



Fundamentals of the Game

Jeff Henderson

Well, if you can't tell, we're beginning a brand new series called *Game Plan*, and I'm very excited about this series, because in this series we're going to be talking about what I believe to be one of life's big questions. I think we've all wrestled with this. This is true whether you're watching online or you're at Browns Bridge or Buckhead or you're at North Point or another campus. I think we've processed this question, I think we've all wondered about it, we've been intrigued about it, we've even at times, I think, been frustrated over this question because it's one of those big things we wrestle with. In fact, I was talking to a group of pastors recently and they said, "Jeff, we get a lot of questions as pastors, but this is one of the most frequently asked questions we get," the one we're going to deal with. So, I think when we reveal this question in a couple of minutes you'll see why we want to spend four Sundays talking about this.

But to kind of set this question up, I thought it might be fun to tell you the context in which I was raised that ultimately led me to processing this question in my own life. And to do that, as some of you know, I'm a preacher's kid. My dad is a retired pastor. In fact, he just turned 83 years old a couple of weeks ago. My mom will be 83 here in a few weeks. And I loved growing up under their leadership; I loved growing up in their home. They taught me so many things, but one of the things they taught me that I will never forget is they would say this: they would say, "Jeff, (actually they would say Jeffrey) Jeffrey, there's a God, and this God has a great plan for your life." Jeffrey, there's a God and this God has a great plan for your life. I grew up hearing that constantly, but as you know that's not exclusive to me. In fact, if you were to meet my mom today, here's what she would do. At some point in the conversation she would take your hand and she would say your name and she would begin to pat your hand and she would look you in the eye and she would say your name and she would say, "Now you know, there is a God and God has a great plan for your life." And I just want to tell you, when you look into the eyes of my sweet, 83 year old mother and you hear her say your name and there is a God and God has a great plan for your life, you believe, you just believe. I mean you just go, *Yes ma'am, and you walk on.*

So that's kind of the context in which I was raised, but as I got older I kind of hit some different life stages and those life stages began to generate some questions to that. For example, as I got to my senior year in high school I began to wonder, Okay, what am I going to do after this? Am I going to go to college and if so, what college, and God, if you're up there and you've a great plan, how do I figure out which college to go to? And ultimately I figured that out and I found myself in college and I sat down with somebody called a college advisor, and you remember this, they sat me down and they said, "Mr. Henderson, we have a question for you and our question is what is your major going to be?" And the funny thing about that question is they actually asked me that as if I knew the answer to that question. Right? You've probably been there as well. Then you get out of college and you're like, Okay, what city am I going to live in? I've got some career decisions, relationship decisions, there are all these decisions, and the truth