**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

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**Date: Sunday, October 8, 2017**

**Sermon Title: Stewardship Series: Livin’ the Dream**

**Weird**

**Scripture: Romans 11:33 – 12:2 (NIV)**

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom andknowledge of God!
    How unsearchable his judgments,
    and his paths beyond tracing out!
**34**“Who has known the mind of the Lord?
    Or who has been his counselor?”
**35**“Who has ever given to God,
    that God should repay them?”
**36**For from him and through him and for him are all things.
    To him be the glory forever! Amen.

**12**Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. **2**Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**1 John 2:15-17(NIV)** Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. **16**For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. **17**The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

**1Peter 5:2-4 (NIV)** Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; **3**not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. **4**And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only)**

**Take Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding and my entire will, all I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace; that is enough for me. Amen.** *(Saint Ignatius of Loyola)*

**Basic Theme: *Chasing the American Dream is part of our culture. Livin’ the Dream consists of a house, car, white picket fence, marriage, 2.5 kids, and a good job to pay for it all. Work hard, pay your taxes, accumulate much, and leave a little something for your family when your time on earth is done. Many have sacrificed everything to achieve it only to discover that when they “arrive,” one question still looms… “Is there more to life than livin’ the dream?” What if Christians began chasing a different dream? How would our lives and our world change if our dream was to love deeply, serve humbly, forgive mercifully, give generously, and follow Jesus passionately?***

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): From the time we enter the world, we are measured and compared to others. We monthly examine where a new baby falls on the growth chart. Students are tested regularly to determine their academic level in comparison to their peers. We give awards and top salaries to the best and the brightest. And the cover of any magazine will confirm our desire to know, “Am I good enough? Do I measure up? Do I fit in?” However, those are questions posed by humanity, not posed by God. In fact, God wants just the opposite. He wants us to stand out, to be an example of a better way to live this earthly life in preparation for our eternal life. God is calling us to be weird in our decision-making, in our priorities, in our values.**

**So What? How do you measure your self-worth? Are you more concerned about how God sees you or how the world sees you? What change do you need to make in order to be weird in the eyes of the world but precious in the eyes of God? Are you willing to make those changes?**