

Study Series: The 4 Wills of God

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 Lesson Title: “God’s Will: Submit in Doing Right”

(pp. 93-105)

Session 8

July 24, 2022

The main point of this lesson is: God wills that people submit in doing right.

Focus on this goal: To help adults live in submission to those God has placed them under

Key Bible Passage: 1 Peter 2:13-20

Before the Session

Continue displaying the poster you created for Session 5.

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Request the group identify topics that tend to get people uptight. Write responses on the board. Draw attention to the B.A.G.S. poster and ask which of those terms might cause people to get uptight, and why. Add Submission to the list on the board.

Read the main point of this lesson (p. 104). State: Romans 12:2 describes God’s will as “good, pleasing, and perfect.” Rather than getting uptight about submission, let’s approach this study with the understanding that submission is God’s good will, and that obeying this universal will of God is a good place to start in discerning God’s unique will for our lives.

Step 2. What Is Submission

Invite a volunteer to read the first Day One paragraph (p. 93). Identify the groups to whom Peter addressed submission. Note Paul also talked about submission, especially within homes, in Ephesians 5:21–6:9 and Colossians 3:18–4:1.

Explain slaves and masters were included in these household codes not because the apostles condoned slavery, but because it was the reality of the first-century culture in which these early believers lived. This study focuses primarily on how we can obey God’s will of submission as citizens and employees, but the principles of submission can relate to all our relationships. Determine the meaning of submission.

Discuss Day One, activity 1 (pp. 93-94). Discuss: Is submission an attitude or action? Explain. What should permeate every attitude and action when submitting to others?

Read Ephesians 6:6. Declare that all of us—whether we are under authority or have authority over others—are to submit in doing right, regardless of whether anyone is watching us. Evaluate how that silences foolish critics.

Read the final sentence of Day One (p. 95) that begins, “For this study, let’s combine . . . .”

Step 3. Clarification of Submission

Evaluate why we might have trouble with Peter’s command to “Submit to every human authority” (1 Pet. 2:13). Discuss Day Two, activity 1 (p. 96).

Ask adults if they agree with the Day Two paragraph (p. 96) that begins “But for most of us . . . .” and why. Ask: What if we’re told not to talk about Jesus at work—are we to disregard that workplace rule or can we submit to that authority and still obey God’s call to be Christ’s witnesses? Explain.

Invite volunteers to read 1 Peter 2:12 and 3:13-16. Analyze how believers are to live out the call of conducting ourselves honorably and defending our faith in Christ with gentleness and respect in a culture that is hostile to our faith.

Remind the group the author is addressing requirements that are inconvenient, not immoral. Relate the Day Two illustration (pp. 96-97) of the change in the work shift. Explain the believer’s responsibility to distinguish between gray and black-and-white issues, and to obey in the gray areas.

Invite responses to Day Two, activity 2 (p. 97).

Step 4. Considerations in Submission, Part 1

State that when an authority’s requirements are inconvenient, we can make an appeal. Discuss how to be appealing while making an appeal. Regardless of the outcome of the appeal, God’s will is that we submit to that authority.

Discuss Day Three, activity 1 (pp. 98-99). Note the warning from Colossians 3:25 that God doesn’t play favorites but will discipline His people who are disobedient or disrespectful to authorities. Examine why we must, and how we can, give authority the benefit of the doubt.

Explore what any of this has to do with knowing God’s unique will for our lives. Read the Day Three, activity 2 (p. 99) questions.

Step 5. Considerations in Submission, Part 2

State we must be willing to examine whether the authority is bad or we are bad submitters. Relay examples of bad submitters given in Day Four (p. 100). Invite the group to give additional illustrations of bad submitters. Consider why bad submitters are unlikely to experience the unique will of God.

Discuss Day Four, activity 1 (p. 100). Invite a volunteer to read the Day Four paragraph (p. 101) beginning “The human heart does not naturally submit . . . .” Relate the author’s description of Martha demonstrating that attitude (p. 101).

Discuss Day Four, activity 2 (p. 101).

Step 6. Considerations in Submission, Part 3

Acknowledge we often consider submission a negative thing, but we must remember God’s will is good, and He works good out of our submission. Discuss Day Five, activity 1 (p. 102).

Remark that Ephesians 6:8 and Colossians 3:24 also speak of a reward for submitting. That is why we must always keep an eternal perspective about submission.

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Read the Day Five pull quote (p. 103).

Discuss Day Five, activity 2 (p. 103). Consider specific ways the group can apply what they’ve learned about submission to all their relationships. Close in prayer.

