

Study Series: The 4 Wills of God

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 Lesson Title: “Discovering God’s Will” (pp. 56-66)

Session 5

July 3, 2022

The main point of this lesson is: God desires His people to know and do His will.

Focus on this goal: To help adults begin to understand how to know the will of God

Key Bible Passage: 1 John 3:21-22

Before the Session

1. Make a poster with: START HERE Believe Abstain Give Thanks Submit. Keep this poster displayed throughout this entire study.

2. Display board games (or images of them) that have a Start space. (Step 1)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Draw attention to the board games and ask what they all have in common. Note each game has a place to start. Remark many believers struggle with knowing and doing the will of God.

Explain this study of The 4 Wills of God urges us to start with the four places in the New Testament where God’s will is distinctly identified. Use the study introduction (p. 55) and the poster you created to highlight those four wills. Assert this “B.A.G.S.” is not a legalistic checklist, but an acronym that helps us know where to start in knowing and doing the will of God from the heart.

Step 2. God Has a Will

Discuss Day One, activity 1 (p. 56). Examine how we can know for certain that God has a will. Invite a volunteer to read Ephesians 5:17. Determine what this verse tells us about God’s will.

Read the main point of this lesson statement (p. 65). Read the statement (p. 56), “Unfortunately, we can know and do just part of God’s will” and ask why that is unfortunate.

Analyze the importance of learning and doing the whole purpose of God, using Day One remarks (p. 57) to add to the discussion.

Draw attention to the questions listed in Day One, activity 2 (p. 57) and ask: Which of those questions result in anxiety and which result in peace? Why is that? Consider why starting with “What is God’s will?” makes it more likely we will discern the answer to the question, “What is God’s will for my life?”

Request a volunteer read the last paragraph of Day One (p. 57).

Step 3. Two Kinds of Will

Invite a volunteer to read 1 John 3:21-22. Explore how this verse shows that following the universal leads to the unique.

Discuss Day Two, activity 1 (p. 58). Note that keeping God’s commands might result in remarkable answers to prayer or supernatural peace in the midst of unanswered prayers. The point of keeping God’s commands isn’t that we get what we want, but that we get God Himself.

Draw attention once again to the poster and state these are God’s four universal wills where God tells us to start. Discuss the italicized statement in Day Two (“This doesn’t mean we can ignore . . .” p. 58). Examine what can happen in believers’ lives when we follow these four specific wills.

Ask: Does God have a unique will for each of us? What leads you to that conclusion? Discuss Day Two, activity 2 (p. 59).

Step 4. Three Amazing Stories, Part 1

Note the author shares three amazing stories of God’s active involvement in the personal lives of believers. Briefly relate the story of Sam (p. 60).

Invite responses to Day Three, activities 1 and 2 (p. 60).

Step 5. Three Amazing Stories, Part 2

Summarize the illustration of Marilyn and the $1,500 (p. 61). Discuss Day Four, activity 1 (p. 61). Ask: Would God still be good even if He hadn’t provided that $1,500? Why? What would you say was the greatest gift this couple received from God?

Relate the experience of the missionaries to France (p. 62). Discuss Day Four, activity 2 (p. 62).

Invite a volunteer to read the last paragraph of Day Four (p. 62).

Step 6. The Trigger

Request participants identify what triggers God to move in our lives in unique ways.

Discuss Day Five, activity 1 (p. 63). Remark that parents don’t quit loving their children or kick them out of the family when they disobey, but they are pleased when their children do obey because they want the very best for their children. State: God doesn’t quit loving us or kick us out of His family when we disobey Him, but He’s genuinely pleased when we obey Him because our obedience positions us to receive His favor and the fulness of His joy. Note it’s obvious from the lives of the apostles and even Jesus that God doesn’t respond miraculously all the time.

Read the Day Five paragraph (p. 64) beginning with: “I will not over-promise here about your experience . . . .” Relate how the author and his wife have started with these four wills as they’ve made decisions throughout their lives (p. 64).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Declare our ultimate goal should be to imitate Christ.

Read John 6:38. Urge adults to prayerfully consider Day Five, activity 2 (p. 64).

Invite volunteers to share what they have gained from this session that helps them better understand how to know God’s will and do it from the heart. Draw attention to the poster and state: We’re to “Start Here” and “Start Here Again and Again!”

Close by praying Colossians 4:12 for the group.

