



# IMMANUEL CHURCH

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**Conversation Starter:** The Smelly Elephant  
January 15, 2017

**Opening Questions:**

- Share about a time in your life that things didn't go according to plan. It doesn't have to be real heavy or anything, but how'd you respond? What went through your heart and mind?
- Josh talked about a town called Disville. Have you ever been a resident of a town with streets lined in disappointment, discontentment, and dissatisfaction? Why are so many adults okay living there?

**Looking at Scripture:**

- Read **Job 1-2**... What stands out to you most from these chapters? Are you surprised that God would allow such tragedy to happen to someone who is so faithful to him? How so?
- The satan means "the slanderer." What are the stories that you've been listening to about yourself lately that aren't true but are effective in holding you back? What things have happened that have caused you to wonder if you can trust God?
- Is there a difference between accepting the cards we've been dealt and becoming apathetic or cold? Are we supposed to be robots? What does it look like to be fully human (emotions and all) and still honor God? What's Job's example?
- Does it bother you that your life isn't supposed to be about you? Why does it for most of us? And how do we change our thinking to better make our lives about God?

**Application Questions:**

- The bottom line this week was: **YOUR PURPOSE MAY NOT FIT INTO YOUR PLAN.** Have you experienced moments where you clearly understood that? Can you venture a guess as to how often in your life your plan and your purpose contradict? What should we do to better align the two?
- Do you trust Jesus? When we're going through something difficult and it feels like the world is crumbling around us, what does trusting Jesus look like?
- Josh said God's favorite thing to do is play 52-card pickup. Why do you suppose that is? Do you see the idea of throwing the cards in the air as scary or healthy? Why?

*End your time together praying for one another; pray God helps everyone to accept His sovereignty and understands the bigger purpose in all this. Pray He helps us accept when things don't go according to plan and that we'd use those moments to honor Him.*