



For Immediate Prayer Release

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Living By Design

Harrisburg, PA – This week the Urban Life Church family took on another challenging topic by delving into the issues surrounding the preparation that takes place in our hearts during seasons of transition. Since Sunday, February 14, 2010 (Valentine's Day), Pastors Chris and Carol Green have been conducting a ten-week class/ session to help people recognize and receive eight extremely important nuggets of wisdom to navigate through some of life's most difficult mazes. The couple refers to these mazes as seasons of transition, trials and change. They call the entire series [What NOW](#).

The eight topics cover nuggets of wisdom for Resources, Relationships, Readiness, Revelation, Riddles, Reverence, Results and Repairs. The first week was an introductory session that revealed some of the things we need to understand about the way God reveals His ways and wisdom to us. The final session will feature question and answers and a review of the topics.

"These lessons are similar to physical therapy after an injury," explains lead instructor Chris Green, "We realize that it's very painful to exercise limbs and muscles that have been injured, but if we don't, that part of us won't heal properly."

This past Sunday's nugget was about [Readiness: Living by Design](#) (See video). "This is one of the tougher issues that I'll have to discuss," discloses Pastor Chris, "The night before the session, I was in prayer and I felt the weight of this topic. I found myself weeping."

The atmosphere was a bit more somber and sober this week as the pastor talked about the transition of preparation. One can feel that they are ready for the next season because they have acquired or mastered a set of skills, but Pastor Chris stressed that seasons of preparation are not only about WHAT we will be, but they are also about WHO WE WILL BE.

"This is one of those nuggets of wisdom that hit me right between the eyes," the pastor admitted to the attendees. "We thought we were ready to pastor a church after all of our years of classes, training and service in our home church. God still had a season of preparation waiting for us." The pastor went on to talk about his own negative internal issues that God exposed by allowing the difficulties during that preparation transition. It was all necessary to get them ready for their destination.

"We believe that God takes us through these seasons of preparation so that we can discover HIS designs for our lives," adds Pastor Green, "In his book, *The Pursuit of Purpose*, one of my favorite authors, Dr. Myles Munroe says, 'A manufacturer lets the product's intended use govern the design.' So I understand that to mean that since God is the manufacturer, then HE designed us for a specific purpose. In order for me to come to know that purpose, I must get to know HIS designs for me."

Pastor Chris concluded the session by quoting from the closing paragraphs of chapter four of the [What NOW book](#): *In Geometry, we are taught the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. I have discovered in life, the shortest distance between two points is not necessarily a straight line. The shortest distance is actually obedience to God.*

The most direct path may seem like the shortest distance on the surface, but only God knows it will actually lead to a ten-year detour of your destiny. God reserves the right to tell you the shortest route between where you are now and where you are going may involve stopping in places and working with people that are not in your route plans. He knows the way He sends you will take you across the path of people, events and resources you will need when you arrive at your destination. You must trust God with your future. You must trust Him with the path and the process to get you there. You must trust His design for your life.

"A lot of people are frustrated, discouraged, or even angry because they have struggled for most of their lives, and nothing positive seems to ever happen for them," says this urban ministry leader, "But just like God created **something** out of **nothing** in Genesis 1:2, I am convinced that HE will do the same thing for people today. It's just that we have to offer Him that **nothing**. For some people the **nothing** is the plan or promise that never came to pass, the dream that has never come true, or it is that desire that goes on unfulfilled.

Nothing is the perfect material for God to work with. There's a difference between offering God your broken plans and asking Him to fix them; from offering God the shattered nothingness in your heart and just submitting it for Him to create something new."

Today our pastors are encouraging us to just start all over again and ask God to do a whole new thing, with no input from us on how it should look or what it will be when He's done. "We just want our church family prepared and made ready for God's design," concludes Pastor Chris. "Just knowing that HE is preparing each one of us for something special, during this season, brings great peace to replace frustration and discouragement."

For more information visit www.urbanlife-church.org or www.fruitful-life.net

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