

MAY 2024

Theme: Pressing Forward in Jesus Christ



GRANT HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL ADULT LESSON GUIDE

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2nd Quarter**

Unit 5 Theme: Guidance From God

Our Unit 5 theme for the month of May is Guidance from God. God’s guidance comes in many forms, from the still small voice of conscience that speaks to us in moments of doubt, to the Bible, which contains God’s word and teachings. We can also receive God’s guidance through prayer, meditation, and fellowship with other believers. Always remember, as stated in Isaiah 58:11 The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame.

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Unit Theme: Guidance From God

Lesson Topic: Seeking God's Guidance

Lesson Scripture: Numbers 9:15-24; Psalms 119:133

Key Verse: At the Lord's command they encamped, and at the Lord's command they set out. They obeyed the Lord's order, in accordance with his command through Moses. -Numbers 9:23

Essential Question: Who do you turn to when you have to make a decision, but you don't know what to do?

Lesson Aims

At the end of this lesson the participant will understand that:

1. God is always ready and willing to guide us if we allow him to.
2. We have many examples in the bible of how God brought his people through times of trouble and distress.
3. We should know that we should talk to God before we make any decision in life and trust him to lead us in the way that we should go.

Introduction

No one can make it through this world alone; Nobody has all of the answers; everybody need somebody sometimes. The English poet John Donne says that "No man is an island sufficient unto himself, but is a piece of the continent, a piece of the mainland." All of this is saying that we cannot make it through this world alone. We have never made this journey before, therefore we need someone to help us along the way. As believers we know that there are people in our lives that we can depend on for guidance, but in the end we should rely on God's guidance, because we know that he will never fail, and he will never let us down.

Do you seek God's guidance before you make a decisions in your life? Should we only consult God for major decisions or should it be for all decisions? Who do you turn to when it is time to make a decision? Is there anyone in your life that you trust more then God when it comes to making a decision?

Exposition

An Analysis of Numbers 9-15

1. The setting: The children of Israel are in the wilderness of Sinai during the second year after coming out of Egypt
2. God commanded through Moses that they should keep the feast of the Passover.
3. In verse 15 a cloud of fire appeared over the tabernacle. It covered the tabernacle from evening until morning.
4. When the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle the Israelites traveled, when the cloud settled, they camped. (who was directing their path?)
1. When the cloud was over the camp for a long time the Israelites obeyed the Lord's order and stayed put. (What is the significance of this statement? Can you relate to it?)

2. Sometime the cloud was only there for one night, sometimes for several nights, but whenever the cloud lifted the Israelites set out (He may not come when you want him, but whenever he comes, he is always on time)
3. At the Lord's command they encamped, and at the lord's command they set out. They obeyed the Lord's order, according with the command through his servant Moses. (God don't always give everybody the plan).

Psalms 32:7-11: We have a hiding place. He will protect us from trouble. He is a shelter in the time of a storm. In the time of trouble, he shall hide me in his tabernacle. God will instruct us and teach us in the way that we should go. He knows our future. Form a relationship with him and let him guide you.

Psalms 91:11-12: For he will command his angels to watch over you; to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will will not strike your foot against a stone.

Philippians 4:6-7: Don't worry about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. 7. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

When we seek God's guidance, we should ask him to order our steps (Psalms 119:133)

When God orders our steps, there are five primary outcomes. They are:

- God orders our steps to live a life of holiness (Holiness without, no man enters the kingdom)
- God orders our steps to fulfill the assignments, tasks, or purposes He has ordained for our lives.
- When God orders our steps, we must learn his ways and precepts.
- God orders our steps to make life-altering decisions that we encounter in our lives
- God orders our steps in a way that will bring glory and honor to his name. We may never see our name in lights, but the goal is to lift up the name of Jesus Christ.

Keep your eyes on the prize! Don't get distracted. Keep the main thing the main thing.

Source: soakinggodsword.com

The Lesson Applied

Five questions to ask yourself when seeking God's Guidance

- Does the decision you are contemplating line up with God's word? God will speak to us through the holy spirit when we read his words.
- Do you have peace about the decision? If you don't have peace about a decision it would be best to hold off until you do have peace?
- Have you spent time praying about the decision? Prayer is how we communicate with God. We have to talk with God about a decision and be ready to listen in prayer for his answer?
- Have you spent time in silence waiting to hear from God? Prayer is how we communicate with God, but we must give Him a chance to speak back to us? He speaks to us in many different ways. In 1 Kings 19:12 God speaks to Elijah in a whisper after all the chaos subsided.
- What does your trusted friends and mentors say about it? God's opinion is the most important one, but consulting with a trusted friend, family member, Pastor, another church member, or a mentor can also be helpful during the decision-making process. Proverbs 1:7 tells us that only a fool despises wisdom and instruction; and Proverbs 15:32-33 says “He that refuses instruction despises his own soul: but he that hears reproof gets understanding; 33. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and before honor is humility.

Unit 2 Theme: Guidance From God

Lesson Topic: God Guides us Through Everyday Events of Life

Lesson Scripture(s): Psalm 32:8; John 16:13; Isaiah 58:11

Key Verse(s): “And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.” Isaiah 58:11 (ESV)

Essential Question: How do we receive guidance from God?

Lesson Aim: The participants are to understand that:

The Lord is a communicating God, and He delights in giving divine guidance to those who seek Him. He wants to guide the heart that’s surrendered to Him. When we come to Him in the way He has provided for us, and seek His wisdom with a heart to obey, then we can walk in the confidence that He is directing our paths.

Introduction

The greatest evidence of God’s desire to guide our lives is found in the Scriptures. He has given us the Bible that we might know His will and purpose in all areas of life. This means knowing God and the life He has for us to live. Our responsibility, as we follow, is to entrust our way to Him for His direction and leadership.

The Bible gives us clear moral instructions, but also freedom where we can choose for ourselves. The earliest example of this was in the Garden of Eden, where God commanded Adam not to eat from the one tree which would harm him, and also gave Adam freedom to eat from any of the other trees as and when he liked (Genesis 2:16-17). Just as with Adam, God has given us moral commands and principles for our lives, but when there are two or more good options before us, He has given us the right as His children to choose freely between them.

Exposition

The OT looked forward to a time when God would send his Spirit on all his people:

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. (Ezekiel 36:26-27)

In the NT, this hope is fulfilled. Jesus, the risen Christ, pours out the Spirit on his people. And as we receive God’s Spirit, it’s as a guarantee of our relationship with God. And that Spirit will guide us into all truth (1 Jn 2:18-27).

So, How does God, the Spirit, promise to guide us? The answer is simple: by the sword of the Spirit, the Scriptures. God speaks to us by his word. He tells, directs, encourages, advises, commands, informs, reveals and exhorts us to live his way. The Spirit takes this word and applies it to our hearts. He awakens a response in us and leads us to put it into practice. When we look at what the Bible says about itself, we find a consistent pattern of promises that God will continue to guide his people.

Let us spend a few moments looking at some of these promises.

Tim 4:11-16

In the NT, Paul directs Timothy to persevere diligently in his obedience to the gospel and his teaching of the Scriptures, because in so doing he will save both himself and his hearers. The Word of God teaches, rebukes, corrects, and trains in righteousness. It is the tool which the man of God uses to thoroughly equip both himself and those he teaches (2 Tim 3:16-17).

How is God going to guide us? By talking to us. How do we hear him talking to us? By reading the Scriptures. Do they show us the way we should go? They most certainly do, for they teach us how God wants us to live. They rebuke us when we depart from the way. They correct us to show the way back. They train us in the right way to go. The Word of God is there to guide us through the everyday events of our life.

This is not just another example of how God can guide us; it is his description of how he does and will guide us. His Word makes our pathway clear.

Psalms 32:8

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go I will guide thee with mine eye. **(When the Lord told David that he would guide him with his eyes, He meant that He would watch over him and keep his eyes upon him and not let him go wrong). This is the unchanging promise from God, that is ours in order to be led by God in paths of righteousness.**

John 16:13 - Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth. **(Jesus taught that he would send the Holy Spirit to guide his apostles into all truth. The Holy Spirit had indeed guided them into the truth and brought to their remembrance what Jesus had said to them. And from them we have the NT. And now as we read the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit guides us to understand and live out The Truth.**

Isaiah 58:11 - The LORD will always guide you; He will satisfy you in a sun-scorched land and strengthen your frame. **(God will always guide us where to go and what to do. Even in a dry, difficult place. This is a powerful promise of God's guidance, provision, and restoration. It assures us that God's presence is a continuous source of strength and nourishment, leading us through dry seasons and enabling us to flourish like a well-watered garden).**

For examples of His guidance in the lives of His people we think of Abraham going out of his native country not knowing where he was going yet being wholly dependent upon the guidance of God (Gen 12:1). Of Moses and the Israelites being led by the pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night (Exodus 13:21-22). What about Philip in the NT, who was guided of the Lord to leave Samaria and to join himself with the Eunuch to win him to Christ (Acts 8:5, 26). These examples and many others, establish the fact that God did guide His people. And if we want God's guidance for our life today, we must follow the "Good Shepherd" Jesus, as He promise to guide all of His sheep. We simply need to become His sheep, listen to His voice and obey.

God being our guide refers to the reality of what happens in a relationship between God and his people. You can trust that God will reliably provide what you need to do whatever he guides you to do. "Where God guides, he provides" should be encouragement for us to trust God to provide the resources we need to act on his guidance.

Lesson Applied

We are God's precious flock, and Jesus is the Good Shepherd who calls each sheep by name (John 10:3). We do not need to know beforehand all the details of the journey our Shepherd is taking us on. Our job is simply to trust Him, listen carefully to His voice in the Bible, and follow wherever He leads. Although right now you may find it hard to believe, one day you will look back in amazement at how Jesus guided you through life, weaving a path even through your pain, mistakes and sins, to reach His perfect destination. Until then, Jesus' command is simple: hear Him and obey Him as He **Guides us Through Everyday Events of Life**.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Source(s): 1 Corinthians 7:27-28, 38; Philippians 1:10; Proverbs 15:22; James 1:5; Proverbs 16:9
Bibles: ESV

Unit Theme: Guidance From God

Lesson Topic: Submitting to God's Guidance

Lesson Scripture: Psalms: 25:1-5

Key Verse: Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior, and my hope is in you all day long. -*Psalms 25:5*

Essential Question: If you get lost on this journey called life, who would you turn to for guidance and directions?

Lesson Aims

At the end of this lesson the participant will understand that:

1. One of the benefits of being a believer is that God will guide you through this life and will lead you into the next. You do not have to try to figure it out yourself.
2. God's guidance requires submission. You must give him complete control.
3. In order to submit to God you must have complete faith in him.

Introduction

One of the things that we pointed out at the beginning of this series on God's Guidance on the first Sunday of this month, is that we cannot make it through this life on our own. We must have someone to help us along the way. On the first Sunday we talked about **Seeking God's Guidance**. In our discussion we talked about the importance of having people in your life who can help you when you need advice or could help you to get back on the right track if you made a wrong turn. We went on to say that even with people giving you advice and looking out for your best interest, before taking any action make sure that you talk to God. He places people in your life to help you along the way, but He should have the last word. So today we are here to tell you that after seeking God's guidance, when he gives you the plan you must follow it without any hesitation or doubt. Realize that he is God. God will have the last word and he will never fail. Seek His guidance, submit to him, listen to his voice, and walk in the way he revealed to you. If you walk with God, you will never walk alone.

Exposition

Some Talking Points on the need for God's Guidance

1. Submitting ourselves to God needs to be done daily and with every fiber of our being. Submission to God cannot occur only once in a while or when we feel like it.

Submit yourself therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. – James 4:7

This verse is telling us that by resisting temptations and strengthening our faith, we will find it easier to surrender and follow God's will. Each victory will help you some others to win. Then

we will learn to look to him for guidance and not to man. Man will lead you down the wrong path and just leave you there to try and find your way out.

I will praise the Lord at all times and his praise shall continually be on my lips – Psalms 34:1

By show of hand how many of you only praise God when things are going well with you and your family? Ok, let's put it another way: How many of you praise God more when things are going well then when you are going through something?

Truth be told I think that all of us have had situations in our life when our faith was not as strong as it should be, but we must learn to praise God even more when trouble shows up on our doorstep. There is always a blessing in the praise.

4. Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me let him take up his cross and follow me – Matthew 16:24

In this verse Jesus is saying that we must deny ourselves. What does that mean?

All of us were born with a mission and a purpose. God has entrusted us with the mission, and he will equip us with what we need to complete it. This requires us to have enough faith to complete the mission. There will be obstacles along the way, but he will give us what we need to overcome them. After all the battle is not ours, its the Lord. We are just instruments to be used in his service. We have to aline our life and our actions with the word of God.

In this life we are constantly influenced by society, our family, our teachers, our friends, and social media. We sometimes become what society wants us to be. That is why some people can be successful in life and still feel miserable inside. They are living their lives according to someone else's dream, not theirs, and and most importantly, not according to God's plan for them. For what does it profits a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your path – Proverbs 3:5-6

These verses are telling us to trust God with all our heart. Sometimes it may not be clear where God, it is leading us or even why he is leading us in a certain direction. That's why faith and trust in God is so important. Become more comfortable in not knowing and pray to God for strength in times of uncertainty. Be patient and let God's plan for you unfold naturally and gracefully. Don't force it and don't try to make it happen before it is time.

word on God's Guidance from Psalms 25:1-5

Verse 1 – Look to the Lord. Lift him up and he will guide you every step of the way. Your feet may stumble but you will not fall. He knows the way and every pitfall you are going to encounter along the way. Your prayer should be "where you lead me Lord I will follow, every step of the way. You are the shepherd, I am the sheep.

Verse 2 - In you God I put my trust. I will trust in you. Sometimes we fall because we put our trust in the wrong people/person. People will sometimes tell you what you want to hear and not necessarily what you need to hear. So the best thing that we can do is listen to people but trust in

the one who will never let us down. God has given believers the spirit of discernment. Make sure you use it in every decision and every move you make.

Let me not be ashamed of the God that I serve. I will claim you as my savior everywhere I go.

He will not let your enemies' triumph over you. Although it may seem like the enemy is winning God is still in charge. The battle is already won.

God will protect you from those who mean to harm you. He said touch not my anointed and do my prophet no harm – 1 Chronicles 16:20

Verse 4 – Show me thy way. Job said, “in all my appointed time will I wait until my change come.” Before you act wait and hear what God has planned for you. Talk to him and wait for an answer before you act. Many times, we are in a hurry to do something, and we do not wait to see if it is in line with what God has planned for us. Wait on the lord and be of good courage, for he will strengthen your heart.

Verse 5 – Ask God to guide you in his truth. Remember that your truth and God's truth in not always the same. Make sure that you are walking in his truth.

Ask him to teach you how to rely on him for direction in life, and to give you the wisdom to follow where he leads. “Where he leads me, I will follow; where he sends me I will go.” It's more than just a song, it has to be a lifestyle.

This must be our declaration: For you are God my savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

The Lesson Applied

Giving up your own plans to follow God requires strength, faith, and trust in a higher power. But by following the scripture and surrendering to God, we allow ourselves to go with the flow of life and find deeper meaning by fulfilling our life purpose. Bible verses about surrendering to God are there to help you find a deeper meaning to life. By surrendering to God, you are following God's will. Even though it is challenging to let go and surrender to God, we can see in the scripture that we will find freedom by surrendering. So, when you receive your marching orders, don't ask God why. Just follow his instruction then stand back and watch him work. The Psalmist said I would have fainted if I had not seen the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait I say on the Lord – Psalms 27:13-14.

“But when he, the spirit of truth comes he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.” -John 16:13

Speak Lord!

Unit Theme: Guidance From God

Lesson Topic: God's Guidance Seldom Follows Our Plans

Lesson Scriptures: Acts 8:5-8, Jeremiah 29:11, Romans 5:6-11, John 6:44, John 10:26-27

Key Verse: Acts 8:6 (NIV) "And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did."

Essential Question(s): Are we following God's guidance for our lives?

Lesson Aim(s)

At the end of this lesson the participant will:

1. Understand God's plan for our lives.
2. Keep the word in our hearts describing his plan for us.
3. Know God's plan is better than our own.

Introduction

If God showed us the plan for our lives at a young age, do you think we would have went along with the plan? Or do you think we would have tried to make changes to the plans? Due to God allowing us to have a choice, I think he would have not shown us the plan for our lives. We first have to decide that Jesus will be our Savior, and then, allow him to guide us through his written word.

Exposition

God is not trying to hide His will for our lives; He wants His children to know His will and follow it. The Bible is filled with clear statements regarding God's plan that apply to all believers. Jeremiah 29:11 is a very familiar scripture which lets us know that God wants the best for us. He would not allow us to fail, but we may have some stumbling blocks if we detour from his will.

We can grow in our understanding of God's will through prayer. Prayer is supposed to be easy. It is our way to communicate with God, serve him, and obey him. Prayer is a means of discerning God's will for our lives. We should pray prior to making major decisions in our lives. We pray for guidance, and even if the prayer is not answered to what we feel it should. God's guidance is what we should be living for not guidance from man or the world. We can also pray for God to reveal His plan to others. God's plan for our lives might be revealed through someone else. Jesus taught us we should pray not only for ourselves, but also our neighbors. There are many examples of people praying to God throughout the Bible. Solomon is one person. He asked for "wisdom and knowledge," and God gave him that and much more (2 Chronicles 1:10-12).

God sometimes reveals or confirms His plans for us through other means besides prayer, including personal circumstances, relationships, or even dreams. Have you ever had someone

prophesy into your life? The prophesy could have been shown to you through a dream, but now, you hear it from someone who does not even know you.

When we dedicate our lives to God and turn away from the principles of this world, we prepare our hearts to hear from God. 1 Corinthians 14:3 (KJV) says, “But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men *to* edification, and exhortation, and comfort.”

We often become impatient in wondering what God’s plan is for our lives. But it is not as complicated as we make it out to be. God’s plan for us is revealed a little at a time as we follow Him, and His plan may look different in different seasons of life. God’s plan is rarely a straight shot to a visible goal. His plan requires a journey, that may be filled with detours, sudden stops, and confusing turns. But if our hearts are set to obey Him in all that we know to do, then we will be in the center of His will every step of the way. based on our decisions we make.

The Lesson Applied

Many places in Scripture indicate that God does have a specific plan for each human being. It started before we were even conceived. God’s plan for every human being is that each one comes to know Him and accept His offer of salvation. A lack of prayer demonstrates a lack of faith and a lack of trust in God’s Word. We pray to demonstrate our faith in God, that He will do as he has promised in his Word and bless our lives abundantly more than we could ask or hope for. As we pray, study Scripture, and seek to live holy before God, he will reveal his plan for us in his perfect time and in a way we can understand.

References:

Biblegateway.com
Gotquestions.org
Holy Bible

References

The lessons are based on the Grant Hill Missionary Baptist Church Sunday School Ministry writers understanding of the topics being discussed, and cited references listed and given credit as written.



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