

## **Following Your Dreams**

### **Ready:**

*“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. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.” -Jeremiah 29:11-12 (NIV)*

### **Set**

As I stood in the phone booth, tears came to my eyes. I had just called my parents to let them know that I would be flying home that night to Los Angeles. The Cleveland Cavaliers had become the third straight NBA team that I had failed to make.

How could this happen? I had such high hopes of realizing my dream to play in the NBA when I was drafted out of the University of Iowa, but it was becoming clear to me that dreams don't always come true.

As the tears ran down my face, I thought that my days as a basketball player were over. I had lost my identity. Basketball was my life. What would the future hold now? I should have known that my future was in the hands of Someone bigger than myself. Yes, God was still in control, even if I was not aware of it.

It was shortly thereafter that I received an invitation to play fulltime with a sports ministry team. For the next nine years I was able to travel the country (and the world) playing basketball and sharing my faith with thousands of people. The tears were long forgotten as God began using me in ways that I had never imagined.

Today, as I minister to leaders in our nation's capital, I am reminded daily that God still holds my future as well as the futures of those around me. I now know to hold plans loosely, resting securely in the knowledge that my Father may have a far different plan from my own.

### **Go**

1. What types of plans and dreams have you established for your future?
2. Are you willing to follow those plans and dreams no matter what the cost?
3. Are you willing to give up your plans and dreams if God's plans and dreams for you are different?

### **Workout**

Proverbs 16:9; Matthew 6:33-34; Mark 8:34-36; Ephesians 2:10

### **Overtime**

*Lord, thank You for setting the path before me, even if I don't realize that it is the best road for me to take. Help me to understand Your will and to surrender my plans to You. Amen.*

**Bible Reference:**

Ephesians 2



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