

# SERMON BASED CURRICULUM



## **Date & Sermon Series:**

October 24/25, 2015; If

## **Speaker:**

Pastor Mark Batterson

**Scripture Focus:** Romans 8:31

## **Note To Leaders:**

This weekend we discussed “what if” possibilities. These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion. Don’t feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don’t have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow.

**Icebreaker Suggestions:** Pastor Mark shared a story about the founder of Pixar and how, when on a family vacation, his car avoided driving off a cliff by only two inches. These two inches could have created an altered reality where Pixar would have never existed. What is a story you could share where you were two inches from disaster? No story? Okay, what is your favorite Pixar movie?

## **Sermon Series Questions:**

1. What thoughts are still resonating with you from the sermon?
2. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend’s message?
3. What “what if” possibilities came to mind listening to this sermon?

## **Specific Questions:**

1. Pastor Mark talked about how there are foundational truths that are a part of Romans 8:31 but sometimes, we end up believing the lies. Read Romans 8:31 out loud as a group:

*“What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”*

God is for us everyday in every way but we often believe the lie that God may be for everybody else but me. Where in your life have you struggled to see that God is for *you*? Why do you think that is? What would need to change for you to truly believe it?

2. Is there something in your life that one “if” could change the event sequence of everything else

that followed? If so, what is it? “If God...(fill in the blank).”

3. Pastor Mark reminds us that remembering God’s promises and how far he has brought us in his faithfulness is what helps us move forward in our faith. What is a time where you were able to be thankful for where you’ve been and what you’ve been through so that you could be where you are today? What did those experiences teach you? Did the experience grow your faith? If so, how? If not, why not?
4. Pastor Mark talked about the uncertainty of taking a bold move toward the life that God wants you to live. He said that ultimately the confidence to take a step is in God alone and not in one’s self. He quoted A.W. Tozer stating, “A lower view of God is the cause of 100 lesser evils, but a higher view is the solution to 10,000 temporal problems.” What are your thoughts about this quote? Do you think you have a low or a high view of God in your life? Who do you put your confidence in? Where do you get your confidence from now? What are some bold steps you can take to increase your view of God?
5. One thing we learned this week is that God is always in our corner, no matter what. We are able to ride on the victories of God through the power of Jesus’ death on the cross. Pastor Mark said that “God is on your side, are you on His?” What does it mean to be on God’s side?
6. Pastor Mark discussed that God wants us to live a life full of peace, which is the result of living in step with the Spirit. Romans 8:5-8 talks about how we live in the Spirit, not in the flesh. What does it look like to live in the Spirit? Have you seen the results of a life of peace in your own story? Talk about a time where you have seen the difference between living in the flesh and living in the Spirit.
7. Read Isaiah 55:8-9 together. Pastor Mark says, “Your best thought on your best day is still about 15.5 billion light years away from how good God actually is.” What is your response to this concept? What are some areas in your life that you may be underestimating God today? What changes could you make to start seeing God for how good He actually is?

### **Challenge:**

**Read & Pray:** Pray and read through Romans 8 each day this week. Also, meditate on Isaiah 55:8-9 and ask what the Lord wants to share with you regarding His thoughts and His ways for your life.

**Act:** Pastor Mark started with the message telling a story that could have altered the lives of so many adults, children, and attraction theme parks today because of one two-inch event in the life of the founder of Pixar. All of us have two-inch moments that can alter our reality. It can change everything in a split second. Think of a time where you had a moment like this that God used for good to change the entire trajectory of your life. Was it a person who invited you to church? Was it being invited to a small group? Was it accepting Christ? Thank the Lord for that two-inch moment this week and thank the people that God used to alter your destiny.