

Week 10

Following Your Calling: God's Will & Discipleship

God isn't hiding his will from you out of spite. This week is about discerning it — and becoming someone who can help others do the same.

Day 1 — Discerning God's Will

Optional Reading: Psalm 32 • Proverbs 3 • Romans 12 • James 1 • 1 Thess. 5 • Hebrews 5 • 1 John 4 • Colossians 1

"... we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will through all wisdom and spiritual understanding." (Colossians 1:9)

God doesn't hide His will and dare you to find it. He promises to instruct you – the only real question is whether you are postured to receive it.

Some things you already know for certain, right now – he wants your joy, your prayers, your gratitude. The harder things take longer, not because he's hiding them – but because discernment doesn't microwave. It's slow-cooked.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Psalm 32:8. List the things God says he will do in this verse.

2. Read Proverbs 3:5–6. Who are we to trust, and what are we not to rely on?

3. Read Romans 12:2. What are we to do so we are able to discern God's will?

4. Read James 1:5-6. What does this verse say to do if you lack wisdom? How are we to ask?

5. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. What three things does Paul list and what does he call them?

6. Read Hebrews 5:14. How does this verse say discerning is developed?

7. Read 1 John 4:1. What are believers told to do before believing in something, and why does this matter?

8. Read Colossians 1:9-10. How are we able to walk worthy of the Lord? How is that walk characterized?

Reflect: *What decision are you currently seeking God's will about, and who could you ask to pray it through with you?*

Journal: *What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?*

Day 2 — What Hinders Discovering It

Optional Reading: Isaiah 59 • 1 Peter 3 • Matthew 5 • Matthew 6 • 1 John 1 • Galatians 5 • 1 Peter 5

“You ask and don’t receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.” (James 4:3)

It's easier to believe God is silent than to admit you already know what he's said — and haven't done it yet. Wrong motives, unconfessed sin, a relationship you've let stay broken: these aren't God withholding direction. They're you, standing in your own way.

Move, and see how much clearer his voice gets.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Isaiah 59:1–2. What does this passage say separated Israel and God?

2. Read 1 Peter 3:12. Who does the Lord listen to and who is He against?

3. Read Matthew 5:21–26. What did Jesus tell the crowd to do before offering a gift on the altar in vs. 23-24?

4. Read Matthew 6:14-15. What does this verse tell us about forgiveness?

5. Read 1 John 1:6. What are we doing when we walk in sin/darkness but claim fellowship with Christ?

6. Read 1 John 1:8-9. What does this verse say if we claim to be without sin? What happens when we confess?

7. Read Galatians 5:17. What does this verse say the flesh and the Spirit are in conflict with?

8. Read 1 Peter 5:6. What does this verse say about what should we do? To whom should we do it? Why?

Reflect: *Does God seem quiet? David said “Search me, God, and know my heart...see if there is any offensive way in me...” – ask God to show you what is standing in the way of Him being more clear to you.*

Journal: What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?

Day 3 — From Disciple to Disciple-Maker

Optional Reading: Acts 8 • Colossians 3 • James 1 • Acts 18 • Acts 9 • Matthew 28 • Hebrews 13

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19–20)

Imagine for a second, what the world looks like if Jesus’s followers – listened, but never obeyed. What is that world like today? Discipleship was never designed to end with you. Every disciple is meant to become someone who disciples someone else — not because you've arrived, but because you're a step or two ahead of somebody who needs a guide.

You don't need to have this whole program mastered to start walking alongside someone earlier in the journey than you.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Acts 8:4. Who spread the gospel in this verse – trained leaders, or ordinary people? Hint: read vs. 1.

2. Read Colossians 3:16. Who are we to teach (make disciples)?

3. Read James 1:25. Who is blessed in this verse and why?

4. Read Acts 8:30-31. What does Philip ask the Ethiopian eunuch? What does the eunuch reply?

5. Read Acts 18:26. What do Priscilla and Aquila do for Apollos in this verse?

6. Read Acts 9:19-20. Soon after his conversion, Saul (later Paul) spent *some time/days** with the disciples *before immediately* publicly proclaiming Jesus. What is likely to have happened during this time?

7. Read Matthew 28:19. Is this verse written as a suggestion? How is it written?

8. Read Hebrews 13:5. What promise is given here?

Reflect: *Who could you begin investing in — even informally — the way someone has invested in you?*

Journal: *What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?*

* “days” is based on the translation in other Bible Translations. CSB says “some time.”

Day 4 — Leadership as Servanthood

Optional Reading: Proverbs 15 • Amos 7 • 1 Cor. 9 • 2 Cor. 4 • Luke 22 • John 13 • Philippians 2 • 1 Peter 5

“But it is not so among you. On the contrary, whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you will be a slave to all.” (Mark 10:43–44)

Jesus turns leadership on its head: not the one with the most authority, but the one with the most willingness to serve. Spiritual leadership that forgets this tends to curdle into control.

The measure of your leadership isn't how many follow you. It's how well you serve the ones who do.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Proverbs 15:33. According to this verse, what comes before honor?

2. Read Amos 7:14-15. Shepherding held a low civic status during this time. What does this verse suggest about who God chooses to use?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19. Even though Paul says he is free, what does he proclaim himself and why?

4. Read 2 Corinthians 4:5. What does Paul proclaim about himself?

5. Read Luke 22:26. What does Jesus say the greatest among you should become? And the leader?

6. Read John 13:12-14. Washing feet was culturally held for the lowest ranking servant, but how is Jesus referenced by his disciples?

7. Read Philippians 2:3. What does this verse say to do “in humility”?

8. Read 1 Peter 5:2–3. What instructions are given to shepherds/elders in these verses?

Reflect: *Where has God given you some form of influence — at home, work, or church. When you stand before God and he asks how you stewarded your influence — can you say you lead with a servant’s heart or with a selfish heart?*

Journal: What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?

Day 5 — Saying Yes Before You Know the Details

Optional Reading: Isaiah 6 • Genesis 12 • Hebrews 11 • Matthew 9 • Luke 5 • Acts 8 • Acts 9

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Who will I send? Who will go for us?’ I said, ‘Here I am. Send me.’” (Isaiah 6:8)

Isaiah said yes before he knew the assignment. Abraham left before he knew the destination. Noah built for years before he ever saw a drop of rain. Ananias walked toward the exact man who'd been hunting people like him. None of them got the whole map first. They took the next step, and took it anyway.

That's still how this works.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Genesis 12:1. What three things is Abram told to leave?

2. Read Genesis 12:4. What does this verse say Abram did, and how old was he?

3. Read Hebrews 11:17-19. What did Abraham conclude God was able to do, that made his obedience possible?

4. Read Matthew 9:9. What two words does Jesus say to Matthew, and how does Matthew respond?

5. Read Luke 5:4-11. What had Peter already tried and failed at, and what does he do anyway “at your word”?

6. Read Hebrews 11:7. What did Noah build, and what had he not yet seen when he did it?

7. Read Acts 8:26-27. What instruction does Philip receive, and is he given any reason why before acting?

8. Read Acts 9:10. How does Ananias answer God? Was this before or after God told him what to do?

Reflect: *Is there a “yes” God’s been waiting on from you, even though you don’t yet see the full picture? You never see it until it’s in the rear view, and it’s never in the rear view until you say “yes.”*

Journal: What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?

Memorization: What verse this week impacted you in a way that you should commit it to memory?