

Bible Verses

Q1

Read John 21:3-13 in your Bible

Luke 5:4-5, 9-11 ESV - 4 And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." ... 9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Q2

Read Exodus 20:3-17 in your Bible

Matthew 22:36-40 NIV - 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37 Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Read Matthew 5:3-12 in your Bible

Galatians 5:22-23 NIV - 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Q3. Micah 6:8 ESV - 8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Colossians 3:17 NLT - 17 And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Q4. Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV - 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

“Divine Direction”

Out of the Blue- week #2

INTRODUCTION

After Jesus resurrection and appearance to them in Jerusalem, the disciples must have asked the question, “What now?” Jesus instructed His disciples to go to Galilee. That was home to them, and so they returned. But where was Jesus and what were they to do there? So they returned to what they knew, they fished. They were fishermen of course and they returned to what could be called their mundane, familiar way of life. It was into that place where Jesus appears out of the blue to give them divine direction. Most of us don’t want to miss God’s will for our lives. In this study we will consider how to go about finding it?

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

What is your most memorable fishing story?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Q1. Read John 21:3-13; Luke 5:4-5, 9-11

When the disciples returned from Jerusalem to Galilee they spent the night fishing, but their efforts were fruitless. Then they heard Jesus redirecting them and their nets were filled. When the same thing had happened in Luke chapter 5, what was their response (Luke 5:11)? Jesus demonstrated that they still needed to seek His divine direction, and He was still going to provide it.

When you are seeking direction from God, how do you typically expect to receive it?

Q2. Read Exodus 20:3-17; Matthew 22:36-40; Matthew 5:3-12; Galatians 5:22-23

God’s divine direction is not necessarily about the details, it is about understanding God’s purpose and following His ways. God’s Word reveals how we can follow His way. The first place we can look to find God’s ways is in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:3-17).

How did Jesus summarize the commandments in Matthew 22:37-39? How can you use these two parameters to gauge if you are doing God’s will?

Another place we can find God’s ways expressed is the Sermon on the Mount. What do you see in Matt 5:3-12 that helps you to know if you are in God’s will?

One more passage for us to read for guidance is the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. How can you apply this list to determine if you are in God’s will?

Q3. Read Micah 6:8; Colossians 3:17

Most of us are attempting to follow God’s direction in the particulars of our lives, like who we marry, where we live, and what job we take.

How did you involve God in some of the most significant decisions of your life? What was the result?

Although God can have specific “assignments” in your life, He also gives us a great deal of latitude in our choices so long as we are following His ways.

What are God’s basic requirements as presented in Micah 6:8 and Colossians 3:17?

If you are living in God’s ways by intentionally speaking and acting as His representative, there is little chance that you will be outside of His will.

Q4. Read Proverbs 3:5-6

One scripture that directly addresses the issue of knowing God’s will is Proverbs 3:5-6. Verse 5 begins by stating two conditions; that you trust in the Lord with all your heart and that you do not rely on your own understanding.

Have you ever faced a situation that was beyond your ability to make sense of and required you to place all of your trust in God? What was that process like for you, as you wrestled to understand and relinquish control to God? What was the most valuable thing you learned from that time?

The next verse tells us as we know and acknowledge God fully, our path will be made straight. So if we want to be on God’s path, we need to know him intimately, by spending time with Him through prayer and the study of His Word.

What do you think the difference is between reading the Bible to find personal guidance, and reading it for an intimate knowledge of God? Can you share with your group a time that you felt particularly close to God?

WRAP-UP

God wants to provide us with divine direction, but His concern is not focused on the details of the daily decisions facing us. Rather God wants us to follow his ways as He has made them known to us through His Word. God’s ways are revealed to us in passages like the Ten Commandments, Sermon on the Mount and Fruit of the Spirit. The real question is not so much, which job should I take, or who should I marry, but will I make God my priority in everything I do and walk in His ways? The good news is that when I walk in God’s ways, and make Him the focus of my life, He leads me to His will.

Memory Verse

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

- Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV

Challenge- Ask God to use one of the passages in Question 2 to reveal an area he would like you to grow in as you seek to know Him better and become the person He wants you to be.

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space)
