

September 21st - September 26th , 2020



# Family Worship Guide

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**1 The plans of the heart belong to man,**

**but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.**

**2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes,  
but the Lord weighs the spirit.**

**3 Commit your work to the Lord,  
and your plans will be established.**

**4 The Lord has made everything for its purpose,  
even the wicked for the day of trouble.**

**5 Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord;  
be assured, he will not go unpunished.**

**6 By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for,  
and by the fear of the Lord one turns away from evil.**

**7 When a man's ways please the Lord,  
he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.**

**8 Better is a little with righteousness  
than great revenues with injustice.**

**9 The heart of man plans his way,  
but the Lord establishes his steps.**

**Proverbs 16:1–9.**



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## Devotion (Proverbs 16:1-9)

One dark night, the English Baptist pastor F.B. Meyer was traveling across the Irish Channel. The sky was dark. The clouds were so thick there was not a star in sight. The scene mesmerized Meyer. He walked up next to the captain and asked him, "How do you know Holyhead Harbor on so dark a night as this?" The captain smiled, eager to share the secrets of seafaring. The captain stretched his hands out and said, "'You see those three lights? Those three must line up behind each other as one, and when we see them so united we know the exact position of the harbor's mouth."

God's will is the same as these three lights. As we navigate life, it often seems like a starless dark night. There is no indication of where we should go. However like this captain navigating the Irish Channel, there are three lights to the will of God. Determining God's will can often cause our palms to sweat, however we can take heart that God's purposes will be accomplished because he is sovereign of all things. (Is 46:10) But, we are not privy to the plans of God. He has not given us that knowledge. Yet, he has a desire for you and everyone to follow him in obedience. He has revealed this in His word. He hasn't left us to our own interpretation of what it means to follow him in obedience. Jesus summed up what a "life lived to the will of God" looks like. Love God. Love your neighbor.

Therefore, when your palms are sweaty and you are fretting over the outcome of any decision, ask yourself: What has God revealed in his word? Does this help me to love God and my neighbor more?

*Memory Verse: "The heart of a man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." Proverbs 1:9*

## Discussion



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As a family discuss what your personal Bible reading has revealed to you about God's will for your life. Consider starting a Bible reading plan together.

### **Decision (pray)**

Spend time praying together as a family. Determine how you should respond to the discussion tonight. This is a great opportunity to teach your children how to pray. Below is an example of a guided prayer.

A - Adoration: tell God how amazing he is. (Ps. 66:3)

C - Confession: confess your sins and ask God for forgiveness. (1 John 1:9)

T - Thanksgiving: tell God what you are thankful for. (Ps. 69:30)

S - Supplication: share your needs with God. (Phil 4:6)

### **Catechism**

Q: Can anyone keep the law perfectly?

A: Since the fall, no human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly.



### **Discussion (Proverbs 16:1-9)**

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Theologian R.C. Sproul once said, "I do not want to drive across a bridge designed by an engineer who believed the numbers in structural stress models are relative truths." Daily we travel across bridges from will to will. We leave a situation and move on to another one, all the while searching to determine if we are traveling in the right direction, or if the direction we are traveling is a safe one. Stop for a moment and consider how many times you have received this advice, "Just follow your heart." The truth is, this advice looks really good in decorative writing on our dining room walls, or as a bumper sticker. However, spiritually it is terrible advice. Truthfully, your heart is an awful guide because it is as lost as you are. Your feelings change from day to day, situation to situation. If you built a bridge on your feelings, would you feel safe traveling over it?

We must have an objective standard by which we can determine what the will of God is for our lives. This is how we know that the bridge will be able to carry the weight of our uncertainty. Rest assured, even when you are certain, you are uncertain. Your feelings about a situation are not strong enough to carry your uncertainty. In fact, the moment you feel the bridge sway you will turn around. However, God's word is a steady foundation. It can sustain the weight of your fear. It can support you. We must use the Word as the standard by which we travel through life.

*Memory Verse: "The heart of a man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." Proverbs 1:9*

## **Discussion**

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What are some times that you remember following your feelings in a situation? Did your feelings ever betray you? How can you guard yourself to follow the standard of God's word?

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