

Study Series: The 4 Wills of God

Author: Emerson Eggeriches

 Lesson Title: “God’s Will: Believe in Jesus Christ”
(pp. 67-79)

Session 6

July 10, 2022

The main point of this lesson is: God wills that people believe in and trust Jesus for salvation.

Focus on this goal: To help adults commit or recommit to trusting Jesus with their lives and experiencing His presence, peace, purpose, and power

Key Bible Passage: John 6:40

Before the Session

1. Continue displaying the poster you created for Session 5.

2. Display children’s building toys such as blocks, Lincoln Logs© and Legos©. (Steps 1 and 7)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Draw attention to the building block display. Discuss important lessons children learn from playing with building toys. Examine how a strong foundation is essential in every part of life.

Draw attention to the poster and declare: If we desire to know God’s unique will for our lives, we must start with believing in and trusting Jesus for salvation. This lesson examines gospel truths that are foundational to knowing and doing God’s will from the heart.

Step 2. “This Is the Will of My Father . . .”

Instruct participants to listen for repeated words as you read John 6:35-40. Call for responses. Determine what we can learn about God’s will from these verses, particularly verse 40.

Request a volunteer read the Day One pull quote (p. 67). Discus Day One, activity 1 (p. 67). Examine reasons people struggle or refuse to believe those claims. Explore how John 6:40 responds to those objections.

Discuss part A of Day One, activity 2 (p. 68). Read the last two paragraphs of Day One (p. 68), beginning with, “To those of you considering what to believe about Jesus . . . .”

Step 3. Believe and Receive

Request a volunteer read 1 John 3:21-22. Recall from Session 1 (p. 58) that those verses describe how following God’s universal will (keeping His commands) leads to the unique (encounter His unique response to our prayers).

Request the volunteer read 1 John 3:23. Ask: What is obviously the first will of God? Ask the author’s question (p. 69): “What are we to believe?” As participants answer that question, direct their attention to the bulleted comments (p. 70) about who Jesus is, and the italicized promises (pp. 69-70) we are asked to believe (read some or all of the Scripture references as time permits).

Discuss Day Two, activity 2 (p. 71). Note it’s obvious from 2 Corinthians 4:17 and Romans 8:18 that believers are not promised an easy life on this earth, but we are promised a “happily ever after.” Explore how that makes Christianity unique among world religions.

Step 4. He Is Resurrected

Declare all religions except Christianity promote ways to gain favor with a divine being and earn eternal life. State every person who follows Jesus must understand, as did Bernhard Langer in Day Three (pp. 71-72), that we cannot earn eternal life because we will always fall short of God’s standards. Invite a volunteer to read Romans 3:20-26.

Discuss Day Three, activity 1 (p. 72). Declare we must also believe that the resurrection of Jesus actually happened.

Invite responses to Day Three, activity 2 (p. 73). Assert when those truths are of utmost importance to us, we can declare like Paul, “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain” (1 Cor. 15:10).

Step 5. Eternal Dilemma

Request participants identify the bad news/good news of Romans 3:23-24 and Galatians 3:10,13. Ask: How would you summarize the bad news of the Bible? How does the good news far outweigh the bad?

Read the Day Four paragraph (p. 74) that begins, “Those who reject Christ . . . .” Ask: What does any of this have to do with knowing and following God’s unique will for your life?

Request a volunteer read the Day Four pull quote (p. 74). Discuss Day Four, activity 1 (p. 74). Ask: Does everyone who says they believe in Jesus experience this kind of life with Him? Explain your reasoning. What does a life that believes God grades on a curve look like? What does that kind of life say about Jesus’s death on the cross?

Request participants consider Day Four, activity 2 (p. 75).

Step 6. And You?

State the author asks some life-defining, eternity-shaping questions in Day Five. Discuss Day Five, activity 1 (p. 76) in a general sense. State if anyone answers “No” to the question, “Have you asked Jesus to be your Savior?” they can receive Jesus by praying the prayer printed in Day Five (pp. 76-77). Read that prayer. Urge participants who would like to know more about placing their faith in Jesus to talk with you after the session.

Ask: What do we receive when we voice that prayer? How can receiving the Spirit of Christ result in knowing God’s unique will for our lives? Read the final paragraph of Day Five (p. 77).

Invite responses to Day Five, activity 2 (p. 77).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Refer back to the building toys. Declare: If we seek to know God’s will without knowing God’s Son, our foundation is unstable and we will fall. Let’s determine to build our lives on the firm foundation of belief in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Shepherd. Close in prayer.

