



Teacher's Guide

Confidence

Surveying the Source

John 3:36; Acts 4:29; 1 Cor. 9:27; Heb. 4:16; 1 John 5:13–21; Rev. 12:9.

Plotting the Course

The students will:

- ▶ Analyze the importance of aligning their will to the will of God.
- ▶ Explore the basis of God's trustwor-

thiness.

- ▶ Understand that God will always act in their best interest.

Preparing to Lead

Most of us are afraid to ask God to manifest His power. Maybe we don't think He will listen, maybe we don't believe He will come through. Perhaps God isn't the one with the problem; we just don't know how to ask. There is an important condition to be met when we ask

God to intervene in our lives. We need to remember that He will respond according to His will, which is ultimately a much better alternative to our narrow-sighted, selfish viewpoint. In His love and wisdom, He asks us to submit fully to Him. Only then will we want what He wants.

Getting Started

A. Divide your class in half. Blindfold half of the class, and have them stand in a line. Explain that some of them will be standing in front of chairs and some will not. One by one, students in the other half will bring the blindfolded students in front of a chair and ask them if they believe that there is a chair behind them. If they do, ask them to sit on the chair. When the exercise is done, ask students why they chose to sit or why they did not.

Write their responses on the board.

B. Say: "In James 2:19 we find that "even the demons believe [there is one God]—and shudder" (NIV). Apparently we need to do better than just believe." Then direct the students to write a list of reasons why they believe in God, using these three categories as their guide: ●What He has done in the past; ●What He is doing presently; ●What He has promised for the future.

Materials

pencils; blindfolds; chalkboard/whiteboard/flipchart and appropriate markers; paper; basket; scissors

Delving Into the Word

A. Say: "When we present our petitions to God, our theme must be: 'Thy [God's] will be done.' The Bible gives us examples of people who at times asked for the wrong thing. Others boldly asked God to intervene in a radical way, and He did." Then divide your class into four groups.

Assign each of the groups one of the following characters and Bible references: ●Elijah (1 Kings 18:20–39); ●Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:1–7; 20:1–21); ●Jonah (Jonah 1:1–3; 3:1–3); ●Paul (2 Cor. 7:5–10). Ask each group to study their story and present a lesson learned from their

experience.

B. Write the following Bible references on a piece of paper: ●Psalm 91:9, 10; ●Isaiah 26:3; ●Mark 11:24; ●John 14:2, 3; ●Philippians 4:19; ●2 Thessalonians 3:3; ●James 1:5; ●Revelation 21:4. Cut out each one and put them in a basket. Ask each student to pick one out of the

basket and read the verse from their Bible. Have someone write the text on the board. After all of the texts are written on the board, discuss the following questions: ●“How have these promises had an impact in my life?” ●“What do they tell me about God in the future?”

Discussing the Ideas

1. Who would you end up being if you allowed God to carry out His will in your life?
2. What role does obedience play in submitting yourself to God’s will?
3. In the midst of our sin, how can we boldly approach God?
4. How do you know you can trust God?

5. Why does God sometimes answer in what we think is an unfavorable way, even when the request seems to be aligned with His will?

6. How can we learn to ask God for the right things?

7. Why does doubt prevent us from asking God for radical manifestations of His power?

Closing the Activity

Say: “In Jesus’ model prayer, we find a phrase that allows us to put aside our wants and unlock God’s power. That phrase is ‘Thy [God’s] will be done’ (Matt. 6:10).”

Then pass out copies of the reproducible activity (p. 40). Instruct the students

to form a circle and have each one read one of the statements on the activity sheet. Have the students pledge their submission to God and His perfect will. If they want to make that commitment, ask them to sign the pledge. Break into pairs and have students pray for each other.

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Oh God, thy will be done...

In my thoughts;

In my words;

In my relationships;

In my fun;

In my choices;

In my doubts;

In my weaknesses;

In my needs;

In my body;

In my dreams;

In my life.

Name