

# TAKEAWAY

## JUST DO IT

### Finding our place in the Master plan

#### DISCERNING GOD'S WILL

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019

#### INTRODUCTION

On Sunday, we looked at the tools God gives us to discern His will; the Bible, the leading of the Holy Spirit, the sound mind, knowing our loves and other people.

#### DISCUSS

1. What are some of the biggest decisions you have had to make in life so far? How did you make them?
2. How do you feel about how you made them now, with hindsight?

#### READ

Isaiah 40:8

Hebrews 12:4

Psalms 119:105

#### EXPLAIN

The Bible is not a rulebook, is guidance for real life from God himself. It knows what we're like! However the Bible does not speak to specifics, it give broad principles. That's the strength and the weakness of it. It's God's message to everyone at every time and place, it's always applicable but it's rarely specific.

#### DISCUSS

3. What do these quotes tell us about how the Bible 'sees itself'?
4. Do you allow the Bible to have this role in your life?

#### READ

Acts 12:25-13:3

#### DISCUSS

5. Here the Holy Spirit speaks directly to a group of early church leaders. What were the circumstances of this? What were these men already doing?
6. How can we be sure that our sense of the Spirit's leading is truly Him – rather than our feelings or preferences?

#### READ

Romans 12:2-8

#### DISCUSS

7. God gave us brains and intends us to use them – but He also wants to transform them so we think as He does. Why shouldn't we think of ourselves 'more highly than we ought' when making decisions?

8. What common-sense wisdom can you see in this passage about how we make decisions?

#### READ

Psalms 37:3

#### DISCUSS

9. Have you experienced what Psalm 37 says – and how?

10. The first part of the verse is critical. Take delight in the Lord. If you delight in God, if you enjoy Him and who He is, then the things you desire will be shaped in



line with His desires. Do you know what the desires of your heart are? What would you like to see happen in your life? In your family? In your community?

11. What might be the potential downsides of overly focusing on our desires (even if they are good!)?

## READ

Proverbs 15:22

Proverbs 27:6

## DISCUSS

12. What do these proverbs mean, in your own words?

13. How likely are you to consult with others

about a big decision? Why so?

14. How would you choose who to request advice from?

15. Are there any downsides to getting input from other people?

## EXPLAIN

Some people think of God's will as though it's a tightrope – one wrong move, and you're done. But God's will is more like a wide open field – there is freedom to run around. The reason for this is that in Jesus, God has already done the main bit of the plan. We can't mess that up.

## DISCUSS

16. Of the five tools for discerning God's will we've looked at – the Bible (questions 3 and 4), leading of the Holy Spirit (questions 5 and 6), the sound mind (questions 7 and 8), knowing our loves (questions 9, 10 and 11) and other people (questions 12, 13, 14 and 15) – which are you likely to emphasise most? Which are you likely to neglect?

17. How would you like to go about making decisions in the future?

