

Hot Topics

Knowing God's Will

Leader Guide

Theme: When you have a heart for God, you will desire to do what He wants you to do. As you seek to know the *unknown* plans for your life, such as what friends to have, where to go to school, or what type of person you will become, start with doing the *known* will of God. Follow His ways in the things that you already know He wants you to do such as showing love, offering forgiveness, seeking wisdom, tithing, being pure, and honoring your parents. Then, He will show you more in the areas that need more direction.

Note to Leaders: Knowing God's will can be difficult during any phase of your life, but it can seem especially difficult as a teenager. Talk with the girls about some of the specific rules found in the Bible (Exodus 20) and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of having a rule-based system for regulating behavior. Talk about why God gave us our own free will and why He doesn't just spell out for us what He wants us to do with our lives and how He wants us to live.

The Bible is pretty specific about some things that we should and shouldn't do as Christians, but what about the things the Bible doesn't specifically mention?

- Have you ever heard God speak?
- How did you know it was His voice? What are some ways God spoke to people in the Bible? Does God speak to people today? If so, how does God speak today?
- What are some ways we can know God's will?
- Do you think God wants you to know His will or do you think He's trying to create some kind of puzzle for you? Why do you think so?

Read Romans 14.

- What do you think "disputable matters" are? What are some "disputable matters" in churches today?
- What do you think Paul would say about the "disputable matters", we argue about today?
- Instead of judging other people, what should we do? What do you think verse 13 means?
- What things lead to peace?
- If you have a strong opinion about a "disputable matter" what should you do?

Read Romans 12:1–2.

- According to this passage, how do you know what God's will is?
- What does it mean to present your body as a "living sacrifice"? What does that look like?
- What does it mean to conform? Why is conforming a bad thing? How can you keep from conforming to the pattern of the world?
- What does it mean to "renew your mind"? How do you "renew your mind"?
- What does it mean to "test and approve" God's will?



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Read Colossians 1:9–12.

- Why do you think Paul was praying this prayer for the Colossian church?
- What does patience have to do with knowing the will of God? Do you think they're related? If so, how?
- How can you please the Lord?

Prayer: God, I entrust my life to You. I know that You know exactly what I need today and for the future. Help me to follow Your known will so that I do the things You have already made clear for me to do. Then I pray that You will reveal to me Your unknown will so that I will follow Your ways as I go through the rest of my life.

For more information see:

- *Choose: Steer Wide of Total Stupidity* by Kevin Johnson, Youth Specialties, 2008.
- *A Young Woman's Walk with God: Growing More Like Jesus* by Elizabeth George, Harvest House, 2006.
- *Thrive Teen Devotional: Take the Turn for God in Just 5 Minutes a Day* by Blaine Bartel, Harrison House, 2006.
- *Duplicate This! Showing Your Friends How to Live Like Jesus* by Andy Braner, Zondervan – Youth Specialties, 2008
- *Following Jesus into College and Beyond* by Jeff Baxter, Zondervan – Youth Specialties, 2009.

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For Student

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