



Defeating the “Big ME”

Designing Your Life (Part 3)

Numbers 20:1-13; James 4:1; Romans 12:2; Mark 8:34-35

PREPARE

Spend a moment and reflect on the current or recent conflicts (large or small) in your life.

OPEN

Do think we (American culture—or even more local..Chicagoland) are becoming a more SELF-centered culture?

What evidence do you see to support your answer?

DISCUSS

Read Numbers 20:1-13.

- Describe the conflicts you see in this passage.
- Who was Miriam?
- In looking at Moses, how would you describe the conflicts within him?

Do you believe conflict is a tool God uses to shape us into his design and purposes?

Respond to this quote by Harry Emerson Fosdick:

“The beginning of worth-while living is thus the confrontation with ourselves.”

What fuels much of the conflict in our lives (James 4:1)? Do you agree with James? Why or why not?

How does James 4:1 and Romans 12:2 complement one another?

“The gap between God’s design and intentions for us and how the Big ME pulls us toward SELF must be addressed. We must confront the Big ME if we are going to grow into God’s design for us.”

How does Mark 8:34-35 challenge us to defeat the Big ME? What would be challenged in your life and character if you were to fully follow Jesus?

“When we find the courage mingled with humility to step into the messiness of our inner conflict, we find an abundance of God’s grace to keep us from Big ME dominance...even though we may have to pass through many waters, wildernesses, and deserts to get to the promised land of His design for our lives.”

Which practice would you be willing to try this week to expose the Big ME in YOU?

- Determine what *success* (and Life) looks like for you.
- Make a fearless moral inventory.
- Invite people to speak into your life the truths you may not see.
- Work to tame the inner voice in your head
- Allow external conflict to be a teacher and reflector of the Big Me in you.
- Practice the Prayer of Examen and/or the Humility Code (attached)

NEXT STEPS

Read and reflect on the Scripture passages in this study.

Practice the Prayer of Examine attached to this study. Report back to your group what you experienced as you engaged this spiritual practice.