

SMALL GROUPS

LIFE IS BETTER TOGETHER

“How Do I Know What God Wants Me to Do?”

ICEBREAKER |

Would you rather go out surfing (even if you don't know how to!) or sit on the beach?

INTRODUCTION |

Knowing and understanding God's will for us is a common question that we often find ourselves asking. It seems as though once we've figured out what we're called to do, we sometimes find ourselves back to square one possibly in a brand new season and we're wondering, "Now what, God?" "What direction do I go from here?" In our small group discussion, we'll take some time to walk each other back to the basics of how to discover God's will in this season and moving forward.

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I don't think any of us would say we don't want to do what God wants us to do. The trouble is knowing exactly what that is. A lot of times, it's a matter of time. Even Jesus knew this.

Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here."

John 7:6 (ESV)

Doing the right thing at the wrong time can be just as bad as doing the wrong thing any time.

There are two words for "time" in the New Testament. One is *chronos*, or chronological time like a period of time that passes by. Then, there is *kairos* time. This is the season, like when you talk about the right time. We can count *chronos* time with a clock, but it takes more to tell when it's *kairos* time. But that's how we know when it's the right time to do the right thing.

Think back to a significant time in your life. Did it feel like time stood still? Why do you think that is?

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There are three great ways to keep in tune with the Holy Spirit and keep track of *kairos* time. The first is **Regular Time with God**.

When you pray, go into a room alone and close the door. Pray to your Father in private. He knows what is done in private and will reward you.

Matthew 6:6 (CEV)

Spending time with God alone is the way we grow spiritually. As we get to know Him better, we get to know what He wants us to do and when He wants us to do it.

So many of us feel guilty about not spending enough time with God. We wish there was some trick or “tips” that could fix it. But the truth is, we all encounter God in different ways. Maybe we need to find out which way is best for us and lean into it.

How do you like to spend time with God best?

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Next, we can plug into what God wants from us when we **Surround Ourselves with a Few Good People**.

Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.

Proverbs 13:20 (NLT)

When you spend time with good people, you are not only close to those who can give you great advice, there are other things you can learn from them as well. When you spend time with those who love to worship God, you will start to love it as well. When you spend time with those who like to think deep thoughts, you get to hear them as well.

Think of a good person in your life who helped you discover what God wanted you to do in the past. Who was it? Tell us how they helped you?

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Finally, we can tap into that *kairos* time by **Making a Habit of Being in Church.**

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

Whenever we gather together, there is something about the presence of God in our midst that makes His will and His timing much more easy to understand. Nothing quite replaces the feeling and the spirit of getting together.

What are some specifics about our church that have helped you in the past learn what God wants you to do? (Example, a sermon that clarified a decision or a time of prayer that brought you closer to the Lord)

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week, as time passes by, don't let God's time pass you by. Instead, focus on these three keys to know what God wants you to do:

- * Spend Regular Time with God
- * Surround Yourself with Good People
- * Get Together in Church

CLOSE IN PRAYER

God, thank You for caring enough about our lives to give us a plan. Sometimes it's hard for us to understand it, but we are so glad that You aren't hiding it from us. In fact, You said that Your plans for us are good and not for evil purpose. But, instead, Your plans give us Hope and a Future. For that, we are eternally grateful! Help us to see the plans You have for us with clarity and focus by creating space to spend time with You daily. Surround us with people who love You and who will walk with us in every season of life. Most of all, help us make every effort to get to church whether it be in person when our church opens its doors or online services. Thank You Lord Jesus for providing every possible way to help us draw near to you so that we will discover Your plans for our lives just at the right time. In Jesus' name we pray, amen!

SCRIPTURES FOR S.O.A.P.

Day 1: *So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.*

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NLT)

Day 2: *"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope...When you pray, I will listen. If you look for Me wholeheartedly, you will find Me. I will be found by you," says the Lord.*

Jeremiah 29:11-14 (NLT)

Day 3: *Don't be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to Him.*

Romans 12:2 (CEV)

Day 4: *Praise the LORD! I will thank the LORD with all my heart as I meet with His godly people.*

Psalms 111:1 (NLT)

Day 5: *You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised.*

Hebrews 10:36 (NIV)