

SERMON MESSAGE FOR SEPTEMBER 14/15, 2019

Pastor Dennis Keating
BEAUTIFULLY IMPERFECT
When God Says "No"
2 Samuel 7:1-29 (p. 270)

THE PRINCIPLE → When God says "No" _____, it's because He's going to say "Yes" _____.

GO TO THE LORD AND ...

1. _____ His plan. (v. 18; Jer. 29:11)
2. _____ His blessings. (v. 18)
3. _____ in His purposes. (v. 19)

REMEMBER → _____ God's greatest _____ project. (2 Cor. 3:3)

4. _____ His sovereignty. (v. 20-24; Rom. 8:31-32)
5. _____ His promises. (v. 25-29)

OUR CHALLENGE → Keep on _____!



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EFCC Open Wi-Fi Password: **John3:16**

FROM SEPTEMBER 14/15, 2019 SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR SERMON-BASED LIFE GROUPS

Personal preparation: Read the passage, review your outline, and think through the questions. With your group, watch the video blog together (www.efcc.org/video-blog).

CONNECTING

1. Can you think of a time when God said "No" to you, but which ended up being a "Yes" somewhere down the line?

GROWING

2. A challenge to responding well when God says "No" is to keep our hearts from becoming dispassionate toward, and disconnected from, God. It can be too easy to shut down on Him.

How do you, or how have you, or how would you like to (assuming you haven't always accepted His "No" with grace and dignity!) accept His plan and submit to His sovereignty in ways that don't drive a wedge between you and Him? What's important *for you* to do in order to stay close and connected when your dreams might be shattered in pieces on the floor?

3. Two keys to moving forward with God after a "No" are to hope in His purposes and trust His promises.

Which of His purposes are important for you to hope in when He says "No"? Why?

Which of His promises are important for you to trust in when He says "No"? Why?

SHARING

4. Has there been a recent "No" from God that you'd like your group to pray about for you? Are you waiting for a "Yes"? How can they support you in your waiting?

September 14/15, 2019
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(For Scripture references and fill-in the blanks)

"Because it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well that it was in your heart." 2 Chronicles 6:8

THE PRINCIPLE: When God says "No" **today**, it's because He's going to say "Yes" **in the future**.

GO TO THE LORD AND ...

1. **Accept** His plan. (v. 18; Jer. 29:11)

"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

2. **Acknowledge** His blessings. (v. 18)

3. **Hope** in His purposes. (v. 19)

"Our disappointments are in reality God's appointments with us." A.T. Pierson-adapted

REMEMBER: **You're** God's greatest **building** project. (2 Cor. 3:3)

"... you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." 2 Corinthians 3:3

4. **Recognize** His sovereignty. (v. 20-24; Rom. 8:31-32)

"If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?" Romans 8:31-32

5. **Trust** His promises. (v. 25-29)

OUR CHALLENGE: Keep on **keeping on!**