



Michael Jr.

Focus We each have a story of how God brought us to the place of making the game-changing decision to follow Him. God was working in us long before we knew Him to fulfill His purposes for us.

Open Do you have a favorite comedy show you watch?

Read Michael Jr. was really funny as he shared his journey of how he came to make his game-changing decision to follow God. He used the analogy of a house to illustrate salvation. Each person is like a house. Jesus is on the outside of the house, wanting to come in. He won't force His way in, but He's waiting for us to invite Him into our house.

Some of us want to keep Jesus on the front porch where we can tell Him what we need, but we don't want to invite Him in because our house is a mess. Others keep him in the front room to make them look good, but they haven't invited Him to move into the rest of the house. Jesus knows our house is a mess and that He's the only one who can clean it up. He's waiting for us to open up our whole house to Him.

Michael Jr. also explained from his story how God used the hard things in life to strengthen him and prepare him for his purpose in life. Michael couldn't read as a child—even into his teenage years. The devil's intent in this was to give him low self-esteem and cause him to lose hope. However, God used Michael's "handicap" for good because the skills he learned in coping with the inability to read are part of what he now uses in his calling as a comedian. God was working out His plans and purposes for Michael Jr. even before Michael knew God.

Talk

1. What was your favorite joke told by Michael Jr.?
2. Read Proverbs 17:22. Which of the following describe you?
 - a. I laugh often, several times each day.
 - b. I like to make others laugh.
 - c. I want to laugh more!
 - d. I sometimes “get in trouble” for the funny things I say.
3. What would you say to someone who is keeping Jesus on the front porch or only in the front room? Why is it important to let Him into our whole house?
4. Could you relate to Michael Jr.’s story of his struggle with reading? Have you had to overcome a difficult handicap? What did you learn in that struggle?
5. Can you see a thread in your own life of how God has been preparing you for your purpose, even before you knew Him? Encourage the group with your story about this.

Live

1. Ask God to show you if there are any “rooms” in your “house” that you have kept closed to Him. If yes, spend some time in prayer, committing all of your life to Him.
2. Ask Him to help you grow in understanding your purpose and what He created you to do with your life on this earth.

Pray

Thank You, God, for laughter. Thank You that we each have a story of Your faithfulness in our lives. Thank You for using the hard things in life to strengthen us and shape us. Thank You for creating us with a specific purpose in mind. And thank You, Lord, for wanting to have a close relationship with us.