God Has a Plan? | Meditation on Joshua 13-21

:: Discussion Questions ::

1. Throughout Scripture, we see the theme of God's people, in God's place, dwelling in God's presence. How does seeing this as God's overarching plan change the way you understand the story of the Bible?[1]

2. Covenant Faithfulness (Hesed): Adam and Eve broke covenant with God, yet God continued pursuing His plan of redemption. Where do you see God's hesed—His steadfast covenant faithfulness—in the story we've studied? How have you experienced it in your own life or our community?

3. Read *Joshua 18:1-10*. In Joshua, the land was a gift from God, but the Israelites still had to actively take possession of it. What might this tension between receiving God's gift and actively responding to it teach us about following God today?

4. Community and Discernment : The distribution of the land happened in community, in the presence of God, rather than through isolated individual decisions. What does this teach us about discerning God's direction together? What are the challenges of doing this well as a church community?

5. Understanding God's Plan: We often hear the phrase, "God has a plan." How might the larger biblical story reshape our understanding of what that actually means? How is God's plan bigger than our individual circumstances, preferences, or immediate comfort?

6. Blessed to Be a Blessing[2]: As we enter a new season and move to the new location for worship, how can we resist seeing this new location as simply our place and instead see it as an opportunity to participate in God's mission? What might it look like for our church to become a blessing to our city and beyond?

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[1] For the overarching story of God's redemptive plan, I highly recommend "The Epic of Eden" by Sandra Richter. Much of the thoughts from this week's meditation are from her writing and teaching.
[2] Genesis 12:1-3