

# “GAME PLAN” - LESSON 1

## “God’s Good Plans”

### Main Focus:

God has incredible plans for your life!



### Power Verse:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” – Jeremiah 29:11



### Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Will Follow God’s Amazing Plan!”

## LEADER’S INFO

Guilt and shame are things everyone faces when they sin and do wrong. That guilt and shame can really add up and make you feel worthless, especially when you’re a kid and you’ve done a lot of bad things.

Sometimes, when you have a past that is full of mistakes, you can begin to think that God’s plans for you are over. But that is simply not the case.

In today’s Bible Story, the children will learn from the story of Zacchaeus encountering Jesus. They will recognize that Jesus truly cares about them and has good plans for their lives, no matter how “bad” they may have been.

The children will also learn that when they decide to follow God’s GAME PLAN for their lives and do what’s right, EVERYTHING changes!



### “The Spark” Intro Video

“God’s Game Plan”



### “Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Cali teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



### Character Skit

“Megan U. Sweat”



### Offering Time



### Game Time!

“The Ultimate Shoe Scramble”



### Bible Story

“Zacchaeus Climbs A Tree”



### Power Verse Video

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” – Jeremiah 29:11



### Call To Action

“God’s Good Plans”



### Rewind!

Review Game



### Small Group Experience

**Main Focus:**

God has incredible plans for your life!



**Power Verse:**

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the Lord. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.’” – Jeremiah 29:11



**Whatchagaddaknow:**

“I Will Follow God’s Amazing Plan!”

**Lesson 1 Materials Needed:**

**“The Spark” Intro Video**

- “Lesson 1 - The Spark” Intro Video

**“Whatchagaddaknow” Video**

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

**Character Skit**

- “Megan U. Sweat” Theme Graphic/Music
- Workout clothes
- Gym bag

**Offering Time**

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

**Game Time!**

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Ultimate Shoe Scramble” Graphic

**Bible Story**

- “Zacchaeus Climbs A Tree” Graphics

**Power Verse Video**

- “Lesson 1 Power Verse” Video

**Call To Action**

- “God’s Good Plans” Graphics
- A “Change Bag” Illusion
- Three black silk handkerchiefs
- One larger, white silk handkerchief

**Rewind!**

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics

**Small Group Experience**

- Bible Story Excerpt Print Piece
- Power Verse Print Piece
- Lesson Points Print Piece
- Pencils, crayons, or markers

**“The Spark” Intro Video**

“God’s Game Plan”

**“Whatchagaddaknow” Video**

Cali teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”

**Character Skit**

“Megan U. Sweat”

**Offering Time**

**Game Time!**

“The Ultimate Shoe Scramble”

**Bible Story**

“Zacchaeus Climbs A Tree”

**Power Verse Video**

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the Lord. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.’”  
– Jeremiah 29:11

**Call To Action**

“God’s Good Plans”

**Rewind!**

Review Game

**Small Group Experience**



## **Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video**

**Leader:** Hey, kids! Welcome to our series, “GAME PLAN!” It’s all about learning to follow God’s plan for your life! Today, you’re going to learn that Jesus has good plans for you! Some of you might be thinking, “Who, me? I don’t think so - there’s no way Jesus has GOOD plans for me!” Well, today, we’re going to find out why you can truly believe Jesus has good plans for you! To find out more about that, I want you to watch this awesome video...

**(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 1”)**

**Leader:** Wow! It’s true - God really does have good plans for you, no matter who you are or what you’ve done! No matter how bad you might think you are, Jesus still loves you and cares about you! You’re going to find out more about that in your lesson today, but before we get too far into that, we need to find out “Whatchagaddaknow.”

**(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Video)**



## CHARACTER SKIT

**Character: “Megan U. Sweat”** (Megan is a personal trainer with a BIG attitude; she doesn’t let anybody off easy; she WILL make you sweat!)

**MEGAN:** (enters wearing workout clothes, carrying a notebook) Alright, buddy, I did it! I have here (holds up notebook) the MOST PERFECT PLAN for you that will ever be in existence! Are you ready for the best REST OF YOUR LIFE?!?! (holds up hand for high five)

**Leader:** (reluctantly gives high five) Hello, Megan U. Sweat.

**MEGAN:** (puts notebook over leader’s mouth to stop them from saying more) No time for the NICEY-NICE! We have to get started! (opens notebook to first page)

**Leader:** (confused) Ooooooaaayy...

**MEGAN:** (jogs in place) First, some questions for plan qualification: Are you willing to eat healthy fruits and vegetables?

**Leader:** (smiles excitedly) Yeah, I LOVE fruit and veggies!

**MEGAN:** Good, good. Can you walk a mile in 16 minutes or less?

**Leader:** Yes, DEFINITELY!

**MEGAN:** Have you ever told a lie? (looks at leader suspiciously)

**Leader:** (furrows brow) I mean, yeah, everyone except Jesus has told a lie.

**MEGAN:** (shakes head, disappointed) Well, you don’t qualify for THE PERFECT PLAN. This plan is NOT for bad people; only perfect people can follow THIS PLAN! (starts doing arm stretches) Sorry buddy....it’s a NO GO for you.

**Leader:** (weirded out) That’s okay with me.

**MEGAN:** (holds notebook between knees and starts air boxing) I wouldn’t be so OKAY if I were you. People that don’t follow a plan end up driving their car into a stinky, scummy POND and never smell good again! (stops boxing and puts finger in leader’s face aggressively)

**Leader:** (gently moves Megan’s finger out of face) It really is okay. You see, we are learning that God has a GOOD plan for each of our lives. No matter how bad a person is, Jesus cares and has a plan for them.

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## CHARACTER SKIT

*(continued)*

When we follow HIS plan, everything changes!

**MEGAN:** *(stares at leader for a few seconds)* Oh, well that seems easy enough. If necessary, I could run a 5k to prove I’m strong enough for this info! *(starts stretching legs)*

**Leader:** That’s not necessary at all, Megan.

**MEGAN:** *(jogs slowly, circling leader)* I’ll probably do that anyway. Have you ever run a 5k hitched up to a dogsled, pulling 4 large dogs in Alaska during record freezing temps?

**Leader:** No, but I’m guessing that you have?

**MEGAN:** *(does lunges)* Nope, that doesn’t sound fun at all. Just thought you looked like someone who would do something like that.

**Leader:** Huh? You sure have some interesting thoughts, Megan.

**MEGAN:** *(does high knees)* I know, RIGHT?! I had this one thought yesterday that perhaps I could drink a GALLON of chocolate milk in under five minutes. *(pauses to remember)* I can’t. I’m actually on my way to the store for some stain remover. My aunt’s white carpet may never be the same. Bye! *(waves as she exits)*

**Leader:** Ewwww! Good luck with that. Bye! *(waves back)*

*(Megan leaves as her theme music plays)*



# **GAME TIME**

## **“The Ultimate Shoe Scramble”**

### **Items Needed For Game:**

None

.....

### **Preparation:**

None

.....

### **How To Play:**

Choose five boys and five girls to compete in this crazy game. Have them all take off their shoes and place them in a pile in the middle of the room. Mix up the shoes very well.

When you say, “Go!” the music begins and the children must dive into the pile to retrieve their shoes. The first team to have all five team members find their shoes, put them on (*laced up*), and stand to their feet wins.



# Bible Story

## “Zacchaeus Climbs A Tree”

### Materials Needed:

“Zacchaeus Climbs A Tree” Graphics; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

### Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Luke 19:1-10; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

### The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in the book of Luke chapter 19. It’s a story about a man named Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a tax collector, which means he took some of everyone’s money and gave it to the Roman government. People didn’t like Zacchaeus very much because he was known to be very dishonest.

One day, Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was nearby teaching. He wanted to get a good look at this man he had heard about. He had heard all about how Jesus heals, loves, and tells people all about God. When he arrived, he saw a huge crowd surrounding Jesus. (*show pic*) But Zacchaeus had a “little” problem - he was very short. He couldn’t see Jesus over all the people.

So Zacchaeus had an idea. He found a tree that was nearby (*show pic*) and began to climb it so he could get a better view of Jesus. Pretty smart idea, huh? Don’t you love climbing trees? Well, while he was in the tree, Jesus saw him. Jesus called him by name: “Zacchaeus, come on down from there. I must come to your house as a guest today.”

The religious people who were there couldn’t believe that Jesus would actually go to Zacchaeus’ house. They didn’t like Zacchaeus at all because he was a tax collector. (*show pic*) They saw Jesus at Zacchaeus’ house and said, “How could Jesus possibly hang out with THAT man? He’s a big sinner!”

Jesus was not impressed with the religious people. They were supposed to be the ones sharing the love of God, yet they were treating Zacchaeus as if he didn’t even matter. (*show pic*) Jesus said, “I have come to save lost people like Zacchaeus!” He was teaching the religious people that if they really wanted to do God’s will, they would show love to people like Zacchaeus, instead of ignoring them and treating them like they didn’t even matter.

In your lesson today, you are going to learn that no matter who you are and no matter what you’ve done, Jesus loves and cares about you and He has good plans for you!





# Call To Action

## “God’s Good Plans”

### Materials Needed:

“God’s Good Plans” Graphics; A “Change Bag” illusion (a small bag with a hidden compartment; you can get one of these at your local magic store or online at [www.davidandteesha.com](http://www.davidandteesha.com)); Three BLACK silk handkerchiefs (any light-weight black silk will do); One larger, WHITE silk handkerchief

### Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled “God’s Good Plans”



**The Message:** (title slide)

Today, we’re talking about God’s GAME PLAN! God has good plans for your life! Now, you might be thinking, “I don’t know about that.... Doesn’t Jesus know all of the things I’ve done? Doesn’t He know how bad I’ve sinned? Doesn’t He know that I’m really not that great? I don’t deserve ‘good’ plans.”

Maybe you feel like Zacchaeus from our Bible Story. Remember, he was an outcast - no one liked him. People avoided him and stayed away from him because of what he did. He was a tax collector - and a crooked one at that. He was always ripping people off and doing them wrong. And after all of that, the people decided not to have anything to do with him. No one wanted to be around him. No one cared about Zacchaeus.

I bet he was lonely. Have you ever felt that way before - like no one cared about you? Maybe you found yourself saying something like, “It’s not fair! Nobody even loves me! I’m a loser!” Well, today, we’re going to learn the lesson Zacchaeus learned:



**Jesus Cares When Nobody Else Will** (slide)

Remember, Zacchaeus was a loser - nobody cared about him. He felt all alone and he decided it was time to do something about it. He heard Jesus was different than everyone else, and he thought he’d check Him out when He came to town. Sadly, Zacchaeus was even treated like a loser when he went to see Jesus entering the town. He was shorter than everyone and couldn’t see, but no one even cared. He REALLY wanted to see Jesus, though, so he ended up climbing a tree.

It must have been tough to be Zacchaeus. But do you remember what happened next in the Bible Story? Jesus walked straight through the crowd, right past everyone else, and went up to Zacchaeus in that tree. Jesus noticed him. Jesus cared about him. And Jesus cares about you. It doesn’t matter what everyone else might think about you, Jesus cares. Jesus loves you!

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## Call To Action (Continued)

Now, you might be thinking, “Well, wait a second - but I’ve done a lot of bad stuff. I’ve sinned a lot. There’s no way Jesus still loves me and cares about me.” But it’s important that you never forget:

**No Matter How Bad You Are, Jesus Has A Plan For You** (slide)

NO MATTER HOW  
BAD YOU ARE,  
JESUS HAS A  
PLAN FOR YOU

Don’t forget - Zacchaeus was a big-time sinner. He ripped people off and took their money. Zacchaeus was so bad, his whole city didn’t want anything to do with him. They didn’t go anywhere near him. He was BAD news.

Maybe you’re like Zacchaeus. Maybe you’ve filled your life with bad habits and sins. (hold up change bag) We’ll let this bag represent your life. Maybe you’ve cheated or lied. (place the first BLACK silk handkerchief into the bag) Maybe you’ve hurt others - said mean and hateful things to them. (place the second BLACK silk handkerchief into the bag) Maybe you’ve really messed up - there’s no way you can come back from your sinful life now. You’ve gone way too far. You’re TOO bad.... (place the third BLACK silk handkerchief into the bag)

Boys and girls, it’s important that you never forget what Jesus did on the cross for you. It’s important to remember that Jesus died on the cross for your sins. He died for ALL of those sins we just mentioned. (flip the switch on the handle of the change bag, making sure it isn’t noticeable what you are doing) When He did that, He forgave you of your sins. Jesus wants you to be free from your sin - free from all of the bad things you’ve done. Jesus wants you to follow HIS plan for your life. And here’s the great news: (as you say the word “changes” in the next point, pull out the larger, WHITE cloth from the bag, revealing that the black silks have “changed”)

**When You Follow His Plan, EVERYTHING Changes** (slide)

WHEN YOU  
FOLLOW HIS PLAN,  
EVERYTHING  
CHANGES



That’s right! EVERYTHING changes! EVERYTHING! When you choose to live for Jesus and follow His plan for your life, EVERYTHING changes - your whole life. You become brand new. All of the sin and the bad things you once did are no longer a part of your life. You get a fresh start - a do-over!

Remember what happened to Zacchaeus? When Jesus saw him and showed him how much He cared, Zacchaeus decided to change his whole life and start doing what was right! He was a great example of how when you follow God’s plan, everything changes! Even though Zacchaeus was bad and no one cared about him, Jesus did - and Jesus had good plans for his life. It’s the same for you! No matter who you are and what you’ve done, Jesus cares about you and He has good plans for your life!

**ALTAR RESPONSE:** (play soft music)

Pray for any children who have been living in sin and/or maybe even feel like no one loves them or cares about them. Pray that they will remember that, no matter what, Jesus has a plan for their lives. Pray they will choose to follow God’s GAME PLAN and see everything in their life change for good!



# **REWIND!**

## **Materials Needed:**

“REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

## **Preparation:**

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

**1. Whatchagaddaknow today?**

**Answer:** “I Will Follow God’s Amazing Plan!”

**2. Who was the man in our Bible Story?**

**Answer:** Zacchaeus

**3. What was Zacchaeus’s job?**

**Answer:** Tax Collector

**4. What did Zacchaeus do when he couldn’t see Jesus in the crowd?**

**Answer:** He Climbed A Tree

**5. What did Jesus say when he saw Zacchaeus?**

**Answer:** “I must come to your house as a guest today.”

**6. True or False: The religious leaders were happy to see Jesus hanging out with Zacchaeus.**

**Answer:** False

**7. According to our lesson today, “Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ When Nobody Else Will.”**

**Answer:** Cares

**8. According to our lesson today, “No Matter How Bad You Are, Jesus Has A \_\_\_\_\_ For You.”**

**Answer:** Plan

**9. According to our lesson today, “When You Follow His Plan, EVERYTHING \_\_\_\_\_.”**

**Answer:** Changes

**10. Where was our Power Verse found?**

**Answer:** Jeremiah 29:11

# Small Group Experience

## LESSON 1 -"God's Good Plans"



### Whatchagaddaknow?:

"I Will Follow God's Amazing Plan!"



### Power Verse:

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

**-Jeremiah 29:11**

## Retelling The Bible Story

### SUPPLY LIST:

\* Bible Story Excerpt Print Piece (provided; print one set)

### TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print and cut the Bible Story print piece. Once small group begins, review the Bible Story by dividing the kids into two groups. Give each group one part of the story. Allow time for them to read and discuss it together. They will present their portion of the story to the rest of the group. Continue on this way until the story is complete.

**Say** - Today we are exploring the next part of God's game plan. To get started, I am dividing you into two groups. Each group will have one part of the story. Your group will have the task of presenting your part of the story. I will give you some time to look over the story and discuss your strategy together.

**-Allow time for the groups to discuss their part of the story-**

**Say** - Now it's time to get this story review going. Who had Part 1? Share your part of the story, please!

**-Allow time for the group to present their part of the story-**

**Say** - Who had Part 2? Share your part of the story, please!

**-Allow time for the group to present their part of the story-**

**Say** - What a great story! Can you imagine being there? That must have been a sight to see. Zacchaeus in a tree, Jesus calling him out and going to his house, angry crowds of people.... So much happened! There are a lot of lessons we can take away from this encounter. Let's discuss a few together.

**Ask** - Jesus was speaking to a huge crowd of people. Why do you think he pointed out Zacchaeus?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Ask** - Why did the people not react well when they heard Jesus was going to Zacchaeus' house?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Ask** - Why do you think the story of Zacchaeus is in the Bible?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Game/Activity****SUPPLY LIST:**

\* Power Verse Print Piece (*provided; print one set per team*)

**TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:**

*Before small group begins, print and cut the Power Verse Game Pieces, one set per team. Mix up each team’s set of words before the game begins. Once activity time begins, divide the group into teams. This activity is a relay to see which team can put the Power Verse in order the fastest. Have each team line up, single-file, and place their verse pieces in a pile on the floor in front of the first person in line. When you say “go,” the first person in line will begin passing the words, one at a time, over their head. The next person in line will pass the words under their legs. Players will continue passing in the over/under fashion until the word reaches the back of the line. The last person in line will place the words in a pile on the floor. Once all of the words are transferred to the end of the line, teams should race to place the Power Verse words in the correct order. The first team to accomplish this task wins. This will be a fun lesson concept reinforcing activity and can be played multiple rounds as time allows.*

**Say** - Zacchaeus went up a tree, and then he came down. This made me think of a game! Line up, single-file, with your team. I am placing a pile of words in front of each team line. When I say “go,” the first person in line will begin passing the words, one at a time, over their head. The next person in line will pass the word under their legs. Continue passing in the over/under fashion until the word reaches the back of the line. The last person in line will place the word in a pile on the floor. Once all of the words are transferred to the end of the line, teams should race to place the Power Verse words in the correct order. The first team to accomplish this task wins!

**-Play the game; this can be played multiple rounds as time allows-**

**Group Sharing****SUPPLY LIST:**

\* Lesson Points Print Piece (*provided; print one per kid*)

\* Pencils, crayons, or markers

**TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:**

*Before small group begins, print and cut the Lesson Points Print Pieces. Group sharing is focused on encouraging the kids to open up and discuss the lesson concepts and relate those concepts to their lives. Help facilitate and guide the discussion time.*

**Say** - Have you ever felt alone? The kind of alone that comes from being not liked and rejected? That’s a miserable feeling. When you feel like an outsider, it can mess with your perception of yourself and cause you to lose sight of who God created you to be. People aren’t always kind and loving. In fact, sadly, they tend to be the opposite way all too often. Zacchaeus understood how this felt. He was an outcast, an outsider, and felt like a reject. His story teaches us an important lesson about how God feels about misfits - “Jesus cares when nobody else will.” Write that in the blank on your page.

**-Allow time for the kids to complete the task-**

**Ask** - What does that mean?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

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**Say** - Zacchaeus wasn’t without fault. He had made some bad choices with his life. Most of us can probably relate. Actually, all of humanity can relate. None of us are without sin. We have all messed up. We have all made wrong choices. We have all followed our own plans instead of God’s plans. This brings us to the second lesson we learn from our story - “No matter how bad you are, Jesus has a plan for you.” Write that in the blank on your page.

**-Allow time for the kids to complete the task-**

**Ask** - What does that mean?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Say** - Jesus has a plan for you and me; it’s up to us to follow. When we decide to allow Jesus to be our Lord and we surrender our lives to Him, everything changes. That brings us to our final lesson from our story - “When you follow His plan, everything changes.” Write that in the blank on your page.

**-Allow time for the kids to complete the task-**

**Ask** - What does that mean?

**-Allow time for the kids respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Say** - How awesome is it to know that Jesus cares about you and He has a plan for your life?! That is the best news ever!!!

## **Prayer Time**

**Say** - Let’s pray and ask God to help us follow His amazing plan for our life. Let’s also pray that God will remind us that He cares for us, no matter what!

**Pray**

## **Closing**

**Say** - Zacchaeus sure wasn’t the popular guy in town. The religious leaders were not fans of Zacchaeus at all. Jesus came along and noticed Zacchaeus. He didn’t call Zacchaeus out to embarrass him; He called him out in love. Jesus loved Zacchaeus. He felt his pain. Jesus knew Zacchaeus felt rejected and worthless. Jesus also knew that Zacchaeus had potential! He called him out of the tree to a better life. When Zacchaeus came out of that tree and followed Jesus, everything changed. It was the best decision he ever made. Jesus knows exactly where you are, and He is calling you out in love. Jesus sees your potential. He is calling you to a better life. It’s your choice. Will you follow Him? When you follow God’s game plan for your life, everything changes. What are you waiting for? It’s the best decision you’ll ever make! Thank you for coming. I will see you next time!

**PART 1...**Zacchaeus was a tax collector, which means he took some of everyone’s money and gave it to the Roman government. People didn’t like Zacchaeus very much because he was known to be very dishonest.

One day, Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was nearby teaching. He wanted to get a good look at this man he had heard about. He had heard all about how Jesus heals, loves, and tells people all about God. When he arrived, he saw a huge crowd surrounding Jesus. But Zacchaeus had a “little” problem - he was very short. He couldn’t see Jesus over all the people.

So, Zacchaeus had an idea. He found a tree that was nearby and began to climb it so he could get a better view of Jesus. Well, while he was in the tree, Jesus saw him. Jesus called him by name: “Zacchaeus, come on down from there. I must come to your house as a guest today.”

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**PART 2...**The religious people who were there couldn’t believe that Jesus would actually go to Zacchaeus’ house. They didn’t like Zacchaeus at all because he was a tax collector. They saw Jesus at Zacchaeus’ house and said, “How could Jesus possibly hang out with THAT man? He’s a big sinner!”

Jesus was not impressed with the religious people. They were supposed to be the ones sharing the love of God, yet they were treating Zacchaeus as if he didn’t even matter. Jesus said, “I have come to save lost people like Zacchaeus!” He was teaching the religious people that if they really wanted to do God’s will, they would show love to people like Zacchaeus, instead of ignoring them and treating them like they didn’t even matter.

**FOR**

**!**

**KNOW**

**THE**

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**!**

**HAVE**

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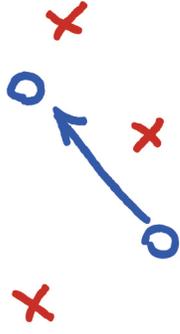
**HOPE.**

**JEREMIAH  
29:11**

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ when nobody else will

No matter how \_\_\_\_\_ you are, Jesus has a \_\_\_\_\_ for you

When you \_\_\_\_\_ His plan, everything \_\_\_\_\_



Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ when nobody else will

No matter how \_\_\_\_\_ you are, Jesus has a \_\_\_\_\_ for you

When you \_\_\_\_\_ His plan, everything \_\_\_\_\_

