

Hand out the Eight Steps to Discover God's Will. Ask the youth to work through it. If you have time, discuss the answers.

Read Proverbs 3:5-6 and pray for the wisdom to recognize and accept God's will.

Eight Steps to Discover God's Will

1. Use your intelligence.
 - Most people have the ability to analyze and choose between right and wrong.
 - God is pleased when we use our ability to think.
 - Response: What do I think is God's will for me?
2. Face yourself realistically.
 - Take a good look at yourself. Be objective, but don't be afraid to strive for a goal.
 - There are things you can and cannot do. Don't be overwhelmed by what you can't do, rather focus on the gifts you have.
 - Response: What can I do to learn God's will?
3. Read your Bible.
 - The will of God will not go against scripture.
 - God's will has more meaning with study. "Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).
 - Response: What is one thing I can do to better understand the Bible?
4. Commit yourself to God.
 - Re-evaluate your ambitions and goals. Don't hesitate to reach for the stars.
 - Develop a strong will and character by seeking God's guidance instead of your own and by seeking advice from spiritual leaders.
 - Give your problems to God. "Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you" (1 Peter 5:7).
 - Response: What is one thing I can do to draw closer to God?
5. Pray for guidance.
 - Spend time thinking and meditating.
 - Response: What is one area of my life that most needs guidance from God?
6. Study the circumstances.
 - God operates his will within life situations.
 - Learn from your mistakes.
 - Rest in God's love for you (Romans 8:28).
 - Response: What kinds of circumstances in my life have revealed God's will?
7. Wait patiently on the Lord (Habakkuk 2:3).
 - Response: How difficult is it for me to be patient?
8. Be flexible about your decisions. God may want you to do one thing for a little while and change later (Acts 8).
 - Response: In any given situation, do I see only one option or many options?

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PURPOSE

To help young people understand that temptation produces wrong answers to pressing situations.

PREPARATION

Gather a bucket or small can, magazines, newspaper cards, Bibles, pencils or markers, paper, chalkboard head projector.

OPENING

Begin by playing the Sc Mixer!¹

Scripture Mixer

Distribute slips of paper: vital parts of well-known scriptures on them. Let everyone roam about introducing himself to one another and their piece of scripture. If someone finds someone with the corresponding scripture, stay together until the scripture is completed.

For example, the person reading, "Even though I pass through the valley of the shadow of death" must find the person reading, "I fear no evil, for you are with me," and the other people reading the rest of the 23rd Psalm.

THE "MEAT" OF THE MEETING

Discuss:

Are there degrees of sin?