

K N O W N

FINDING GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE

## WEEK 1

### How to Know and Do the Will of God

**Welcome.**

We are so  
glad that you  
are here!

#### Memory Verse

“I am the vine. You are the branches. Those who remain in me and I in them will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

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#### Main Point

There are 4 basic steps to knowing and doing the will of God.

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#### Opening Doors

Use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**Have you ever had a moment in life when you thought you had everything mapped out, only to discover that nothing you had planned was the best course of action? Share that experience with the group, along with any lessons you learned.**

It can be very unsettling to have a sense of certainty about direction in our lives and then have it suddenly disappear. It's in those moments that God often reveals His will for us.

This series we're beginning is designed to show us a radically new way to live life in which we are aware of God working all around us all the time. Whether you need to know God's will for a big decision or a small one, this series will help (Lord willing!). To begin, we're studying how to know and do God's will in our lives with 4 basic steps...

## WEEK 1

### How to Know and Do the Will of God

#### Digging In

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 22:37.

1. *The foundation of knowing and doing the will of God is to grasp that it's about a relationship, not religion.*

**What's the difference between loving God and following a religion?**

**Does it surprise you that loving God is something Jesus had to command? Why or why not?**

**The Great Commandment emphasizes loving God with all that we are. Why is this necessary? Is it possible to only partially love God? If so, what might that look like?**

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JAMES 1:5.

2. *The second step toward knowing and doing the will of God is asking the right question.*

**Would you rather be told what to do or have the wisdom to discern what's best to do? In what areas does God do the former, and in what areas does He do the latter?**

**What's the difference between asking, "God, what is your will for my life?" and "God, what is your will?" Why is this so important to understand and act on?**

## WEEK 1

### How to Know and Do the Will of God

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 5:19-20

3. *The third step toward knowing and doing the will of God is to recognize where God is at work around you.*

**Jesus was keenly aware of the Father's work around him. Where has God been at work around you? What has He been up to and why?**

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ISAIAH 64:8.

4. *The fourth step toward knowing and doing the will of God is to adjust our will to His.*

**What changes have you had to make in the past that cost you something significant? Looking back, are you grateful for how things went? Why or why not?**

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#### Taking it Home

**What areas of your life do you feel centered in the will of God? Why do you believe this?**

**What is one area of your life in which you believe you need to reconsider whether or not you are in God's will? Why?**

## WEEK 2

### Discovering Where God Is At Work Around Me

## Memory Verse

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*“Some nations boast of their chariots and horses, but we boast in the name of the LORD our God.”*

Psalm 20:7

## Main Point

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You can join in God's work around you.

## Opening Doors

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Use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What are some characteristics you'd expect God to look for in a person He calls to do His work in the world?

Have you ever been shocked to learn the background of a person who is now walking with Christ? How do you think people who have that kind of history feel when God first places a specific call to serve Him?

What does God's calling of unlikely candidates tell you about who He can and will use to accomplish His purposes? How does that relate to you?

God uses imperfect people with all kinds of history and hangups! It's one of the most difficult truths for us to accept. What we'll see in the story of Moses is that when we turn from a focus on ourselves and our abilities to a focus on God and His power, we will join Him in His work around us in a way that pleases Him.

## WEEK 2

### Discovering Where God Is At Work Around Me

## Digging In

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HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EXODUS 3:1-8.

1. *Acknowledge God is at work around you.*

Passages like this emphasize the holiness of God. What experiences have led you to sense the magnitude of God's holiness? How did you respond in that moment?

What is most typical for you: you notice God at work in the world around you on a daily basis, it would take a burning bush to get your attention, or you fall somewhere in between the two? Why?

Moses' identification as an Israelite meant that he no longer identified with the oppressive enslaver, but with those who needed to be freed. What change in identity do we undergo when we turn to Jesus? How does that change of identity impact your purpose in the world?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EXODUS 3:10-11 AND PHILIPPIANS 2:13.

2. *Accept God wants to work through you.*

When God spoke in Exodus 3:10, was the focus on God's authority and power or Moses' abilities? In verse 11 when Moses responded, was the focus on God's authority and power or Moses' abilities?

## WEEK 2

### Discovering Where God Is At Work Around Me

When was the last time something about your past caused hesitancy in saying "yes" to an opportunity God placed before you? What are some common excuses we think or say when opportunities to work with God are before us?

How does Philippians 2:13 encourage you when you struggle to accept that God wants to work through you?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EXODUS 4:18 AND JAMES 4:13-15,17.

3. Ask: *Where does God want to use me?*

Moses was aware of the place God wanted to use him. Where is help needed in your life? Why is it so easy to recognize where help is needed, but so difficult to recognize God wants to use us in those places?

How do you know if the Lord wants you to get involved in the work He is doing around you? Have you ever considered that it is a sin to not do something God wants you to do? Why or why not?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PHILIPPIANS 1:21-22 AND PSALM 20:7.

4. *Adjust your life from "me-centered" to "God-centered."*

## WEEK 2

### Discovering Where God Is At Work Around Me

What does the "me-centered" life think is the purpose in life? What does the "God-centered" life know is the purpose in life?

## Taking it Home

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What is one way you are currently joining God in His work?

What is one area where God is at work and calling you to join Him that you have been resisting? Why have you been reluctant to join Him in that?

How can we help each other better discover where God is at work around us?

## WEEK 3

### Deepening My Relationship with God

## Memory Verse

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*“Jesus says, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.” Matthew 22:37-38*

## Main Point

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God pursues a continuing relationship with you that is real and personal.

## Opening Doors

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Use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**What is the strongest relationship you've ever experienced? How did you feel in that relationship?**

**What is the best foundation for a healthy relationship? What happens to relationships with shaky foundations?**

We have all seen and experienced both healthy and unhealthy relationships. Earthly relationships can skew our understanding of relationship with God. However, it should be the other way around! His pursuit of us is the foundation of our relationship to Him and affects all other relationships in life.

## WEEK 3

### Deepening My Relationship with God

## Digging In

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HAVE TWO VOLUNTEERS READ 1 JOHN 4:9-10 AND ROMANS 8:38-39.

1. *Accept God's love every day.*

**What do we learn about God's love by considering He sent His only Son into the world?**

**From verse 10, which is the best way to understand love: our love for God or God's love for us? Why?**

**Of the things listed in Romans 8:38-39 that cannot separate believers from the love of Christ, which stands out to you the most and why? Is it hard for you to accept that nothing can separate you from God's love? Explain.**

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 6:33 AND PROVERBS 3:6.

2. *Give God first place every day.*

**From the last half of each of these two verses, what does God promise?**

**What do you need to do to see those promises come true in your life? How have you seen God's faithfulness in your own life?**

**What are some practical steps you can take to give God first place in your life?**

## WEEK 3

### Deepening My Relationship with God

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 14:15 AND JAMES 1:25.

3. Obey God's will every day.

Can a person love God and also live in disobedience to His commands? Why not?

What type of attitude toward God's Word does James indicate is true of people who truly love God?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 14:15 AND JAMES 1:25.

3. Obey God's will every day.

Can a person love God and also live in disobedience to His commands? Why not?

What type of attitude toward God's Word does James indicate is true of people who truly love God?

## Taking it Home

Which of the following do you struggle with the most in relationship with God—accepting His love, giving Him first place, obeying His will, or enjoying His presence? Why?

What is one step you will take to deepen your relationship with God this week?

## WEEK 4

### Accepting God's Invitation

## Memory Verse

*"Jesus says, 'Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.'" John 14:21*

## Main Point

God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.

## Opening Doors

Use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Based on TV commercials and what you generally see in our culture these days, what does "the good life" consist of?

What would you add to, subtract from, or change in that list?

Most people have ideas about what constitutes a happy existence. Many think in terms of good health, family and friends, a well-paying job, and a sense of security. In today's study, we'll find an even greater invitation to life that God offers to all people everywhere in every culture and generation. This kind of life isn't determined by achievement, relationships, or circumstances, but by joining God in the work He is already doing in the world around you.

## WEEK 4

### Accepting God's Invitation

## Digging In

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 5:17,19-20.

1. *Actively watch for God working around you.*

When is God at work? Where is God at work? How often would you say you notice God at work: always, sometimes, hardly ever, or never?

Why do you think some believers always seem to have stories about seeing God at work, while others hardly ever do?

What does it mean to actively watch for God working around you? What would you need to do to make that happen?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 PETER 4:10 AND 1 TIMOTHY 4:14.

2. *Allow God to use your gifts for His purposes.*

Are you aware of any gift God has given you by which He intends you to serve other people? What are some ways we can "neglect" the gifts God has given us?

Why is it so important that we are all using our gifts well to serve others? How do you know if you're using your gifts for His purposes or your own?

## WEEK 4

### Accepting God's Invitation

HAVE VOLUNTEERS READ ACTS 1:8 AND 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8.

3. *Allocate your resources for God's purposes.*

Jesus was clear about His purposes and our mission. What practical steps do you need to take to engage in the work He is doing around you?

Which is most difficult for you: telling people about Jesus or giving financially for God's purposes in the world?

When have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill God's purposes in the world? When have you experienced His generous provision?

HAVE VOLUNTEERS READ JOHN 14:21 AND MATTHEW 6:10

4. *Act immediately in obedience to God's invitation.*

Do you tend to act quickly to obey God's commands, or do you tend to mull them over and weigh your options? Why?

Why is it important that we act quickly in obedience to God's invitation to join Him in the work He is doing around us?



## WEEK 4

### Accepting God's Invitation

#### Taking it Home

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Which of the four steps to accept God's invitation to join Him is God speaking to you about the most right now: actively watch for His work around you, allow Him to use your gifts for His purposes, allocate your resources for His mission, or act immediately in obedience to His invitation? Explain.

What is one situation in your life or taking place around you where you know God is at work? How might He want you to join Him in that work?

## WEEK 5

### Listening When God Speaks

#### Memory Verse

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*"Jesus says, 'Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don't listen because you don't belong to God.'" John 8:47*

#### Main Point

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God speaks to us by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, church, and our circumstances.

#### Opening Doors

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Use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**What is one piece of technology you do not fully understand, yet you use on a daily basis? Is it necessary to fully understand how something works in order to use it?**

**Do you feel as though you fully understand the way God works in the world? What would you say are the primary ways you have learned about God so far?**

It's hard to understand how God works sometimes, even when we're listening. However, we shouldn't let our lack of understanding prevent us from involving ourselves in what God is doing. Instead, we should continue to listen to His voice to obey Him in all things. The way we do that is by depending on His Spirit who speaks to us through the Bible, prayer, church, and our circumstances.

## WEEK 5

### Listening When God Speaks

## Digging In

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 AND JAMES 1:22.

1. *I listen to God when I apply the Bible to my life.*

Is there a subject you studied in school that you thought was pointless because it had no application in real life? Why do some people think that about the Bible?

Why should you listen to God through the Bible? How have you experienced this in your own life?

Is there an area of your life where you know what God's Word says, but you struggle to obey it? Why does that happen sometimes, and what do you need to do about it?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 6:9-13.

2. *I listen to God when I align my life through prayer.*

What are the typical requests you make of God in prayer? What does a person's prayer life indicate about his or her relationship with the Lord? Does it say anything about a person's willingness to listen to God? Explain.

From the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13, what does it mean for a person to align his or her life through prayer?

## WEEK 5

### Listening When God Speaks

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ HEBREWS 10:25 AND EPHESIANS 4:15-16.

3. *I listen to God when I attend church regularly.*

What is the point of meeting together as a body of believers?

What are some reasons people who say they are Christians might stay away from church, or attend irregularly?

What is one way God spoken to you recently through your engagement with the church?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PROVERBS 3:21-23.

4. *I listen to God when I acknowledge how God speaks through my circumstances.*

Why is it difficult for many people to accept that God speaks through circumstances?

What if you don't understand why God allowed something to happen? Can you still listen for His voice? When you do listen for His voice in a situation, what should you look for Him to reveal?

## WEEK 5

### Listening When God Speaks

## Taking it Home

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What is an area of your life where you wish you knew better how to listen to God's voice? From today's study, what are a few steps you can take to hear Him better regarding a circumstance?

What have God's Word, prayer, church, and your circumstances taught you so far about joining God in the work He is doing?

Why must we listen to God's voice by all four methods? Why is it a faulty system to only listen to God through your circumstances? Through church? Through prayer?

## WEEK 6

### Navigating My Crisis of Belief

## Memory Verse

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*"It is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him."* Hebrews 11:6

## Main Point

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God's invitation to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.

## Opening Doors

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Use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**Have you ever started something and then gave up because it was too difficult? (Ex. training for a marathon, a home project, learning to play the piano, etc.).**

**How do you know when it's time to give up on something, and when to persevere through it?**

In last week's session, we talked about how to listen when God speaks. When we listen, we don't always hear what we want. So hearing isn't enough. We need follow through. Because God's will is seldom what we initially want and always more than we can do alone, we sometimes experience a crisis of belief. But we must not give up on God! To walk through that crisis of belief, we need both faith and action.

## WEEK 6

### Navigating My Crisis of Belief

## Digging In

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EXODUS 3:11 AND MARK 14:38.

1. *You can respond to a crisis of belief by wrestling with God in prayer.*

Moses knew in his own power, he didn't have what it took to do what God was telling him to do. When you have a crisis of belief, which is your natural response: take it to God in prayer, stuff it down and ignore it, or delay moving at all until the resources appear available? Why?

How is recognizing our own insufficiencies to accomplish God's call actually a good thing? When have you prayed through a difficult task and seen God work in and through you?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 THESSALONIANS 5:24 AND MARK 9:24.

2. *You can respond to a crisis of belief by believing God will be faithful.*

Name one truth you bank on concerning God. How does that one truth impact your life on a daily basis?

On a scale of 1 to 10, how confident are you that God will be faithful to carry out what He has called you to do? Why?

What are some reasons why a believer might lack confidence in God's faithfulness? How would you counsel that person to move forward in faith?

## WEEK 6

### Navigating My Crisis of Belief

When have you had a crisis of belief that God used to strengthen your relationship to Him? Why does it sometimes take a crisis of belief to grow our faith in God?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PROVERBS 16:9 AND JAMES 4:13-15.

3. *You can respond to a crisis of belief by holding your plans loosely.*

Sometimes our crisis of belief comes because we make plans of our own without considering the will of God. Then when those plans come tumbling down, we wonder what happened. What are some reasons we might not want to consult God about our plans? What is wrong with this approach?

What does it mean to hold your plans loosely?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JAMES 2:17 AND DEUTERONOMY 30:11; 31:6

4. *You can respond to a crisis of belief by acting on what God has told you.*

Why isn't it enough to simply say you believe in Jesus? What needs to accompany belief?

Name a situation in life where you do what you're supposed to do even when you don't fully understand why (ex. a task at work, driving the speed limit, eating broccoli, etc.). How does doing what you're supposed to do benefit you, even when it doesn't make sense to you? How does it benefit you to do what God tells you to do, even when you don't want to or you think it doesn't make sense?

## WEEK 6

### Navigating My Crisis of Belief

#### Taking it Home

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How does it encourage you to know that we all face moments of crisis in our faith?

What is one action you need to take this week to better demonstrate your faith?

## WEEK 7

### Adjusting My Life to God's Will

#### Memory Verse

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*"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good pleasing and perfect." Romans 12:2*

#### Main Point

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I must make major adjustments in my life to join God in what He is doing.

#### Opening Doors

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Use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**When has a move or job change required you to make major adjustments in your life? (Ex. Moving to a new city might cause you to start rooting for a new team. A new job might cause you to learn a whole new skill.)**

**Is change something you tend to resist or embrace? Why? What about in terms of your relationship with God? What is one life change you have made so you can serve Him better?**

Change can be difficult. Most of us tend to resist change, because it moves us out of our comfort zone. When it comes to experiencing God in a deeper way, though, moving out of our comfort zones is required. Spiritual change is necessary and good. Experiencing God in the way He wants us to experience Him involves us making adjustments in our lives so we can join Him in what He is doing.

## WEEK 7

### Adjusting My Life to God's Will

#### Digging In

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HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ISAIAH 55:8-9 AND PSALM 143:10.

1. *My life will adjust to God's will when I acknowledge God's will is better than mine.*

Why is humility such a crucial part of relationship with God?

Is it hard for you to admit you don't have all the answers? Explain. How should knowing God has all the answers impact your life on a daily basis?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 3:19 AND 1 JOHN 1:9.

2. *My life will adjust to God's will when I admit and confess my sins to God.*

What does it mean to repent and turn to God? What is the result of confessing our sins?

From a worldly point of view, repentance and confession show weakness. Spiritually speaking, why is repentance and confession a strength?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EXODUS 20:3 AND 1 JOHN 5:21.

3. *My life will adjust to God's will when I abandon the idols in my life.*

## WEEK 7

### Adjusting My Life to God's Will

What are some possible idols in your life? Some people think verses like these make God seem selfish. Why is it God's will that you have no other idols in your life?

Why is it impossible to be in God's will if you're holding onto any other priority besides Him? How have you seen this true in your own life?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ GALATIANS 5:24-25.

4. *My life will adjust to God's will when I accept the changes God asks me to make.*

What does it mean to "nail the passions and desires of the sinful flesh to His cross and crucify them there"? How have you done that? In what areas do you still need to do that?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ GALATIANS 2:20.

5. *My life will adjust to God's will when I allow God to control every area of my life.*

What scares you about giving God control of every area of your life? Is there something you're afraid He might ask you to do?

What are some signs a person is still hanging onto the old self?

Why is God's will always better than your will?

## WEEK 7

### Adjusting My Life to God's Will

#### Taking it Home

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Name an idol in your life you need to abandon. How can this group help you in that?

How do you think it would impact our church and community if everyone at Highlands Fellowship was committed to adjusting their lives to God's will?

## WEEK 8

### Experiencing God in My Daily Life

#### Memory Verse

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*Jesus says, "All who love Me will do what I say. My Father will Love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them." John 14:23*

#### Main Point

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I come to know God by experience as I obey Him and He accomplishes His work through me.

#### Opening Doors

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Use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What do you think has happened in a relationship when someone says, "I feel like I don't know you anymore"?

Can that happen in a person's relationship with God? Explain. Would you say you know God less, the same, or more than you did when you first turned to Him in faith? Why?

Relationship with God was never meant to be fading or stagnant. We've seen that we can know and do the will of God. We can discern where God is at work around us and join Him in that work. We can deepen our relationship with Him. We can accept God's invitation to join Him in His work and listen to Him as He speaks. We can navigate the crises of belief that come our way by acting in faith, and we can adjust our lives to God's will. We can experience more of God in each of those areas every day. In this last session, let's see how.

## WEEK 8

### Experiencing God in My Daily Life

## Digging In

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 14:21.

1. *You can experience more of God every day by continuing to do the last thing He told you to do.*

Have you ever felt convicted in a sermon and made a decision to act on that conviction, and then by Monday afternoon forgot all about it? Why do you think that happens? How can we avoid jumping from one Sunday message to the next without ever making any changes?

Is there someone in your life who helps hold you accountable to do the things God has told you to do? Why is it important to verbally tell someone how God is leading you?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JAMES 4:8

2. *You can experience more of God every day by continuing to draw close to God.*

What does it look like, practically, to draw close to God? Is that more about feelings and emotions or about commitment and decision? Explain.

Has there ever been a season in your life where you fell away from God? How did you find your way back to Him?

## WEEK 8

### Experiencing God in My Daily Life

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 5:17 AND ISAIAH 43:19

3. *You can experience more of God every day by continuing to look for God working around you.*

**On a weekly basis, how often would you say you notice God at work around you? Why? What are some things that keep us from noticing God at work around us?**

How do these two verses encourage you to experience God more deeply?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 JOHN 1:9.

4. *You can experience more of God every day by continuing to avoid the roadblocks to God's will.*

**Why do you think confession isn't a more predominant focus in most churches these days?**

**Why should knowing that God is faithful and just to forgive us of all unrighteousness prompt us to confess more often, not less?**

**How big of a role does confession play in your daily walk with the Lord? How might confession deepen your relationship with Him?**



## WEEK 8

### Experiencing God in My Daily Life

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PHILIPPIANS 4:19.

5. *You can experience more of God every day by continuing to trust God will provide all you need.*

How does it affect a relationship when one person is focused solely on his or her own wants? When you're praying, do you tend to focus more on your wants or your needs?

Have you ever been forced to trust God to take care of your needs? How did that experience deepen your faith?

### Taking it Home

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Recite the following prayer in unity: "Lord, I will do anything you require of me. Wherever You want me to go, I'll go. Whatever the circumstances, I'm willing to follow. If you want to meet a need through my life, I am your servant. I will do whatever is required. I will obey everything you tell me so I can experience you fully in my everyday life. Amen."

What part of that prayer is the most difficult for you? The most exciting? Explain.

What is one way God has spoken to you through this study? What will you do about it?

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”  
- Hebrews 10:24-25

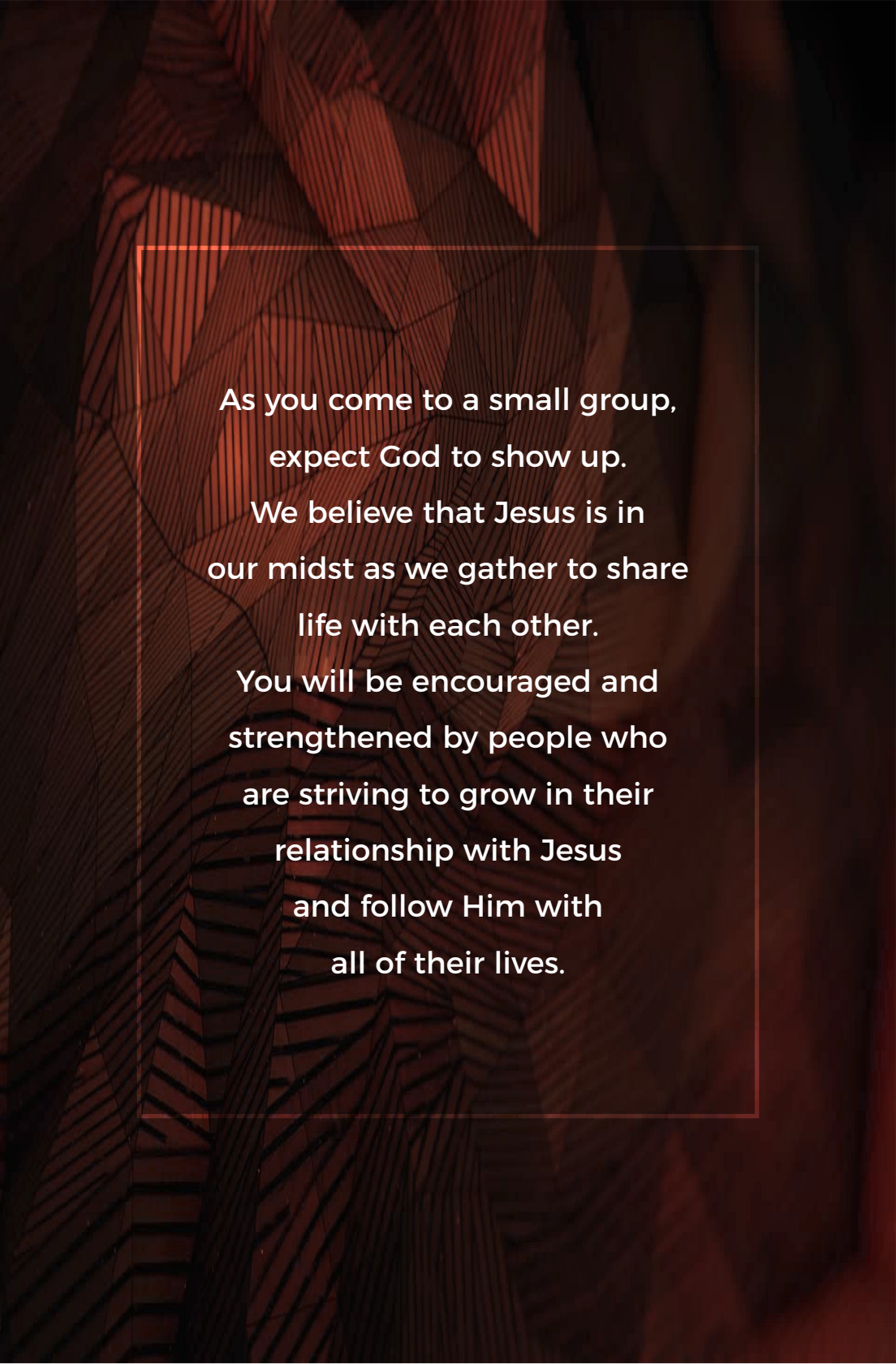
MISSION

**IMPERFECT**  
PEOPLE EMBRACING //////////  
//////// IMPERFECT PEOPLE  
TO EXPERIENCE LIFE WITH  
**/// JESUS**

VISION

JOINING GOD TO ////////////  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR  
**33,333**  
PEOPLE BY 2023 ////////////

**Let your  
experiences  
be KNOWN.  
#hfKNOWN**



As you come to a small group,  
expect God to show up.

We believe that Jesus is in  
our midst as we gather to share  
life with each other.

You will be encouraged and  
strengthened by people who  
are striving to grow in their  
relationship with Jesus  
and follow Him with  
all of their lives.