

Timeless Truths for Modern Disciples

3. How Do I Know God's Will?

PROVERBS 3:5-6; PROVERBS 11:14; PSALM 37:4

LESSON OVERVIEW (FOR THE LEADER)

This lesson continues our Timeless Truths for Modern Disciples series by addressing one of the most important skills a disciple can develop: **learning to discern God's will.**

Every disciple faces decisions, both large and small. Some decisions affect a single day, while others shape the course of a lifetime. Learning to seek and follow God's will is essential for faithfully following Jesus.

The main point of the lesson is that God's will becomes clearer when we stop leaning on ourselves and learn to trust Him.

The lesson emphasized three important truths:

- **Separation** from our own understanding and competing voices.
- **Saturation** in God's truth and presence.
- **Practicing** a lifestyle of seeking God before making decisions.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP NOTES

If children are present, involve them intentionally throughout the group.

Before beginning, assign one child to be the "Kid Reporter." Let them know their job is to listen carefully because at the end of the gathering they will share the most important thing they learned.

Provide children with a Listening Sheet and encourage them to complete it during the teaching and discussion. They may write, draw, or do both depending on their age.

Also encourage children to draw a picture that illustrates the main lesson. At the end of the gathering, give them an opportunity to show and explain their drawing to the group.

Ice Breaker

"What is the biggest decision you've ever had to make?"

TRANSITION:

"All of us face decisions in life. Some are small and some are life-changing. This lesson explores how disciples can learn to seek God's will and trust Him to guide their path."

READ PROVERBS 3:5-6

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it often difficult to trust God instead of leaning on our own understanding?
2. What are some examples of "leaning on our own understanding" when making decisions?
3. The lesson emphasized setting aside both our plans and the plans others have for us. Why can that be difficult?
4. Read Psalm 37:4. What do you think it means to "delight yourself in the Lord"?
5. Why do prayer, solitude, fasting, and Scripture help us gain clarity when seeking God's will?
6. Can you think of a time when God made your path clear after a season of seeking Him?

KIDS' QUESTION

1. When you need help making a decision, who do you trust to help you, and why?

Prayer Time

LEADER INSTRUCTIONS

- Leader, as you begin the prayer time, explain to the group that tonight we want to slow down and genuinely seek the Lord together, not just rush through a closing prayer.
- On the next page is a list of prayer prompts based on this lesson. If you want, you can cut these out into individual strips of paper with one prayer prompt on each, and put those prayers in a basket.
- Pass the basket of prayer prompts around the circle and invite anyone who is willing to pray to take one.
- Let everyone know there is no pressure to pray out loud, and children are welcome to participate too.
- Encourage people to quietly read their prompt and begin thinking about how they want to pray when the time comes.
- Begin the prayer time yourself by leading a short opening prayer that helps the group focus on God, become calm and attentive, and invites the Holy Spirit to guide the time.
- Then leave space for others to pray one at a time using their prompts.
- Don't be afraid of a little silence between prayers.
- When it feels like the prayer time is naturally slowing down, close by thanking God for hearing His people, praying for the needs that were shared, and asking God to deepen our love for Him and strengthen our faith in Him throughout the week.

Before dismissing, invite the Kid Reporter to share the most important thing they learned. Then allow any children who would like to do so to show their drawings and briefly explain them to the group.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Pray that God would help us trust Him with all our hearts.

Pray that God would teach us not to lean on our own understanding.

Pray for wisdom to recognize God's will in everyday decisions.

Pray for those in our church who are facing major life decisions right now.

Pray for young people who are making decisions about school, careers, and their future.

Pray for parents as they make decisions for their families.

Pray for marriages in our church, that husbands and wives would seek God's will together.

Pray for our pastor as he seeks God's direction for our church.

Pray for our church leaders, that they would make decisions with wisdom and humility.

Pray for those who feel confused or uncertain about what God wants them to do.

Pray for patience during seasons when God's direction seems unclear.

Pray for a deeper hunger for God's Word as we seek His wisdom.

Pray for a greater desire to spend time alone with God in prayer.

Pray for courage to obey God when His will is difficult.

Pray for people who are struggling to surrender their own plans to the Lord.

Pray that God would help us recognize when our flesh is influencing our decisions.

Pray for discernment to distinguish between God's voice and our own desires.

Pray that we would delight ourselves in the Lord above all else.

Pray for people who are seeking guidance about jobs, finances, or housing.

Pray for students who are making important decisions about their future.

Pray for wisdom to seek and receive godly counsel.

Pray for protection from ungodly influences and worldly advice.

Pray that God would help us trust Him even when we cannot see the whole path ahead.

Pray that our church would become a people who consistently seek God's will before making decisions.

Pray that God would make our paths straight as we acknowledge Him in all our ways.

Kids' Listening Sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

TODAY'S BIBLE PASSAGE(S):

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I LEARNED:

A WORD I HEARD TODAY:

Word: _____

What does it mean?

SOMETHING I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND:

DRAW A PICTURE OF WHAT YOU LEARNED (ON THE BACK):