

**Growth Group Discussion Questions**  
**For Our Growth Group- On Line Meetings**  
**“Exploring Off The Map- Part 1**  
**“God’s Will- A Game Plan Not A Blue Print”**  
**Week of May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Summary- Exploring Off The Map! Life is an adventure, especially as a Christian! But the key abiding reality is: God loves you and me, and He is trustworthy to the max! Our response to Him must be... we place our trust in Him! That is the basis for all we do and believe and live out as Jesus Followers. So finding and following God’s Will, begins with this same kind of trust in the Lord! We saw what happened in Numbers 13, and 14, when a whole nation of people refused to trust God even refusing to follow Him into the Promised Land! God’s will is more of a game plan than a blue Print! And our aim should be to understand the House Rules, provided for us in God’s Word! So connecting with people and the Bible in our Growth Groups lets us work through how to respond in our lives with God’s Game Plan in mind! So much good stuff to talk about. Have fun, as we go exploring off the map!!**

**MY STORY**

**1.** Can you think of a time when you thought you had a good idea of what God’s will was for your life (or someone else’s life), only to discover later that he had something very different in mind?

**2.** Since God is all-knowing and all-loving, you would think we would choose to follow his will all the time but we don’t. What are some reasons so many people do this?

**DIGGING DEEPER**

**1.** Figuring out God’s will for our lives involves continually checking three major components – the Bible, wise counsel of others, and the inner promptings of the Holy Spirit. Below are some verses that shed additional light on each of these components. What do you learn from these passages about the role each of these elements plays in helping us determine God’s will?

**The Bible:**

**Psalms 119: 9-11, 97-100, 105, 165**

<sup>9</sup> How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. <sup>10</sup> I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. <sup>11</sup> I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

<sup>97</sup> Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. <sup>98</sup> Your commands are always with me and make me wiser than my enemies. <sup>99</sup> I have more insight than all my teachers for I meditate on your statutes. <sup>100</sup> I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts.

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

<sup>165</sup> Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.

### **Wise Counsel:**

#### **Proverbs 12:15**

<sup>15</sup> The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.

#### **Proverbs 13:10**

<sup>10</sup> Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

#### **Proverbs 15:22**

<sup>22</sup> Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

### **The Inner Promptings of the Holy Spirit:**

#### **Acts 20:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. <sup>23</sup> I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.

#### **John 16:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.

- a. Can you think of an example of a specific time in your life when each of these elements has helped you to discern God's will?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. What would you say or do if a friend continued to maintain that God was leading him down a path that you thought was contrary to Scripture and your wise counsel?

**Philippians 1:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup> so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

- a. Which of the things Paul prayed for would you most like others to pray for you to have or experience?

**Personal Applications:**

**1.** As you look at what's going on in your life right now, can you think of any situations where you are seeking to figure out God's will? What steps have you taken to figure it out?

**2.** Looking back on this week's teaching, what's most important for you to remember?