WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

Series Title: Acts in August – Part 4 of 4 – FINDING GOD'S WILL
Key Scripture: Acts 16:6-10
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/v/acts-in-august-part-4-finding-gods-will
Date + Speaker: August 25, 2024; Pastor Mark Scarr

Starter: How are you with directions/navigating? What resources do you use to get you from Point A to Point B? Why do you 'trust' them?

This study will help participants take a closer look at 'finding God's will'; essentially discerning His 'directions' for our lives.

Discussion (review and observation):

1. Read the Key Scripture. What words and phrases stand out to you and why?
2. On a scale of 0-10 how certain do you think Paul and his companions were in their 'next move'? Why?
3. Reread Acts 16:6b and 16:7b. What stands out to you about these phrases and why? How have you 'heard' the Holy Spirit/Jesus speak to you?
4. In general, how willing are you to abandon/surrender your plans/agenda to the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?

Diving Deeper (interpretation and application):

5. Point 3 from Pastor Mark's sermon states that 'Guidance from God flows from a RELATIONSHIP with Him'. Where, in your life, is your energy and attention focussed?
6. What sorts of behaviours and/or attitudes would need to change in your life to PARTNER with the Lord versus simply doing your own thing OR begging Him for revelation?
7. Discuss the Principle of Spiritual Momentum. (Be active as you look for God's open door….) Encourage members to reflect on the Scripture and on their own lives as they share.
8. Read Psalms 32:8, Isaiah 30:21 and Psalms 119:105. Scholars and pastors agree – Circumstances, the Holy Spirit and God's Word are 3 reliable

sources useful in discerning God's will for our lives. What sorts of issues can arise when we use one or the other source in isolation from the others? How should we handle a situation when there is a contradiction?

9. God is REALLY good at making Himself understood. Pray for one another as you close your time together. That those who are seeking His will for their next steps would fix their attention on Him, trust Him and be willing to obey His leading. (Read Psalms 51:12)

Leader's Tips:

1. *Guide participants to keep their responses brief so as many who wish may share. These review and observation questions give group members of all experience and comfort levels a chance to contribute. There will be ample opportunity for them to expand on their thoughts and feelings later in the study.*
2. *Again, there is no right and wrong. This provides all members a chance to reflect and share if they so desire.*
3. *These phrases may have come up when members were sharing their responses to question 1. You may also decide (based on your group) that this is actually a pretty deep question and can be asked later in the discussion time.*
4. *Depending on our personalities this can be VERY hard.*
5. *Have the members consider the amount of energy and attention they put into pursuing a potential spouse. Compare that to the amount of energy and attention paid to their relationship with their heavenly Father.*
6. *Recall/remind the group that Pastor Mark repeated passionately that seeking God's will isn't about us!! It's about Him!*
7. *This conversation can go a number of different ways as people build on one another's insights. One main takeaway from the sermon was that waiting and listening are not passive for a believer. We were not meant to stand, 'frozen' at the 'closed door'.*
8. *God DOES NOT contradict Himself while humans are notoriously VERY good at deceiving themselves and convincing themselves of the 'rightness' of their own plans.*

Additional Resources:



Additional resources appealing to those concentrating on emotional health and healing.
Have you made a series of poor decisions? Do you doubt your ability to 'hear' God as a result? Meditate on Hosea 10:12 and consider seeking wise, professional counsel to help you sort through your next steps.
https://christiancounsellingottawa.ca



Additional resources appealing to those concentrating on service, tasks, and activities.
What are next steps for your Connect Group? If your group is not yet serving individually or corporately is it time to seek God's will together around that?
https://www.woodvale.ca/serve
https://www.connectingstreams.com/



Additional resources appealing to those groups with a more studious or intellectual bent.
Verb tenses in Greek (language of the NT) are significant as, often, a verb translated into English was intended to keep on happening. It wasn't meant to communicate a 'one and done'. This fits with the 'momentum' teaching. Waiting and listening are not passive for the believer!
https://www.samstorms.org/all-articles/post/exegetical-insights-to-greek-verbs

Range lights for navigation. Pastor Mark likened the 3 sources to finding God's will to 'range lights' – lighthouses for navigational purposes.
https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/range%20light#:~:text=noun,line%20(as%20through%20a%20channel)