2021 Pentecost Offering Sermon Starter Ideas

Sermon Starter

Introduction Claim: It is impossible to have hope for the future unless we stay rooted in this Truth – God is a good God, with a good plan for the good of all people.

God is Good:
- Ex. 34:6 (God is merciful, steadfast, faithful, loving)
- 1 Chron. 16:34 (God’s steadfast love endures forever)
- Psalm 145:9 (God is good and compassionate to all)
- Matt. 7:11 (God is like a good father, who cares for God’s children)
- James 1:17 (everything good comes from God)
- 1 John 4:7-11 (God is love)

With a Good Plan:
- Is. 43:19 (God makes a way in the wilderness)
- Rom. 8:28 (God is working all things for good)
- Eph. 3:20 (God can do more than we can imagine)
- 2 Peter 3:9 (God desires wholeness for all people)
- Matt. 6:25-34 (God cares for our practical needs)
- Philippians 1:6 (God is on this journey with us until completion)

For the Good of the World:
- Jeremiah 29:4-7 (seek the good of the context you find yourself in – “the prosperity of the city”)
- Gen. 1:26 (we bear God’s image: God creates and it is good – we are made to create good, too)
- Gen. 12:1-3 (God’s chosen is for the blessing of all the peoples of the earth)
- Eph. 2:10 (we are created to do good works)
- 2 Cor. 5:16-21 (we are ministers of God’s ministry of reconciliation)

Closing Thought: Jeremiah 29:12-14 reminds us that – by God’s goodness – we are not alone on this unknown, unfamiliar journey. God listens when we cry out, and will be found when we seek God – because God is good. When we are centered in that Truth, our future is filled with hope and goodness.

Sermon Starter

We tend to think of Spirit as a New Testament reality, but in fact Spirit is a work from the very Beginning of Creation as the manifesting agent of all reality. There is an intersection of God’s Spirit and our spirit which comes together in the very word used for spirit—Ruach or breath. It is that very essence which denotes our being created in the Divine Image and through which all creation continues as we co-create with God. The Spirit of God is at work animating everything and awakens the spirit within us. Through the anointing of Spirit we discover gifts and resources toward God’s bright future and hope. Jesus taught, preached, prayed and performed miracles in the power of the Spirit—so too do we. There is this relational reliance at work that
says: ‘to the degree we are filled with God’s Spirit, to the same degree are we able to live into God’s promised future.’ Jesus breathed on His disciples and said “Even as the Father sent me, so I send you.” Therefore we must find our daily bread and breath from Spirit, which is from Jesus, which is from Creator. As we remain in the flow of Spirit, we continue the ministry of Jesus in the world today. When the flow of Spirit is blocked or quenched, we lack imagination and vision to see a brighter day on our horizon. Spirit-led practices which help us remain in the flow of Spirit include: 1—being a daily follower of Jesus, 2—communing in daily prayer, 3—engage imagination/creativity. “For surely I know the plans I have for you....”

**Sermon Starter- Jeremiah 29:11 NIV**

1 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

**God has a Plan for You!**

What shall I do? What step should I make, oh Lord what Shall I do. I often ask myself that question when I make an effort to deal with difficult situations.

You know life does not happen on accident. There is a plan greater than the one we perceive. We can take comfort in knowing that it is a promise that God has a plan for our current situation.

God told Jeremiah as he called him as a prophet, For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Just hear this first passage, makes me feel pretty good, knowing that God had me on his mind.

You should know that God has already made up in His mind that there is a plan for you. Have you ever found yourself launching out to deeper things of God? I have learned when things look so deep in my life, and it seems like you cannot reach it, and looks so wide and tall, that is when you know that God has a plan for you.

**#1 God’s plan requires your commitment**

Do you struggle with commitment? How does commitment look like in God’s plan versus your plan?

Psalm 37:5 – Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will do it.

So many times we want to do it ahead of God.

A reminder of the story of Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 17:16)

Sarah was childless until she was 90 years old. God promised Abraham that she would be a mother of nations and that she would conceive and bear a son, but Sarah did not believe.

Proverbs 16:3 Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

When we commit to God he can establish our plans to be fulfilled.

**#2 God’s plan is for you to prosper**

God can firmly plant us where he wants us to prosper

Psalm 1:3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither, and in whatever he does, he prospers.
What has held you back from doing so? Who has held you back? Have you lacked in areas that made you feel less of who you are? Have others made you feel this way? God’s plan is for you to prosper.

#3 God’s plan gives you hope for the future
We all could really use some hope for the future right now. These last years have many people questioning what holds for the future. The great news is that God has not changed. He is the same God yesterday, today and tomorrow. He is the everlasting and unchanging God. The message of hope is to want an outcome that makes your life better in some way. Without hope there is no faith. We need hope and we need faith. I believe that God’s plan includes the hope we need for the future. God can work it to prosper us and give us a hope.