

What Do We Believe?

Lesson 35

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Lesson 35: Christian Behavior: Knowing God's Will

Scriptures:

Genesis 39:1, 2, 23; Exodus 20:1-17, 33:12-17; Psalm 40:8-10, 143:10; Isaiah 58; Micah 6:8; Matthew 6:8-13; 26:39; Romans 12; Ephesians 4:11-16

Lesson Goals:

To lead the learner to understand that God's will is best
To lead the learner to understand that we can know God's will
To lead the learner to understand that God has a plan for each of us

Scripture Memory:

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

The Lesson:

Jack said, "I know what the Bible says...all those 'do not's.' What I want to know is how in the world God expects me to live that way. After all, the world I live in is a lot more complicated than the one Jesus lived in." Jessica said, "You have a dog, don't you?" "Yes, his name is Rocket," Jack replied. "Well," said Jessica, "You would never do anything to hurt Rocket would you?" Jack said, "Of course not!" Jessica said, "And, you teach him to do things...like eating good food, staying off the furniture, going outside when it is appropriate, using good behavior while on the leash and other things that are good for him, right?" Jack said, "Yes." "You are a good friend to your dog," replied Jessica. "God is a good Father. He knows what is good for us and how we can best get along with other people and our world. He gave us some guidance, so that we can have a good life."

We need to remember that, since God knows everything and created everything including humans, His will for us is perfect. That is why, when Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He told them to ask God for His will to be done. He also prayed that way when He was about to be crucified. He asked God the Father if there was any other way that sins could be forgiven. But, He finished His prayer with, "Thy will be done."

God didn't hide His will from Jesus, and He doesn't hide it from us. We have a wonderful book that gives great insight into what God is like and how we, His children, ought to behave. When we have a question about how we ought to behave, the very first place to go for help is that wonderful book, the Bible - God's Word.

Sometimes it's a good idea to ask someone who is wise, and who knows God's Word, for help with our problems. Understanding the Bible is not always easy, especially if there is no specific scripture about the problem we face. God wants us to know His will and there are people, whom we can trust, who are willing to help us know what God says and how He wants us to behave. These are people whom God has called, who have studied the Bible and who believe it to be true.

Every Christian should be aware that God has a plan for his or her life. God calls us to Himself for two reasons. First, He wants us to be His children and experience all the wonder and joy of being a child of God. Second, He has work for us to do. The best families are those who share everything. They share affection. They share meals. There is mutual support. When someone needs encouragement or help, there is someone in the family who wants to be helpful. They share the chores. When something needs to be done...dishes washed, floors swept, car washed, bills paid, and other things...everyone "pitches in," or, someone takes the job and does something good for all the rest.

It is like that in the family of God. Everyone has a place and everyone can “pitch in” to see that all the work gets done. God calls all of us to work. He calls some to special tasks, like teaching, or helping those who are hurting, or preaching. God’s Holy Spirit provides basic skills and abilities that we need as we do what God calls us to do. It is up to us to develop those skills so that God can use them. All that we do for God is good and of great value.

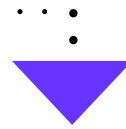
Life Application:

Christians believe, without any doubt, that God has a will for them and that finding and doing that will is the greatest challenge and opportunity on earth. Isn’t that an exciting thought? God has a will for you. He has a plan for your life and His plans are good. When we read the Bible, we find lists of rules like the Ten Commandments. We also find wise counsel like the book of Proverbs. Even so, we sometimes struggle to know what God wants us to do. There is a verse in the book of John (6:29) that is pretty clear. It says, “This is the will of God, that you believe in the One He has sent.” So what is it that God wants you to do? He wants you to believe in His one and only Son. This isn’t just a belief that says, “Yes, I know there is a God.” Even the demons believe that! This belief means to trust, and put your confidence in God’s Son, Jesus.

Is that something you have ever done? Do you remember the day you gave your life to Jesus, trusting Him to be in control of your life with that wonderful plan of His? If not, why not today? What are you waiting for? And if you have, are you letting others know that God has an amazing plan for their lives as well? Who can you tell this week?



Planning for Lesson 36
Christian Behavior: Doing Right,
Being in God’s Will



- ◆ **Memory Verse Activity** - Encourage your students to express their understanding of the memory verse. This may be done through art, poetry, rap, etc. Allow your students to share.

- ◆ Create a Game Show with the Ten Commandments.

- ◆ Read Acts 20-24. Discuss God's plan for Paul. Discuss how God made His plan known to Paul and how Paul still followed that plan even though it would lead to his arrest. Finish your discussion with Jeremiah 29:11.

- ◆ Sing "Jesus Draw Me Close," "Micah 6:8," "Trust and Obey," "I Am Thine, O Lord," "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," "I Surrender All," "No Excuse," "The Lord Has a Will," "Take My Life and Let it Be," "The Savior is Waiting," "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," "When We Walk With the Lord," "Where He Leads Me," and "Wherever He Leads I'll Go."

- ◆ **Dig Deeper:** Create a chart - "What the World Says," "What I Think," "What God Says." Involve your students in filling in the columns "What the World Says" and "What I Think." Once those columns have been filled, begin filling in the column "What God Says." Prompt them with specific Scripture references as needed.

- ◆ **Dig Deeper Still:** Read Romans 12 from several translations. Talk about God's plan. What part of our lives does it involve? What is God's plan? Discuss what you discover.



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Romans 12:2

TEN COMMANDMENTS MATCH

Match the commandment with its order in Exodus 20:1-17

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|-----------|--|
| 1 | Do not steal |
| 2 | Remember the Sabbath |
| 3 | Do not put any other gods in place of Me |
| 4 | Do not lie about your neighbor |
| 5 | Honor your father and mother |
| 6 | Do not murder |
| 7 | Do not make idols |
| 8 | Do not commit adultery |
| 9 | Do not misuse the name of God |
| 10 | Do not covet |

Word Search



S S E N S U O E T E V O C T N O D
 W K W G O S L I E M F P E E E E T
 Y L O H H T A B B A S P E E K C U
 R T S N O I E S E N G L A E R T R
 D D H V T N T M U S U H O A E D U
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 T O R E H T A F R O N O H O E G O
 T E N C O M M A N D M E N T S D D

no gods in place of me

no idols

don't misuse His name

keep Sabbath holy

honor father

honor mother

no murder

no adultery

do not steal

do not lie

don't covet

ten commandments

Word Search



S	S	E	N	S	U	O	E	T	E	V	O	C	T	N	O	D
W	K	W	G	O	S	L	I	E	M	F	P	E	E	E	E	T
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T	E	N	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	M	E	N	T	S	D	D

no gods in place of me

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ten commandments