

All In

When Jesus is your Plan "A"
you don't need Plan "B".



Magnolia Bible Church Men's Group

Thursday Nights at 6:30 PM | October 11 – November 15, 2018 (Lesson #5)

In this series we're talking about the "All In" concept. *All in* means totally committed, no turning back, reaching the point of no return, burning the boats, and leaving it all on the field (these are just a few of the phrases we use in today's world). To be brutally honest, as men very few of us are *All In* when it comes to our commitment to Jesus. Vying against our commitment to Jesus are a tremendous number of distractions and pressures that seem to pull us in every direction except the one that counts.

In this 6-week series we're going to take a real, hard look at what we need to do to **make Jesus Plan A**. Provided below are topics we'll be covering in this series. Each topic has been specifically selected to drive us towards building a life where we don't have to make any excuses in living for Jesus.

1. October 11 Finding the "Why?" in your life.
2. October 18 What's Your "game"? Discovering God's specific plan for your life.
3. October 25 Roadblocks: areas of sin and weakness that prevent success.
4. November 1 It's all about TRUST: Making the leap of faith.
5. November 8 **Developing God's Game Plan for your life.**
6. November 15 Putting it all together and living with purpose for Jesus.

In tonight's lesson we're going to talk about developing God's game plan for your life. Ironically, this is not a subject we discuss very often in church. However, in other parts of our life planning and preparing takes a central role in much of what we do. Consider the following examples of areas that require planning. The chart on the back page provides several scenarios for men of various ages concerning how God might use us at different stages of our lives.

- Education
- Vocation and career
- Finances and budget
- Travel
- Retirement
- Service at church

In many regards developing a Game Plan for our lives is like taking a road trip – *we need to know where we're going and how we're going to get there*. Some of the elements of your Game Plan might include the following:

- Your **WHY?** (i.e., Why am I doing this?)
- Your **Goal**; it needs to be **SMART**:
 - Specific
 - Measurable
 - Actionable
 - Relevant
 - Timely
- What **resources** are required?
- How will I manage **disappointment**?
- Developing **good habits** that I'll need
- How will I involve **other people** in my plan (i.e., prayer, accountability, engaging, etc.)?



Laying the *ALL IN* Foundation

(Provided below are examples of *challenges* and *opportunities* at various stages of life)

AGE	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES	<i>ALL IN</i> IDEAS
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No experience • No credibility • No money • Life uncertainty • Fear of unknowns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of opportunities • Risk tolerant (can afford to make mistakes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start a Bible study / small group • Mission trips • Become a missionary • Continue education
35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mounting responsibilities • Family, very busy stage • Earning money, but accumulating debt • Fear of unknowns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building career and reputation • Still relatively risk tolerant • Start to accumulate some wealth and assets • Growing in stature and wisdom • Increased leadership opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start a Bible study / small group • Mission trips • Go back to school • Teach children / high school • Start a ministry
50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging parents • Reduced risk tolerance • Expensive years with kids in college / saving for retirement • Reduced energy level and maybe some health issues • Mid-life crisis (unfulfilled dreams and expectations) • Potentially draining career and family demands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership “era” • Greater understanding of the world and people • More comfortable with yourself • Some wealth accumulation • Stature among peers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start a Bible study / small group • Mission trips • Teach adults, children, or high school • Start a ministry • Minister to young families • Serve aging parents
65	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed income in retirement • Possible declining health • Realization of life span (in a way you haven’t experienced) • Feeling of disconnectedness • Possible loss of parents and spouse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retirement • A lot of “free” time • Wisdom • Wealth accumulation • Family patriarch and stature • Strong network of friends and people • Deeper appreciation for life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start a Bible study / small group • Mission trips • Teach adults, children, or high school • Start a ministry • Minister to younger families • Become a mentor to younger men • Become a missionary • Hospital visitation

Wrapping it Up

Unfortunately, there’s no easy way to develop a Game Plan for your life. It involves a careful study and consideration of how God has wired you, solitude, feedback from others, the path the Lord currently has you on, and people who need to be impacted by your life. Whatever you do, your Game Plan needs to push the envelope. Remember that our theme in this process is *God’s desire is that we be involved in pursuits that are destined to fail without His involvement.* Next week you’re going to write a letter where you’ll challenge yourself with a **BHAG – Big Hairy Audacious Goal!**

Small Group “Tabletop” Discussion Questions

1. Of what are you most afraid in life? Does that fear impact the decisions you make?
2. In your life, have you been a big “planner”? Why or why not.
3. What impact have past disappointments had on your view of the future?
4. Where do God and His plans fit in the “Why?” in your life?
5. Where do you sense the Lord directing you at this stage in your life? How do you know its Him?