


November 1, 2026
Dr. Rick Mandl
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**Matthew 2:13-23**

**1. _____ when God changes your _____** v. 13-15

**Key Thought:**

**You don't have to _____ _____**

**God is doing to _____ what He is _____**

**2. _____ when God makes you _____** v. 15-20

**Key Thought:**

**God's _____ doesn't mean God's _____**

# When God Redirects Your Life

**3. _____ when God leads somewhere _____** v. 21-23

**Key Thought:**

**What looks like a _____ to us**

**may be part of God's bigger _____**

## Memory Verse

"In their hearts humans plan their course,
but the LORD establishes their steps."
Proverbs 16:9

## MY NEXT STEP IS. . .

- ○ Memorize Proverbs 16:9
- ○ Receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior for the first time today
- ○ Ask God to show me:
  - ○ One step of obedience I've been delaying
  - ○ Where I need to trust Him instead of demanding an answer
  - ○ What unexpected change I need to surrender to Him

Recycled Paper

Invite a friend, family member or
co-worker to join you next week at ERBC!
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# When God Redirects Your Life

**Matthew 2:13-23**

**1. Obey when God changes your Plans** v. 13-15

**Key Thought:**
**You don't have to Understand Everything**
**God is doing to Obey what He is Asking.**

**2. Trust when God makes you Wait** v. 15-20

**Key Thought:**
**God's Silence doesn't mean God's Absence.**

**3. Follow when God leads somewhere Unexpected** v. 21-23

**Key Thought:**
**What looks like a Detour to us**
**may be part of God's bigger Plan.**

## Memory Verse

"In their hearts humans plan their course,
but the LORD establishes their steps."
Proverbs 16:9

## MY NEXT STEP IS. . .

- ○ Memorize Proverbs 16:9
- ○ Receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior for the first time today
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# Discussion Questions - Week #6

LIFEGROUPS

**QUICK REVIEW**
Thinking back to the weekend sermon, “When God Redirects Your Life,” summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

Looking at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time, or that caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

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

**GETTING STARTED**
If you could go back and give your younger self one piece of advice, what would it be?

Have you ever had a vacation or trip that went completely differently than you expected? What happened?

**DIGGING DEEPER**
1. Throughout Scripture, God guides His people, sometimes in unexpected directions. In Acts 16, Paul and his companions are actively sharing the gospel when the Holy Spirit redirects their plans. Although God ultimately made His direction clear, recognizing His guidance in our own lives isn’t always so straightforward.

**Read Acts 16:6–10.**

What stands out to you in this passage?

Can you think of a time when you sensed God leading you in a direction you didn’t fully understand? What was that experience like?

Paul and his companions were already pursuing God’s mission when the Spirit redirected them. How can we take initiative while remaining attentive to God’s leading?

How can we develop a habit of seeking God’s direction in our decisions rather than simply following our own preferences?

In verse 10, Paul and his companions conclude that God is calling them to Macedonia. What role can other Christians play in helping us discern God’s leading?

***What is one way I can become more intentional about seeking God’s direction in my everyday decisions?***

2. In this weekend’s message, we saw how Joseph responded to God’s direction with obedience, even when it meant changing his plans. But obedience involves more than simply doing what we’re told. In John 14, Jesus helps us understand obedience in the context of our relationship with Him.

**Read John 14:15–24.**

What connections does Jesus make between love and obedience in this passage?

How is obedience motivated by love different from obedience motivated by fear, guilt, or a desire to earn God’s approval?

Jesus repeatedly connects love for Him with keeping His commands. How intentional are we about learning what Jesus commands so that we can put His words into practice?

In verses 15–17, Jesus connects obedience with the promise of the Holy Spirit. How does the Spirit’s presence help us follow Jesus?

***If obeying Jesus is an expression of my love for Him, what might need to change about the way I approach His teachings?***

**FOR PRACTICE**
This week, set aside a few minutes each day to read a portion of Jesus’ teaching in the Gospels. Before reading, ask the Holy Spirit to help you listen and respond. As you read, consider what Jesus is calling you to do, and look for an opportunity to put His words into practice.

**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**
World Vision reports that 1 in 11 people worldwide face chronic hunger due to conflict, extreme weather, and economic hardship. Take time to pray for peace in areas of conflict, for children and families facing hunger, and for God to provide protection and the resources needed to rebuild communities where critical infrastructure has been damaged or destroyed.