



## GOD IS ALREADY UP TO SOMETHING GOOD: WHAT MATTERS MOST?

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“The testimony of Scripture is very clear: God is up to something good in this world, in our communities, and in our unique lives. The primary burden of our lives is not to persuade or coax or cajole God to do something good, as if he was disinterested or reluctant. Rather, it is to pay prayerful attention to the good work God is already doing.”

Randy D. Reese and Robert Loane, *Deep Mentoring: Guiding Others on Their Leadership Journey* (IVP, 2012) p. 99.

### Welcome and Introductions...

#### Conversation #1

Where do we see and discover in Scripture this assumption that *God is already up to something good*?

#### Break Out Conversation....

- What is standing out to you from the discussion you just heard?
- Are there Scripture references that catch your attention around this topic?

## Conversation #2

**What does this assumption mean practically in our lives and ministries? Why is this so important?**

“Important in any community of faith is an ever-renewed sense of expectation in what God is doing with our brothers and sisters in the faith. We refuse to label the others as one thing or another. We refuse to predict our brother’s behavior, our sister’s growth. Each person in the community is unique; each is specially loved and particularly led by the Spirit of God. How can I presume to make conclusions about anyone? How can I pretend to know your worth or your place?...

A community of faith flourishes when we view each other with this expectancy, wondering what God will do today in this one, in that one. When we are in community with those Christ loves and redeems, we are constantly finding out new things about them. They are new persons each morning, endless in their possibilities. We explore the fascinating depths of their friendship, share the secrets of their quest. It is impossible to be bored in such a community, impossible to feel alienated among such people.”

Eugene Peterson, *Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society* (IVP, 2019) p. 176.

### *Break Out Conversation...*

- *What stands out?*
- *What factors discourage living with a sense of expectation in what God is doing?*

## Closing Conversation

**Where might the Spirit be nudging us to cooperate with Jesus and what he is already up to in the world, in our communities, and our particular lives?**