Be "Of God" (v.39 = "of God")

- i. **Psalm 32:8 = "The Lord says, 'I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.'" (NLT)**
- ii. Just listen up/follow... He'll do the planning/leading!

# Tupos Student Ministries

## Small Group Life Application Sheet



Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2011

Lesson Theme: God's Will

Lesson Objective: Tonight we get our hearts ready for this new school year and ask the hard question of who's plan are we living for in our lives... God's plan or our own?

Lesson Text: **Acts 5:38-29** = "...If they are planning and doing these things merely on their own, it will soon be overthrown. But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You may even find yourselves fighting against God!" (NLT)

### Discussion Questions:

1. So, who's plan are you going to live for this school year?
2. Why do you think God's plan is always better than our own?
3. Does anyone want to share what you wrote for what you believe God wants you to do with this school year?

Prayer Time: Ask the Lord to show you His plan for your life with this school year. Let Him do the planning, and you do the following.



# What's Your Plan?

*Tupos Student Ministries*

*Wednesday Night Live – August 17, 2011*

**Acts 5:38-29** = "...If they are planning and doing these things merely on their own, it will soon be overthrown. But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You may even find yourselves fighting against God!" (NLT)

## I. \_\_\_\_\_ Without God

### a. Who Does The \_\_\_\_\_ In Your \_\_\_\_\_

i. Plan = " \_\_\_\_\_ "

### b. What's \_\_\_\_\_ Plan?

i. Is it "of \_\_\_\_\_" or "of \_\_\_\_\_"?

What God Wants Me To Do With This School Year: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ .

## II. \_\_\_\_\_ With God

### a. Have You Been \_\_\_\_\_ With God?

## b. \_\_\_\_\_ of the World / \_\_\_\_\_ of God

i. Friend = " \_\_\_\_\_ "

ii. Hostile/enemy = " \_\_\_\_\_ "

iii. What's a friend of the world do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## c. Friend of \_\_\_\_\_ / Enemy of the \_\_\_\_\_

i. "You must never sacrifice your relationship with God for the sake of a relationship with another person."

(Charles Stanley)

ii. What's a friend of God do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## d. Do You Have God \_\_\_\_\_ For \_\_\_\_\_?

i. Don't fight with \_\_\_\_\_...

ii. ...Have God \_\_\_\_\_ for you!

## III. Being " \_\_\_\_\_ "

### a. How To Be " \_\_\_\_\_ "

i. Psalm 32:8 = "The Lord says, 'I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.'" (NLT)