



# When Life Doesn't Go According to Plan

## GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Discussion

1. When life takes an unexpected turn, what kinds of questions do people tend to ask about God, faith, or their circumstances?

2. What resonated with you from Sunday's worship?

**Read Matthew 26:36-46.**

3. What details stand out to you about Jesus' words, emotions, and actions in Gethsemane? What thoughts or questions does this passage raise for you?

4. What do you notice about the relationship between Jesus' request for the cup to pass and his willingness to follow the Father's will?

5. Suffering arises from the natural world, such as illness or natural disasters, and suffering that results from human choices, such as violence or injustice. What questions do these different kinds of suffering raise for you about God's will and our response?

**Read James 1:13-17 and Romans 8:28.**

6. What do these passages reveal about God? How can they be useful in the midst of difficult circumstances?

**Consider the story of Joseph and Genesis 50:20a.**

7. Where have you seen God use circumstances brought on by evil for good in the Bible? What about in life?

8. How do stories like these inform how you understand God's *Circumstantial* Will?

9. When you face circumstances you do not understand, what helps you discern how to respond faithfully?

#### Weatherhead's Will of God

Intentional  
*Circumstantial*  
Ultimate

#### Matthew 26:39b

"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

#### Genesis 50:20a

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good.

### Next Steps

- **Love Jesus:** Think about a time in your life when God used evil for good. Thank God for changing a test into a testimony. Optional: Read ahead for next Sunday - Romans 8:28-39.
- **Connect with Others:** Think of someone navigating a difficult or unexpected season. Consider reaching out to listen, offer companionship, or words of encouragement.
- **Serve the World:** Participate in the Women's Ministry - Secret Santa Drive benefitting Fort Bend Meals on Wheels.
- **Reach the Lost:** Consider someone who may be wrestling with questions about suffering or God's presence in difficult times. How could you make room for an honest conversation about what God is teaching you?
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Love Jesus. Connect with Others. Serve the World. Reach the Lost.