

SESSION 7: FOLLOWING GOD'S WILL

Welcome & Review Last Week's Homework/LIFE Starters: 15 minutes

Session #7 Teaching: What is God's calling for your life as a leader?: 10 minutes

This is a question many Christian leaders want to know but have no clue where to start to find the answer. We are drawn to the idea of knowing and pursuing our calling. That's why so many of us want to know that we're on the right path. The Bible offers great insight into God's plan and will for His people. The plan God has for your life can only be accomplished when we give the best of our time, efforts, gifts and focus to our specific task. God brings out the best in us when we give Him our best. In 1 Timothy 6:12, the Bible tells us, "Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses." Just as Timothy was focused and committed to God's call, and not distracted or distracted by those around him, we too should model this in our own lives. As you grow as a Christian leader, in your relationship with Christ and separate yourself from the distractions that hold you back from being related to Him, **it's only natural that you will want to give God your best.**

This process starts by really KNOWING HIM! If you are unclear about WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST, you may want to consider taking our Identity for Life study to really understand His love and purpose for your life. Ultimately, your purpose as a believer is to build the Kingdom of God. Your role in His Kingdom will require your natural gifts and talents. This will empower you to live a greater life in Christ. There's no way you can follow God's purpose in your life if you don't know who you are in Christ. Allow the Holy Spirit to dwell in you and draw you closer to Jesus. The Bible tells us that we will receive the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus and the eyes of understanding will be enlightened (Ephesians 1:17-18).

If we want to follow God's lead as you lead others, one of the most important things we have to do is trust God's judgment. In Proverbs 3:5-6, the Bible tells us, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Trusting God needs to be the first stepping stone on your faith journey. God had a plan for you before you were even born and His plans will always be greater and more beautiful than all your disappointments. We can follow His plan by believing that He has everything in control and that His dominion will guide us exactly where He wants us to go.

As a leader, you MUST continue to develop your OWN God-given talents AND develop those of your followers as well. These gifts will enable us through our lives and allow us to bless others. If we want to fulfill our calling, we must develop our God-given ability. In 2 Timothy 1:6-7, Paul told Timothy to "fan into the flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit of God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." Allow the Holy Spirit to work through you; praying that you will be enabled to do works that will glorify God without fear and according to His plan for us. The Bible very clearly says that the sons of God are led by the Holy Spirit in this life. Romans 8:14 says, "For all those who are led by God's spirit, these are God's sons." This is the most important verse. One of the greatest gifts God offers us is the privilege of being led by the Spirit of God.

Many people wonder how they are led by the Holy Spirit and how does the Holy Spirit communicate to all of us in this life? As children of God, we can expect to be led by the Holy Spirit which will provide us with the wisdom of God to make the right decisions and lead others well. Our ability to tap into our calling and the calling of those we lead is much easier when we make decisions based on the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit.

It is a constant struggle to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, and to not become distracted by the passing concerns and things of this world. But if we are aware of what can, and does, interfere with our walks with God, we can begin to take the necessary actions to prevent them. In 1 Chronicles 16:11, the Bible tells us, "Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His presence continually." Prayerfully seek God and ask Him to discern His calling for your life. Ask Him to give you faith and courage to follow Him wherever He leads you and then lead others well. This will enable you to follow God's greater call and better advance His kingdom on earth while also helping you lead others to do the same!

Small Group Discussion: 20 minutes

- Reread 1 Timothy 6:12 and how Timothy was focused and committed to God's call, and not distracted or distracted by those around him. Discuss how you should model this in your own lives.
- Do you have confidence in who YOU are in Christ? Do you understand your God-given gifts? What about the God-given gifts of those you lead?
- Are YOU modeling Proverbs 3:5-6 and trusting God? How do you model this?
- Are you being led by the Holy Spirit? Discuss specific examples of how you made decisions in your life that were prompted by the Holy Spirit.
- Now, rethink and discuss God's calling for your life.

Small Group Wrap-Up: 10 minutes

- What were the biggest take-aways and action items from your small group time?

Discuss This Week's Homework: 5 minutes

- Review the tips on the next page and discuss what new strategies can be implemented.
- Focus on the LIFE Journaling Method and it will give you more insights on how to be more patient. Review these practical tips on how to maintain more patience with your family. Bible Verses about God's Will
- God's Will about How to Be
- Be saved: "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:3-4)

- Be Loving: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." (John 13:34)
- Be Transformed: "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2)
- Be Sanctified (set apart): "For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion." (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5a)
- Be thankful: "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

SESSION #7

WK. 7 DEVO 1

Read 1 Timothy 6:11-21

Journal about God's challenge to Timothy to fight the good fight of faith. How does that apply to you?

L=Listen in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

F=Focus to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #7

WK. 7 DEVO 2

Read Ephesians 1:15-23

The Bible tells us that we will receive the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus awe will be enlightened.

L=Listen in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

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F=Focus to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

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SESSION #7

WK. 7 DEVO 3

Read Proverbs 3:1-10

If we want to follow God's lead as you lead others, one of the most important things we have to do is trust God's judgment. Are YOU trusting Him?

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SESSION #7

WK. 7 DEVO 4

Read Galatians 6

Journal about how you can become more consistent in your leadership and modeling of Christ.

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I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

F=Focus to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

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