

## Talk It Over

*Questions are prepared each week and are designed to prompt insights, questions, and the life experience of each listener. If these are used immediately following the sermon, it would be much the same as what was done in Israel at the time of the early church.*

### Discuss

1. How do you think the people of Isaiah's day would have received his message that Assyria was an agent in God's hands used to bring about his purpose of the nation of Israel? In what ways would this message have been offensive? In what ways would it have been comforting?
2. How does Jesus' life illustrate the fact that God has a plan for our lives? How does Jesus' life show that both triumph and tragedy can be conformed into the goodness of God's plan?
3. What do you think Paul meant by his statement in Romans 8:28 -- "*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose*"? What do you think Paul does not mean by this statement?
4. How have you seen the plan of God uniquely operational in your life? Can you give an example of how you have seen a triumph or a tragedy being conformed by God to serve a greater good?
5. How does the concept of "God with a Plan" invite us to relax and more freely and fully live into our present circumstances? Where and how do you need this awareness of God to shape your outlook on life?

