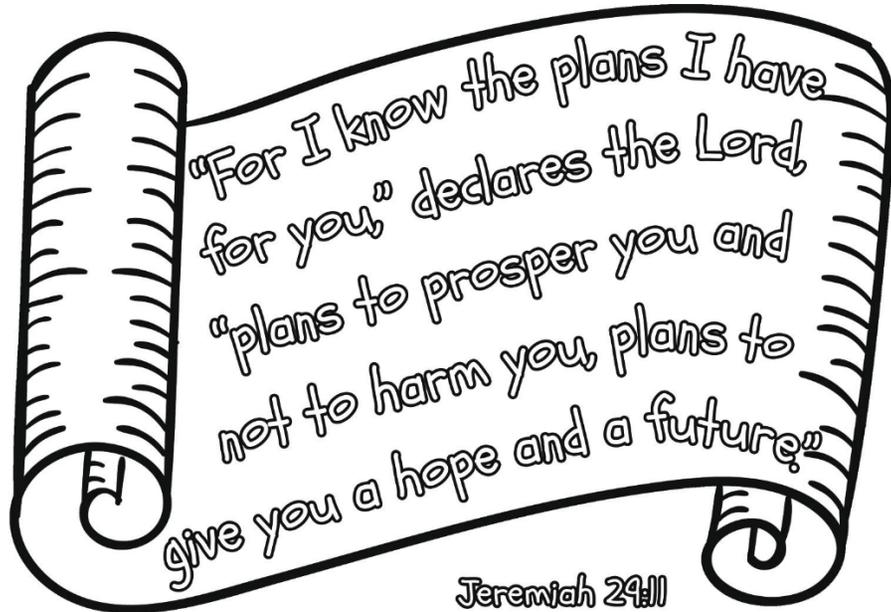


What Are Plans?

Did you know that builders can't build a house without having a plan? That's right! They have to take their plans to a supervisor to check the plans to make sure everything is measured correctly. If you have one wall that is too short, the whole thing can fall down. If you forget to add a door no one can get in! Having a plan is important. You can't have a bunch of people just building what they want—they have to follow the builder's plan. Your life (and this church community) are like a beautiful house and God is the builder. Remember, God tells us in Jeremiah that God has a plan for us!

- ✚ What is a plan?
- ✚ What kind of plans does God make?
- ✚ Are God's plans always good? Why?
- ✚ Does God always have the best plans for us? Why?
- ✚ Should we be scared of God's plans? Why or why not?



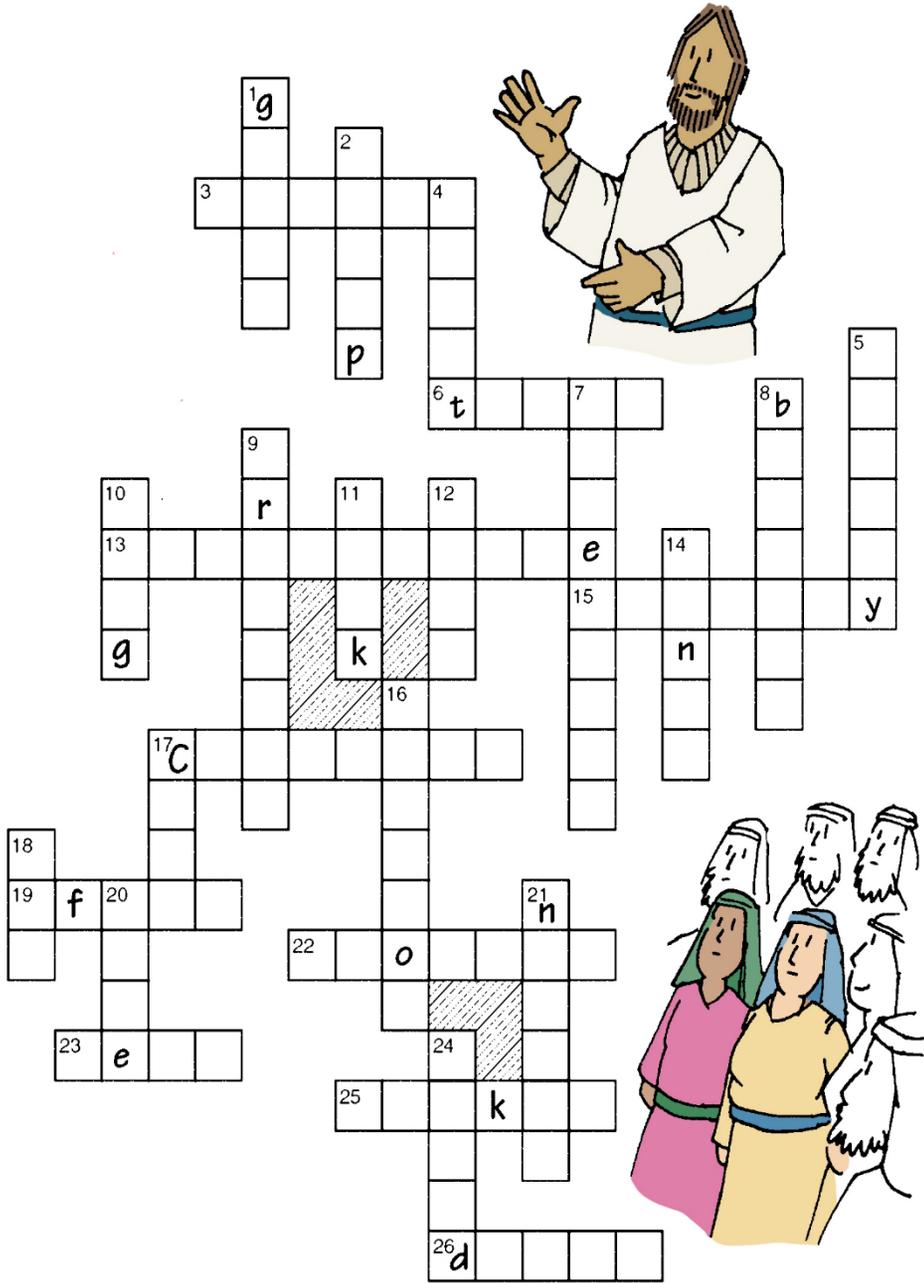
The righteous asked the Lord when they had seen Him like this. How did the King reply?

Match the code with the words to fill in the blanks.

| | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| brothers | whatever | least |
| did | Mine | for |
| the | one | truth |
| you | tell | and |
| Me | of | I |
| did | sisters | these |

“ _____ 3 ✚ _____ 2 ✚ _____ 1 ✚ _____
 _____ 1 ✚ _____ 3 ✚ _____ 2 ✚ _____
 _____ 1 ✚ _____ 1 ✚ _____ 3 ✚ _____ 2 ✚ _____ 2 ✚
 _____ 1 ✚ _____ 3 ✚ _____ 2 ✚ _____ 3 ✚ _____
 _____ 1 ✚ _____ 3 ✚ _____ 2 ✚ _____
 _____ 2 ✚ _____ 2 ✚ _____ 1 ✚ _____ 1 ✚ _____
 _____ 3 ✚ _____ 1 ✚ _____”

A Roadmap



This treasure map is kind of like the plan God makes for each life. See the X? That's where God wants to lead us, to a good place in God's perfect plan. See all these different paths? No matter which one we take, God will lead us to the good place God has for us but some paths have obstacles in them. We should trust God to lead our lives right from the beginning. When we do that, we can avoid some snares

and traps along the way. God has a plan for you and for this church!

Today at church we are looking at the vision [goal, dream, or hope] of our church; the mission of our church [our reason for being a community of faith, our purpose as a church]; and what our core values are as a church. These core values help define how we are to act or behave to live into our vision and mission. Another words these core values help us to achieve our mission and vision by helping us to act more like Christ, loving all of our neighbors. All of these things: vision, mission, and core values are tools to help us remember the plan God has for this church and act like our "treasure map" so that we can see where we are and where we need to get to, and so we can make sure that what we are doing always goes along with God's plans. The mission, vision, and core values were created by a group of church members who prayed and discussed them in accordance with God's Word and how the still-speaking voice of God directed them.



Zion Reformed Mission, Vision & Values Statements

The mission, vision, and core values of Zion Reformed United Church of Christ are:



To Share God's Inclusive Love, Uniting Us with Our Community.



To share the gospel of Christ in such a way that we find God, grow our faith, discover our purpose and make a difference.



As followers of Christ, we share these Core Values:

- 1) Community: Where we show Love of God and One Another
 - Welcoming all people
 - Celebrating unity and diversity
 - Working in partnership with other churches
- 2) Spiritual Life: Where God Is Still Speaking
 - Encouraging people on their faith journey
 - Listening through prayer
 - Forgiving and being forgiven
- 3) Discipleship in Action: Where Justice isn't about "Just Us"
 - Striving to imitate the life of Christ in thought, word, and deed
 - Being good stewards of time, talent & resources
 - Acting as Christ's hands & voice in the world
 - Caring for God's creation



Zion Reformed United Church of Christ
Found 1770

All the nations will be gathered before the Son of Man, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. Then what would happen?

Fill in the blanks using these words and then complete the crossword puzzle on the next page using the code:

| | | | | | | | | |
|------|------|-------|-------|-------|--------|---------|----------|-------------|
| eat | King | take | goats | since | Father | needed | kingdom | prepared |
| Come | left | after | right | those | hungry | blessed | thirsty | something |
| gave | sick | drink | sheep | world | looked | clothes | creation | inheritance |

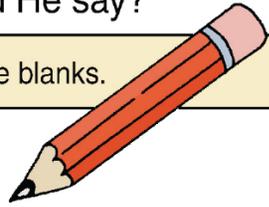
“He will put the _____ on His _____ and the _____ on His _____. Then the _____ will say to _____ on His _____, ‘ _____, you who are _____ by My _____, _____ your _____, the _____ for you _____ the _____ of the _____. For I was _____ and you _____ Me _____ to _____, I was _____ and you _____ Me _____ to _____, ... I _____ and you clothed Me, I was _____ and you _____ Me.”



Serving Jesus by Doing Good

Jesus talked about the Son of Man coming. What did He say?

Write the name of each picture. Then fill in the blanks.



| | | |
|---|--|---|
|  | <u>13</u> <u>24</u> <u>7</u> <u>19</u> <u>31</u> <u>5</u> | |
|  | <u>14</u> <u>25</u> <u>36</u> <u>23</u> |  |
|  | <u>6</u> <u>12</u> <u>35</u> <u>20</u> <u>28</u> <u>11</u> <u>22</u> |  |
|  | <u>17</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>33</u> |  |

“
6 12 5 7 23 12 16 20 25 10 25 17 32 36 10
13 25 32 22 9 35 7 12 35 30 33 11 25 4 26’
24 7 19 2 31 21 28 12 16 29 7 14 8 11 20
6 35 28 12 12 35 32’ 12 5 6 35 21 31
9 35 23 25 10 12 35 9 23 12 4 25 10 22
35 7 12 8 24 34 16 7 21 26 33 11 25 3 26”

Why Practice these Vision, Mission, and Values?

Hearing God’s Word: Matthew 25:31-45

Int’l Children’s Bible® Copyright© 1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission.



³¹ “The Son of Man will come again in his great glory. All his angels will come with him. He will be King and sit on his great throne. ³² All the people of the world will be gathered before him. Then he will separate them into two groups as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ The Son of Man will put the sheep, the good people, on his right and the goats, the bad people, on his left. ³⁴ “Then the King will say to the good people on his right, ‘Come. My Father has given you his blessing. Come and receive the kingdom God has prepared for you since the world was made. ³⁵ I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was alone and away from home, and you invited me into your house. ³⁶ I was without clothes, and you gave me something to wear. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’ ³⁷ “Then the good people will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food? When did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you alone and away from home and invite you into our house? When did we see you without clothes and give you something to wear? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and care for you?’ ⁴⁰ “Then the King will answer, ‘I tell you the truth. Anything you did for any of my people here, you also did for me.’ ⁴¹ “Then the King will say to those on his left, ‘Go away from me. God has said that you will be punished. Go into the fire that burns forever. That fire was prepared for the devil and his helpers. ⁴² I was hungry, and you gave me nothing to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink. ⁴³ I was alone and away from home, and you did not invite me into your house. I was without clothes, and you gave me nothing to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you did not care for me.’ ⁴⁴ “Then those people will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty? When did we see you alone and away from home? Or when did we see you without clothes or sick or in prison? When did we see these things and not help you?’ ⁴⁵ “Then the King will answer, ‘I tell you the truth. Anything you refused to do for any of my people here, you refused to do for me.’”

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TJRKK4

Unto the Least of These



Have you ever heard someone say, "Wait just a minute?" Well, sometimes a minute can seem like a long time. Other times, a minute seems to fly by. I want you to have someone time a minute or use a timer to do so and see how many things you can think of that you like to eat. Are you ready? Okay -- ready, set, go! Did you think of a lot of good things to eat? I did. I thought about fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza, cake, cookies, ice cream, candy, and a lot more. What did you think of that you like to eat? (share your list of foods with one another)

Have you ever been hungry? Oh, I don't mean a little bit hungry. I mean really hungry with no hope that you would get anything to eat today...or tomorrow...or the next day. Sometimes we forget that not everyone in the world has plenty of food to eat. In that one minute while you and I were thinking about all the good things we like to eat, twelve children in the world died because of hunger-related illness.

One day, Jesus was speaking to a group of people and he said to them, "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat...I was thirsty and you gave me a drink." "When did we do that?" they asked. Jesus answered them, "If you did it for one of the least of my children, you did it for me." We have a lot to be thankful for, don't we? The question is, are we willing to share it with those who are not so fortunate? Will you share what you have with those who are in need? Remember, it is the same as doing it for Jesus!

And this is why we practice these vision, mission, and values statements. They are more than just statements, they are our plan, our purpose, for existing as a people and as a church. They exist to help us practice Christ's command to love one another...to share God's love. They are a roadmap to help us chart our path. They are a reminder that if we drift away from our purpose and calling of how to get back on track. These statements along with the Word of God help bring us back to God, always! Following Christ's command to love one another helps us to know God and have a relationship with God, and that is the purpose of our very existence as a person and as a faith community—to know (love) God and to love God is to love others!

Let Us Pray:



O' God, we thank you that you have a plan for our lives. Help us to discover those plans and to allow you to complete those plans. We want to be useful to you as you have given us so much. May we be willing to share it with those in need as you share with us. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.



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