

DISCOVER

Each topic will provide a scriptural foundation, the concepts underlying the topic, and questions for the students to demonstrate their understanding of the topic. It is anticipated that these will be taught in a small group setting and take approximately 45-50 minutes. You are free to modify the concepts taught into your own words, but actual scriptural references should be included. There is a student handout for each teaching module which also includes student assignments.

DEMONSTRATE

In preparation for this topic, think of examples of how Worship has impacted your own life and how it could be incorporated into your group's walk with the Lord. Suggested discussion questions are provided in the margin to assist you in going deeper.

DEVELOP

Each module will contain questions for the students to answer that should give you an opportunity to determine if the Key Considerations are understood.

DEEPER

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DISCERNMENT

The Disciple has a good understanding of the subject.

The Disciple has expressed ownership of the concepts.

The Disciple is integrating the concepts into his/her personal walk with Christ.

DAILY LIVING

A memory verse is provided at the end as a suggestion for them to practice and pray through each day.

LEADER OVERVIEW

Determining the will of God can be full of uncertainty. This lesson will explore the following questions:

How do we hear God's voice? Will he make me do something I absolutely detest? How do I know?

INTRODUCTION

There is a *you*-shaped hole in God's plan. God has prepared good things specifically for you to do.

There is no set formula for discovering God's will. But let's look at some ways we can look for clarity in this area.

Biblical Guidance

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised – look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said." And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew – a bowlful of water. Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece. This time make the fleece dry and the ground around covered with dew." That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew (Judges 6:36-40).

The Opinion And Counsel Of Others

Listen to counsel and accept discipline, That you may be wise the rest of your days. Many plans are in a man's heart, But the counsel of the LORD will stand (Proverbs 19:20-21).

Especially listen to older, wiser believers who know you well. If many of these people encourage you in a certain area, pay attention. Maybe God is speaking to you through them.

Gifts And Abilities

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit,

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Do you think God would ask you to do something contrary to his Word?

How do you choose who you will go to for wise counsel?

What are some of your gifts and abilities?

and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:4-12).

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).

Opportunities And Situations

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them (Ephesians 2:10).

Desires For Good

Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart (Psalm 37:4).

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:1-2).

Pay attention to your desires. A person God prepared for missionary service may have a strong interest in cultures or in travel. Desires may be God's way of directing you.

Nothing Wrong With Initiative

That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one

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Has God presented you with any opportunities or situations that you can use for His glory?

thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:10-14).

Taking steps of faith in one direction can help us affirm God's will as he either redirects us or confirms the direction we take. Doors will open or close as we step out to act because we desire to serve God.

Do You See A Need?

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (1 John 3:17).

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:13-16).

When Cam Townsend met people who did not have the Bible in their mother tongue, God called him to learn their language and translate the Bible. He later founded what is now the Wycliffe Bible Translators.

God Can Be Direct

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith (Hebrews 11:7).

In her book on God's guidance, *A Slow and Certain Light*, Elisabeth Elliot includes angels, dreams, audible and visible signs, and prophecies as ways that God guided in the Scriptures. Sometimes God may guide you in a more direct way even today.

LIVING GOD'S WILL

How do we get started living God's will for our lives? Try these three things to help you find out what God's will is for your life.

1. Start Small

Start small to investigate how we might be used to reach the world. Our small efforts do matter. We belong to the God of the "mustard seed," who takes the smallest of actions and makes them significant

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Did you ever notice a need and have a strong desire to do something to "fix" it?

in his economy. Take steps of faith where you have pursued some of the things we talked about and now see opportunity in front of you.

2. Start With Where You Are

God will use you right where you are. You don't have to "go somewhere" to reach some milestone before He will use you. Remember, God does not want your sacrifice as much as He wants your obedience.

Think of some way God can use you right now.

3. Start Now

"These are good ideas. I'll have to try them out some day when I have the time."

We will never find out where else God might have us if we procrastinate and never ask. If we are to grow in our vision of God, his world, and our part in it, we need to make it a priority. We need to start today.

Make a plan to start doing some of those "someday" things.

DISCUSSION

After this lesson, is there anything you feel the Holy Spirit might be leading you to do in obedience to follow God's will for your life?