

Topic: God's Will

Name: "Finding Life's Road"



The purpose of the meeting: for teens to learn how to seek God's will for their lives.

Games:

You can play one or both games depending on the time:

Treasure Hunt

Hide a treasure (like candy) somewhere in the room/building. Then give a clue that will lead them to point #1. There they will find a new clue (note) that will take them to point #2 and so on until they reach the treasure itself.

The Great Swami

Have each of the teens write down a different question about the future. These can be fun questions like, "Will Josh ever learn to play the guitar?" Or, "What will I get for my birthday?" The notes should be folded in half, then put into a box or a hat. Introduce a special guest – the "Great Swami" - who comes out with a towel wrapped around his head like a turban. The Great Swami can guess the questions without reading them and give the answers. Swami takes the first note without unfolding it, puts it to his forehead and answers the question. He then unfolds the note and reads the question he has just answered. This trick will amaze the kids.

The secret of the trick is this: the first question the Swami answers is his own (made up) question. Then, he unfolds the note to pretend to read the question, but actually repeats his own question that he has just answered. The real question in the note he has opened he will answer next and then "read" when he opens a second note. Thus, by putting the note to his forehead, he holds the question he has just read in his mind and gives the answer to it. It requires some practice for Swami to say the answer to the previous question while reading a new question to himself, and to remember the wording of what he has just read.

QUESTIONS

To help the leader prepare, **possible** answers are given after each question in italics. The purpose of the discussion is for the young people to express **their** thoughts. Leaders should mostly share their ideas at the end of the discussion.

1 What are some areas where people want to know God's will (write down their answers)?

Future education; careers; where to live; important relationship problems; marriage, etc.

2. What does "God's will" mean? What does it include?

It is what God wants to see happen, or what He sees is best for us or best for His purposes; it can include our actions or our plans.

3 Does God have a concrete plan for each person? For every situation? How specific are His plans, and why do you think like you do?

This is a difficult question about God's sovereignty! It is possible that He has a general plan, that He also gives us some choices, and/or that sometimes His will is more specific than other times.

4. How can we know God's will (write down the kids' answers)?

Pray; ask advice from others; read God's Word; try to listen to the Spirit; feel a certain peace or strength about a decision.

5. What keeps us from knowing God's will?

Not asking Him; being too busy; being afraid we won't like His will; sometimes there is no specific answer, the believer is given the choice

6. What are some wrong ways people use to find out God's will?

Fortune-telling; horoscopes; relying on feelings or coincidences without considering what the Bible says first.

7. Can we ever know God's will for certain? Why do you think that?

Sometimes, yes: if it is written clearly in the Bible; Sometimes no, or sometimes only later when we look back. God wants His children to live by faith.

8. How did Jesus know God's will? Does that help us?

He had a relationship with the Father; had fellowship with Him; spent time alone with God; knew His voice; knew His words in Scripture.

9. How do you feel when people say, "God told me ..."? What do they mean by this?

Did God really speak, or did the person just imagine it?

God can lead by His Word, other people, circumstances, His inner Spirit, etc.

WRAP-UP:

1. Understand what is meant by "God's will"

There are three types of His will.

- God's sovereign will: what He has already said will happen without fail. For example: Jesus is coming; one day there will be a new heaven and a new earth
- God's moral will: This is how we are to live. For example: we must not lie.

The Bible reveals these two expressions of God's will to us.

- God's will concerning our specific life: His purpose, power, and plan for our lives. For example: what kind of work I should do, where I should live, who I should marry, etc. This is the part of God's will we usually ask Him about.

It is said that 90% of God's will is in His Word and only 10% needs to be sought-after.

2. God wants us to know His will more than we want to know it.

God's Word says:

*"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you." (Psalm 32: 8 NIV)*

In His time, He will reveal His will if we are open to receive it. We may not be ready to receive it right now, or He may be leading us even without our knowing it!

Pray, listen, then move in the direction you think He is telling you. Ask Him to redirect you if you are wrong. It's easier to steer a moving car than one that is just sitting! Like the treasure hunt clues we followed earlier, many times we can only act on a small amount of guidance at a time. We should do what we know right now and trust Him to provide the next step when needed.

Even if we think we've heard from God, we can be mistaken. We need to be careful and humble. We can say, "I think God might be saying..."; If something is God's will, often other Christians will confirm it. If we say 'God told me', we make it hard for someone to tell us they feel like God might be saying something else.

3. Recognize the degree of importance among decisions

Remember that not all decisions are equal.

- Moral decisions. They are sometimes hard to make, but not hard to understand. The Bible is usually clear about what is right and what is wrong.
- Non-moral decisions. Many questions arise daily, the answers to which are not very important and do not require intense thought. For example, should we eat an apple or an orange?
- Life-changing decisions. These questions are important and difficult. For example: what to study or what kind of work to do, whether to get married or not, how to spend money. For these, it's good to seek God's will.

4. Five aspects of knowing God's will (Using the acrostic "BOATS")

1. **B**ible. It helps us keep God's perspective on all of life.

Through Scripture, God shows us His moral will for the lives of all people.

However, the Bible does not usually guide us concerning our specific "life-changing" issues, although people have mistakenly used it that way.

Illustration: One young man, trying to find out God's will for who he would marry, read the verse, 'My grace is sufficient for you.' He thought God was telling him to marry a girl named 'Grace!'

2. **O**penness. Do we really have a desire to know God's will and are we ready to do it?

3. **A**sk God. Pray for God's will; fast; get on your knees; be humble. God said that if we need wisdom, we can ask Him.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." (James 1:5 NIV).

4. **T**hink. Use the reasoning God has given you.

As you evaluate the different sides of your decision, try making two columns, and writing down all the pros and cons in each column. See whether the pros "outweigh" the cons (in number and/or importance).

Relying on feelings isn't always helpful, but sometimes it can help. Which decision gives you more peace of mind or is more interesting to you?

5. **S**piritual people. What do spiritually mature people who know you well think of your decision?

God is pleased when we seek His will in our decisions, because it means He is important to us. We can move forward in confidence that He will lead us.