



February 2, 2025
Dr. Rick Mandl
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Plan In Pencil

Decision Making & The Will Of God

⁵After I go through Macedonia, I will come to you—for I will be going through Macedonia. ⁶Perhaps I will stay with you for a while, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go. ⁷For I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. ⁸But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, ⁹because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

1 Corinthians 16:5-9

What Should You Do When You Don't Know What To Do?

Joshua 9:14-21, Proverbs 19:2-3, 20:18, 19:20, Acts 16:6-10, James 4:3-15

1. _____
2. Get The _____
3. Seek _____
4. Do What _____
5. _____ Your _____

Open & Closed Doors

1. An Open Door Doesn't Guarantee _____

1 Corinthians 16:8-9

2. God's Plan Is Most Clearly Seen In _____

Romans 8:28, Genesis 50:20

3. If We Do The _____ We'll End Up In The _____

Acts 16:22-39, Philippians 1:12-14, 2 Timothy 2:9

Memory Verse

"We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps."
Proverbs 16:9

MY NEXT STEP IS TO...

- ☐ Respond to the Gospel message and for the first time place my trust in Jesus Christ and begin to follow Him as my Savior and Lord
- ☐ Memorize Proverbs 16:9
- ☐ Ask God to help me to hold my plans loosely, always giving Him the right to redirect
- ☐ Get the most out of today's teaching by attending my Life Group this week





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1 Corinthians 16:5-9

What Should You Do When You Don't Know What To Do?

Joshua 9:14-21, Proverbs 19:2-3, 20:18, 19:20, Acts 16:6-10, James 4:3-15

1. Pray
2. Get The Facts
3. Seek Wise Counsel
4. Do What Seems Best
5. Adjust Your Plans

Open & Closed Doors

1. An Open Door Doesn't Guarantee Smooth Sailing

1 Corinthians 16:8-9

2. God's Plan Is Most Clearly Seen In Hindsight

Romans 8:28, Genesis 50:20

3. If We Do The Right Thing - We Will End Up In The Right Place

Acts 16:22-39, Philippians 1:12-14, 2 Timothy 2:9

Memory Verse

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Discussion Questions - Week #2

LIFEGROUPS

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the weekend sermon, “Plan In Pencil,” summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

Was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Do you plan on taking any practical steps this week in response to the message?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

What is your typical decision-making process?

In the message this weekend, Pastor Rick shared that God's hand is often most clearly seen in the “rearview mirror.” Have you ever had a situation where you had no idea if God was leading, only to look back later and realize He was? What about something you were sure He was leading you to do, only to find out later He wasn't?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Exodus 18:13-27. Do you have anyone in your life who has played the role of Jethro, speaking words of wisdom when you needed them most?

What was the wisdom or guidance they offered?

What do you currently need wisdom for in your life?

Proverbs 11:14 says, “Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.” Many of us feel we have no Jethro in our lives; how do we go from having none to the multitude the proverb suggests?

How might we become people who not only receive wisdom but who are sought for our wisdom?

2. Read Ephesians 5:1-2 and 15-21. What stands out to you?

In verse 17, Paul encourages us to seek to understand what the Lord's will is. Given what we read in the broader passage, how would you describe God's will?

What does it look like to make the most of every opportunity?

Do you think there's a connection between pursuing a life marked by worship (v.19) and living in God's will? If so, what is it?

How do you think following Paul's encouragements in this passage would shape your decision regarding your career, finances, relationship, or another important decision?

FOR PRACTICE

In his book *Hearing God*, philosopher Dallas Willard states, “I fear that many people seek to hear God solely as a device for obtaining their own safety, comfort, and sense of being righteous.” The opposite of this would be to hear God, not as a means for achieving what we want but achieving what He wants. It's the mature follower of Jesus who realizes that what God wants happens to be the best thing for us. Consider setting aside some time this week to practice listening prayer, and like Samuel in the House of God at Shiloh, be prepared to answer, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

SHARE IT

Is there anything you heard or learned in the weekend message or Life Group this week that you want to share with someone you know?

PRAYER REQUESTS

☞ According to the Joshua Project estimates, there are over 8 billion people alive today, and 3.43 billion (or over 40%) live in unreached groups with little or no access to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In other words, they are spiritually blind. Pray for Christian missionaries to enter these regions and for the Good News of Jesus to spread, leading to Spirit-led indigenous Christ-followers, leaders, and church plants.