



Trusting God in the Detour

Series: The Way of Jesus

Scripture: Acts 16

Faithfulness doesn't _____ the need for ongoing _____.

Life's detours don't always make sense, God always proves _____ to be _____ along the journey.

- Deuteronomy 31:8

Throughout Scripture, we see God working through _____ circumstances to accomplish His _____ purposes.

- Genesis 12
- Genesis 50:20
- John 11
- Acts 16

What feels like a setback may become an _____ to _____ in God's greater purpose when we remain faithful and _____.

Faith isn't always knowing why God has allowed the path to change, but _____ Him enough to take the next step.

Frustrated _____ do not always equal a failed _____.

Even in the detours we actively _____ God as we do our best to _____ faithfully, _____ expectantly, and remain _____ enough to change direction when the Spirit leads.

Hold your plans _____ and your obedience _____.

One Question to Carry This Week:

Where is God asking me to trust Him with the next step, even when I can't see the whole road ahead?

Start Talking.

- Have you ever taken a detour on a road trip that turned into an unexpected adventure? What happened?
- Are you someone who likes to have every detail planned out, or are you comfortable figuring things out as you go? How does that affect the way you handle unexpected changes?

Start Thinking:

- Read Acts 16:6–10. Paul was doing something good by sharing the Gospel, yet the Holy Spirit prevented him from going where he originally intended. What does this teach us about the relationship between faithfulness and discernment?
- Pastor Troy said, “Faithfulness doesn’t eliminate the need for ongoing discernment.” What do you think that means in practical terms?
- Paul didn’t understand the full purpose of the detours when they happened. How does the eventual outcome in Philippi help us understand the difference between a setback and a redirection?

Start Sharing:

- Have you experienced a season when life took an unexpected turn and you found yourself asking, “Why, God?” How did you respond, and what helped you through it?
- Why do you think it’s so easy to assume we’ve missed God’s direction when following Him becomes difficult? How can we distinguish between a difficult season and a genuine need to change direction?
- Pastor Troy challenged us to “hold our plans loosely and our obedience tightly.” Which side of that statement is more difficult for you, and why?
- Where in your life right now might God be inviting you to trust Him without knowing the full picture?

Start Praying:

- Ask God to help you trust His character and faithfulness in the areas of life where you don’t understand the path ahead.
- Pray for discernment to recognize the Holy Spirit’s leading, along with the humility and courage to change direction when needed.
- Pray for people in your community who need to experience the love of Jesus. Ask God to help your group recognize opportunities to serve, encourage, and share the Gospel with them.

Start Doing:

- **Identify your detour.** Take some time this week to name one unexpected circumstance or frustrated plan that has been weighing on you and bring it honestly to God in prayer.
- **Pay attention to a nudge.** Be intentional about noticing someone around you who may need encouragement or compassion. Take one practical step to show them the love of Jesus.
- **Practice faithful flexibility.** When one of your plans changes this week, pause before reacting. Ask yourself, “Is there an opportunity here to trust God, serve someone, or respond differently than I originally intended?”