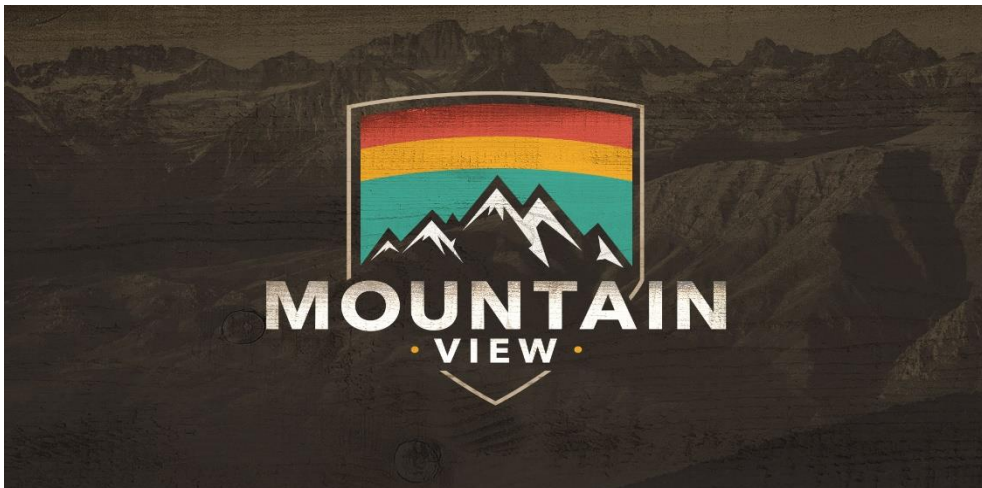


Discovery Service Order and Message Outline



WELCOME TO CEC..... Pastor Phill
 SINGING TOGETHER Lion and the Lamb
 PRAYER
 SINGING TOGETHER Forever (Give thanks to the Lord)
 UPDATES Pastor Phill
 SINGING TOGETHER Goodness of God
 BIBLE READING Genesis 39:1-23 (Church Bible page 96)
 MESSAGE Taught by Pastor Phill
 SINGING TOGETHER Jesus You endured my pain
 COMMUNION Time around the Lord's Table
 SINGING TOGETHER Oh to see the dawn



Mountain View~3
How to decide your life story
Genesis 39:1-23

The _____ of our lives.

_____ events.

Good _____

Good _____.

Ask, answer _____ and act.

We aren't the only people _____ by our decisions.

'The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.'
Proverbs 27:12 NIV

Question #1 The honesty question.

Am I being truthful with myself, really?

Question #2 The _____ question.

What _____ do I want to tell?

You write the story of your life _____ at a time.

What do story do I _____ to tell?

In _____ charged decision-making environments,
we think in terms of our _____, not our _____.

Consider your story _____.

'Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.' Genesis 37:3-4 NIV

'The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favour in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.' Genesis 39:2-4 NIV

'Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"' Genesis 39:6-7 NIV

"'With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. No-one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"' Genesis 39:8-9 NIV

'But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favour in the eyes of the prison warder. So the warder put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warder paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.' Genesis 39:21-23 NIV

"'I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, but God, will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."' Genesis 41:16 NIV

"'Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?" Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no-one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you."' Genesis 41:38-40 NIV

He decided against the gravitational pull of _____.

He _____ a story worth telling.

What story do _____ want to tell?

I'll _____ a story I'll be proud to tell.



SMALL GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION

1. Can you identify a decision in the past that served as the beginning of a new and better chapter in the story of your life?
2. What decision introduced a chapter you would rather forget?
3. What was the catalyst for those decisions?
4. Read Genesis 39:1–10. What stands out to you about how Joseph handled this situation?
5. Do you know anyone whose story, through no fault of their own, set them up to write a story characterized by bitterness and resentment, but they decided their story in a healthy direction?
6. Think of an area of your life where the decisions you are making now could significantly impact your next five years. Would you say you are currently making decisions that will likely create the story you want to tell? Explain.
7. Is there a potentially catastrophic decision tempting you now? Are you willing to find someone to help you steer clear of it?
8. Your life is more than random, disconnected events. It's a story being written. Whether it's a thoughtful response or an emotionally fueled reaction, we write the stories of our lives one decision at a time. How would you help someone to see this and what things might you do to help them?



Watch and listen to the message again, or an archived message by going to www.youtube.com/cowplainchurch.