

DECISIONS

DISCOVERING GOD'S
DIRECTION FOR MY LIFE



JUST TELL ME WHAT TO DO

SESSION 1

And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:17

Sometimes we wish the Bible had a chapter addressed specifically to our life situations—that “1 Steve chapter 2” told you which job offer to take, or that “Maddy, verse 15” gave you advice on the best college to attend. But God doesn’t give us detailed blueprints for life; instead, He has given us His Word with the principles we need to make good decisions no matter the situation. Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at what God *does* tell us about choosing the things that honor Him and becoming the people He wants us to be. You don’t get a book of the Bible with your name on it, but all of scripture is a guidebook from your loving Father who wants to work in your life!

LEADER NOTES

1. If your group is new, welcome newcomers. Introduce everyone. You may even want to have name tags for this first meeting.
2. Open your group with a brief prayer asking God for insight as you study. You can pray for specific requests at the end of the meeting or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during discussion.
3. Before you start this first meeting, get contact information for every participant. Take time to pass around a copy of the Small Group Roster on pages 102-103 or a blank sheet of paper. Ask someone to make copies or type up a list with everyone’s information and email it to the group during the week.
4. Whether your group is new or ongoing, it’s always important to review your values. On page 97 is a Small Group Agreement with



important values for sustaining healthy, balanced groups. Choose one or two of these values—ones you have not previously focused on or those you have room to grow in—to emphasize during this study.

5. The Small Group Calendar on page 98 is a tool for planning who will host and lead each meeting. Consider rotating hosts and leaders and take a few minutes to plan future meetings.

SHARE YOUR STORY

Begin your time together by using the following questions and activities to get people talking:

- What brought you here? What do you hope to get out of this group?
- Share briefly about one decision you are trying to make right now.



- We have a responsibility to seek God; what is God's responsibility to us (Verse 10)?
- How do we hide God's word in our hearts?
- List the verbs the Psalmist uses to describe his interaction with God's Word in verses 13-16. Do any of these describe the way you relate to scripture? Which one would you like to describe your relationship to the Bible?
- What does this passage teach us about how we can discover God's direction in our decisions? How does it reinforce the importance of who we are and what we are motivated by?

WATCH THE VIDEO

Use the Notes space provided on pages 110-111 to record your thoughts and questions as well as the things you want to remember or follow up on. After watching the video, have someone read the discussion questions in the Hear God's Story section and start the conversation.

HEAR GOD'S STORY

Read Psalm 119:10-16:

With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes! With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.



STUDY



One of the best ways to learn about the “who” God wants us to be and the “why” He wants for our decisions is by spending time in His Word. However, that doesn’t mean using the famous “close your eyes, open the Bible, and point to a verse” tactic, and it doesn’t mean looking up verses that support what you already want. The best way we can receive direction from the Bible is to know what it says before we face a big decision—to know the big themes, the major teachings, and what the Bible tells us about the character of God and His plan for the world.



If you have never read the Bible much before, it can seem overwhelming to get started, but a great way to get an overview of the biblical story is to read the “Essential 100”—100 chapters from Genesis to Revelation that can give you the big picture perspective of scripture. Visit <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/25-the-essential-100> to learn more.



•FOR• ADDITIONAL STUDY



Take some time between now and our next meeting to dig into God's Word. Don't overcomplicate this. Read the passage and make a few notes.

READ MATTHEW 7:7-11

1. What is required of us if we want to hear from God?
2. What is the promise in this passage if we take the initiative?
3. How does God's character lead us to trust his guidance?

READ EPHESIANS 5:15-20

1. Why does wisdom help us make the most of our opportunities?
2. What instructions does verse 19 give us? How does worship and focusing on God help us understand His will?
3. What is the role of gratitude in our decision making?

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Use these daily devotions for personal meditation and study:

DAY 1 // Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

REFLECT: This is part of God's primary will for you: joy, prayer, and giving thanks. Which of these do you need to make more a part of your life?

DAY 2 // Read Proverbs 16:2

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

REFLECT: Today, ask God to help you be honest about your motives. Where do you need His help doing things for the right reasons?

DAY 3 // Read John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

REFLECT: Jesus wants you to have an abundant life overflowing with joy and peace! Ask Him for the guidance you need to live life to the fullest in obedience to Him.

DAY 4 // Read James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

REFLECT: This is a huge promise! In what area of life do you need God's wisdom right now?





SESSION 1

DAY 5 // Read Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

REFLECT: Pray this slowly to God, asking for Him to shepherd you, equip you, and work in you. He is faithful and He wants to move in your life!

DAY 6 // Use the following space to reflect on what you learned this week and what God is saying to you.
