

LESSON EIGHT: How to Know the Will of God

SESSION TWO

TO THE LEADER/FACILITATOR

To help you be more effective in leading your small-group discipleship study, we have prepared the **General Leadership Guide** to help steer you through the basics of facilitating a small-group study. If you have not already done so, please read the Guide.

ABOUT THIS SESSION

During this series of sessions, Pastor Adrian Rogers provides biblical insight in how to know the will of God in our daily lives. Nothing can be more important to one's Christian walk than to know that we remain in step with our Lord as we endeavor to serve Him. This session will expose six specific myths that often confuse our understanding of the will of God in our personal lives.

PREPARING TO LEAD/FACILITATE THIS SESSION

Read through the **Session Guide**, and watch the video in advance of the session. Review the **Additional Scripture to Study** at the end of the **Guide**, along with the suggested **Personal Application**. Make sure you print out enough copies of the **Student Handout** which mirrors this **Leader's Guide**.

CONDUCTING THE SESSION

At the beginning of the session, read the **Introduction** to your group, then open discussion by asking the **Reflection Questions** before viewing the video segment. After viewing the video together, you may want to ask for comments before next leading your group through the **Amplification and Discussion** section. Feel free to add your own commentary if needed, but be cognizant of time and do not personally dominate the session. As you read through the **Amplification** section, engage your group by using the provided **Discussion Questions** to stimulate additional dialogue.

As you prepare to conclude the session, review the **Personal Application** for the week and encourage participants to engage in the suggested activity, as well as to read and study the **Additional Scriptures to Study** section. The **Additional Scriptures to Study** section contains questions or reflections intended to guide participants in their respective personal studies. This is best presented as a positive activity designed to help everyone in the group to grow spiritually through the week (as opposed to being presented as homework).

Allow participants to share prayer requests and lead your group in prayer using any of the suggested formats in the **General Leadership Guide**. Remember to provide an atmosphere of confidentiality within the group as participants share.

LESSON EIGHT | SESSION TWO

INTRODUCTION

In this session, Pastor Rogers exposes six myths that serve to confuse our understanding of how to discern the will of God in our personal lives. He will also begin to explain more of the requirements associated with God's provisional will.

OUR KEY PASSAGE

Acts 9:6 "So he, trembling and astonished, said, 'Lord, what do You want me to do?' Then the Lord said to him, 'Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'"

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What, in your understanding, are some of the ways that God reveals His will in our lives?
- Do you feel it is, or has been, difficult for you to discern God's will in your life? What do you think may have served to hinder, or helped you to discover, His will?

PRESENTATION OF VIDEO CLIP OF: “How to Discern the Will of God”**AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION**

If He is your Lord, there will be no rebuttal, no refusal, no rival. —**Adrian Rogers**

Amplification: Pastor Rogers outlined six myths concerning the will of God. They were:

1. The “Map Myth” – That God will provide a road map of His will for you.
2. The “Misery Myth” – That if you do His will, it will result in pain and difficulty.
3. The “Missionary Myth” – That God’s will is only for a select group of people.
4. The “Miracle Myth” – That something dramatic must take place in your life in order to reveal God’s will.
5. The “Missed-It Myth” – That you missed God’s will, and it is too late to ever fulfill it.
6. The “Mystery Myth” – That God hides His will and challenges you to discover it.

For Discussion: In what ways may you have fallen victim to any of these myths? Is there any one particular myth that has plagued your life more than another? Explain.

Amplification: Many people struggle to know the will of God in their lives, and much of that struggle may be traced back to a lack of faith. Pastor Rogers identified the first principle in knowing God’s will is to understand that His guidance is promised. To accept God’s promise of guidance is an act of faith. “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). The Lord and His promised guidance for us is not some figment of man’s religious imagination but is what Jesus Himself promised. “When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come,” (John 16:13). We can choose to either believe in the things of the world because we can see and touch them, or we can accept by faith His promised guidance which often flies in the face of the ways of the world.

For Discussion: How would you counsel someone who is making a radical decision for their lives that appears to be outside the norms of the world or of common-sense behavior? How would you respond to a claim that “God has told me to do this?”

Amplification: The second principle of knowing God’s will is to understand that guidance is provisional. The Lord will not reveal His will to those unwilling to receive His guidance. The Lord knows what is in a man’s heart, and therefore responds to each of us, accordingly. “But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man” (John 6:24,25). Too often we ask God to bless the plans we have made after-the-fact, instead of asking Him what He would have us do before we act. Being willing to “do it God’s way” is the first step in understanding that the Lord’s guidance is provisional.

For Discussion: Would you be willing to share with your group if there has ever been a time in your life when you might have engaged in a great plan for something, only to discover you left God out of the plan? How did that manage to take place? What did you do about it? What did you learn from the experience?

Amplification: In addition to being willing to know the will of God, we must also approach knowing His will with an attitude of meekness; meaning the desire to be submissive and teachable before the Lord. Pastor Rogers said, “If He is Lord, there will be no rebuttal, no refusal, no rival.” How many times have we desired to learn and participate in God’s will for our lives,

only to be thwarted by inner arguments, a spirit that just chooses not to obey, or by other worldly distractions?

For Discussion: How do you suppose God must feel when one of His children pleads for knowledge of God's will for his life, but harbors in his heart greater devotion to the things of the world? (Consider the story of the Rich Young Ruler in Luke 18:22, 23.)

PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week in your personal devotions, take time to praise and thank the Lord for His mercy and patience. Ask Him to specifically direct your steps, but be certain there is a determined spirit of obedience when you do so.

GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

Suggested group prayer – “Jeremiah prayed, ‘...the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps. ...Correct me, but with justice; not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing.’ Help us, Lord, as needy people, to know how to walk in Your steps.”

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

The word “meek,” or “humble,” implies submissiveness, or a teachable spirit. God will teach any person His ways if that person is truly willing to learn and obey.

Psalm 25:9 “The humble [‘meek’ - KJV] He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way.”

As you meditate upon this verse, is your devotion and intimacy with God such that He can guide you with His eye, or does He have to get your attention in more direct and painful ways?

Psalm 32:8 “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.”

The story of the Rich Young Ruler is preserved in all three of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 19:16-22; Mark 10:17; Luke 18:18) which signals its importance in the teachings of our Lord. Read one or more of these passages and determine why it was that this religious young man, desirous of following Jesus, was unable to bring himself to obedience.

Matthew 19:21, 22 “The young man said to Him, ‘All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?’ Jesus said to him, ‘If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.’ But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”

ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- Erik Raymond, “Chasing Contentment: Trusting God in a Discontented Age,” (Crossway, 2017)
- Lewis Sperry Chaffer, “He That Is Spiritual,” (Moody, 1918)
- William Law, “A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life,” (Paulist Press, 1978)

AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

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