



TALK IT OVER

How Do I Know I'm Following God's Will?

Hey God! - Week 3

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Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the questions provided or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions toward the end of the document.

Scriptures

James 1:5 (NLT); Philippians 4:6–7 (NLT); Psalm 119:105 (NLT); Proverbs 19:20 (NLT); Proverbs 12:15 (NLT); Psalm 139:23–24 (NLT); Psalm 37:23–24 (NLT)

Questions

1. God's universal will is the same for all of us! First and foremost, he wants everybody to be in a relationship with him through faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus for our sins! Psalm 37:23–24 (NLT) says, *"The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the LORD holds them by the hand!"* How do we enter into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ? According to Psalm 37:23–24, what are the benefits of knowing that we are following God's universal will?
2. God's unique will is different for each of us! Should I go to college? What should I do for a career? Should I marry this person? How do we discern God's unique will for our lives? James 1:5 (NLT) says, *"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking."* Philippians 4:6–7 (NLT) says, *"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus!"* What do the two passages promise if we pray for wisdom to discern God's unique will for our lives? How do we experience the peace of God?
3. God's Word gives us illumination and guidance for our path! Psalm 119:105 (NLT) says, *"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."* What role should God's Word

play in our lives? Proverbs 3:5-6 (NASB) says, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”* What benefits can we expect through disciplined meditation on God’s Word? Discuss how Scripture is a filter through which we can “pour our decisions” and discern God’s perfect will for us.

4. Proverbs 12:15, 19:20 (NLT) says, *“Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.... Get all the advice and instruction you can, so you will be wise.”* As we seek God’s will when making decisions, it’s wise to begin with Scripture (being aware that God’s will never contradicts His Word)! Then talk to people who: 1) know Jesus better than you, 2) know the topic better than you, and 3) know you really well! Share a time when getting advice and instruction helped you make a better decision. Specifically, how did Scripture and/or wise input from others help you know you were following God’s will when making your decision?
5. Psalm 139:23–24 (NLT) says, *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.”* Why did David ask the Lord to test him? What attitude did David have before God with regard to his own heart and motives? What role do our motives play in following God’s will? Discuss how searching our motives results in better discernment of God’s will.
6. God rewards those who earnestly seek Him! Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) says, *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’* Some steps we can take in seeking God’s will include: 1) prayer, 2) spending time in God’s Word, 3) seeking wise input, and 4) searching our motives. Then we can go forward with confidence (while being aware that confidence does not equal certainty)! What steps can you improve on as you seek God’s will? What is the first step on a new path you can take with confidence this week (while being aware you’ll discover more of God’s will along the way)?!

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you’ve learned today?*

Small Group Action Steps

1. Consider taking the Group Health Assessment in your small group to see how your small group is balancing the five purposes for life! Click here to take it and get suggested next steps for each purpose: <https://saddleback.com/connect/smallgroups#spiritualCheckup>
2. Did you know that Saddleback produces many new small group studies each year? Visit <https://saddleback.com/studies> to see Saddleback’s ever-growing library of group curricula.