

THE BIG IDEA: If we want God's protection, we have to trust God's direction.The Take-Off

If you've ever been caught in a rainstorm, you can appreciate the value of an umbrella.

Nobody really likes getting drenched in the rain - even these guys

[VIDEO: Gorillas in the rain]

I can't tell you how many times we've gotten somewhere and realized that we didn't have what we needed the most...
An UMBRELLA.

It's in the car and we're in the house, or we're in the car and it's in the house!

The worst is not having it with you when you need it, and that's the premise behind our series this month.

God's got a plan for your protection, and an umbrella is a great way to think of it.

1. God's always had a plan to cover us

- a. Sometimes we tend to think of a covering as something God gives us because of sin
- b. It's true that our sin needs to be covered, but can we go on a quick trip through the Bible so I can show you that **God has always had a plan to cover us**
- c. It's not just because we sinned
- d. **Genesis 2:25** / they were naked and not ashamed - why?
- e. **Psalms 104:1-2** / because they were made in God's image and He is clothed
- f. Not literally, but many scholars believe that this is in reference to God's glory and that Adam and Eve were covered in that same glory
- g. **Genesis 3:7** / sin removed the covering and they tried to replace it
- h. **Genesis 3:21** / God covered them (amazing mercy!)
- i. This pointed toward a greater and better covering!
- j. **Hebrews 10:1-4** / the temporary
- k. **Hebrews 9:12** / the eternal!
- l. God always had a plan - and Jesus was always that plan
- m. Jesus is the umbrella; He is our covering
- n. Maybe you've heard church phrases like "covered in the blood" or "washed in the blood" and wondered what they mean?
- o. They are expressions of what happens when we step under the umbrella of God
- p. Jesus went to the cross to provide a permanent covering for the sins of mankind
- q. All of us are like Adam and Eve - we all know we need a covering - and we still try to use fig leaves
- r. The fig leaf of money. The fig leaf of smoking less, drinking less, working harder to lose our temper less, coming to church more, trying to be less critical, or more patient, or less this or more that.
- s. It's all our attempt to cover up something that we know is wrong.
- t. But all those fig leaves miss the real question of umbrellas, authority, and covering...

2. The question is: His plan or ours?

- a. **That question is: His plan or ours?**
 - The captain of a ship looked into the dark night and saw a light in the distance. Immediately he told his signalman to send a message, "Alter your course ten degrees south." He promptly received a reply, "Alter your course ten degrees north."
 - The furious captain sent another message, "Alter your course ten degrees south. I am a captain!" Soon another reply was received, "Alter your course ten degrees north. I am seaman third class Jones."
 - The captain sent a final message, "Alter your course ten degrees south. I am a battleship." The reply was, "Alter your course ten degrees north. I am a lighthouse."
- b. When we talk about alignment between two objects and one of those doesn't move, then the other must
- c. **Hebrews 13:8; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17; Isaiah 40:8**
- d. God isn't moving. He isn't chasing His plan. His plan is Jesus - period.
- e. It takes trust in order to step under that umbrella and be covered.
- f. Wouldn't it be great if we could just go straight to heaven then? (Ok, I'm kidding ... kind of.)
- g. Phil preached once about being tethered to Christ and used the analogy of a ski boat and tow line

- h. I want you to take that same image but go vertical with it
- i. Now, let's talk about staying under God's umbrella
- j. Just like it takes trust to be covered, it takes trust to stay covered
- k. We need to zig when He zigs and zag when he zags!
- l. Every time God goes somewhere we don't like or agree with - every time we read a verse that we don't like or agree with - we have a choice to make: go with God or get wet
- m. Today's Big Idea puts it this way: **if we want God's protection, we have to trust God's direction.**
- n. Sometimes we want to go our own way and think God should come with us because He loves us
- o. But the goodness of God is seen in the umbrella He provides, not in Him giving us everything we want
- p. So when our way isn't the same as His - when He zigs where we wanted to zag - we've got to choose to trust that he has a greater perspective than we do.
- q. Where we see a small part of the road, He sees it all. He knows the end from the beginning. He is mind-blowingly sovereign!
- r. **[PICS / What is it?]**

The Landing

Perspective is everything, and many of us have lost protection and covering simply because we bought the lie that WE know more than HE does

Before we can go any further in this series - before we can talk about how to live under the umbrella when it may take us into difficult places and relationships - we've got to determine if we will trust God's direction.

Will you follow Him no matter where the umbrella goes?

Let's pray.