

National Jr. High Sunday 2026

Jeremiah 29:11 - Your Life, God's Direction

Scripture Jam by Calla Stoltzfus

**Using NLT with excerpts from the Message paraphrasing.*

(Begin sitting down. Three people are on a hike. One hiker should be wearing flip flops. Throughout this conversation they continue to pretend to keep hiking, making it seem like they are tired and that there are some obstacles.)

Person 1: We're two miles in! Only 3 more to go!

Person 2: WHAT?! Only 2 miles? My feet hurt! My neck is already sunburned! There's no water anywhere! There's no wi-fi! And I'm SOOOOO hungry!
(pouting) Why is this so hard?

Person 3: Probably because you forgot your snacks and water bottle, you didn't want to put on sunscreen, and we're in the middle of nowhere right now. Also, you decided to hike in flip flops. *(points to the shoes)*

Person 2: Well sure, but we're basically just walking.

Person 1: C'mon, you can do this! And just for the record, we kept reminding you to get prepared, but you didn't listen to us.

Person 2: God must hate me. This is the worst.

Person 1: Don't blame God for this, you were the one who forgot to bring everything!

Person 3: Yeah, and although God does ultimately know what will happen in your life, your decisions affect how it will turn out too.

Person 1: Think of it this way. It's your life, but God provides you with directions to the right destination. You will never get to that destination on your own, and you probably won't be using only God's directions either. Sometimes you might take some wrong turns, or take a pit stop, but as long as you always look back at God's directions you will get back on track.

Person 2: So, God gave me a roadmap. Oooooook? Why can't I see it? I don't have that map in my hands right now.

Person 3: (*Under their breath*) Probably because you also forgot the trail guide...

Person 2: It's not the Bible is it? Scripture doesn't tell me what to eat for breakfast, or what friends I need to have, or what college I should go to, or even what I should do in my future!

Person 1: Well, it's sort of the Bible. We should always be going back to God's word and applying it to our lives. But I get it, the Bible isn't going to mention any specific scenarios that match your life word for word.

Person 3: Prayer is a big part of it. You should talk to God about what's going on in your life and ask him what you should do when you have some big choices to make. Sometimes he'll respond with some really obvious answers and other times with some very subtle answers.

Person 1: Other times he might not answer at all. That means you just have to trust.

Person 2: Yeah but, what does this have to do with God's directions? I can still do whatever I want in my life. I am my own person, (*shrug*) I just believe in God.

Person 3: God has a plan for your life. And it's a good one. He has a wonderful purpose for you, you just have to choose whether you want to pursue it or not.

Person 2: But what if God's plan involves me being miserable on a hike? I'm DYING out here! Why would he put me in this situation?

Person 1: God's plan is never meant to harm you or make your life harder in any way. When you come across difficult times, it is God's way of giving you a chance to come to him.

Person 3: He wants you to seek him in every situation, even the bad ones. And when you do seek God, he strengthens your faith in him, and you see that whatever hardship you went through was all part of a bigger, beautiful picture.

Person 2: *(thinking hard)* So when life gets hard, as long as I turn to God, I'll understand that it was all for the good and be able to learn from it?

Person 1: YES!

Person 3: You'll never forget sunscreen and water on a hike again, will you?

Person 2: *(miserably)* Not after this experience.

Person 1: Exactly!!

Person 3: Hey, guys! I think we're almost there!

Person 2: I SEE WATER!!!

Persons 1: *(running ahead, facing the audience but looking beyond)* Wow this is beautiful!!

Person 3: *(motioning to person 2)* Come see!

Person 2: *(finally catching up, pauses, smiles)* God really did have a plan after all!

Persons 1 & 3: He always does!