



EXODUS 15:13

In your strength you will guide them...

PSALM 48:14

For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.

JOHN 16:13

... he will guide you into all the truth.

PSALM 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

PSALM 20:18

Make plans by seeking advice, so if you wage war, obtain guidance.

PROVERBS 15:22

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. Proverbs 15:22

NOTES FOR LEADERS

This Friday, the 15th of September, at 6:30pm, we'll be hosting a marriage evening with Graeme & Allison Schnell from Focus on the Family. They will be equipping us with some practical tools for healthy conflict. Please encourage all married couples in your group to join us.

START TALKING

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's message? What challenged you or encouraged you?
2. What has God been doing in your world - what can we celebrate?

START THINKING *(Pick 2 or 3 questions)*

1. Steve used the analogy of the harbour lights to explain how God guides us. Can you think of a time when you felt like you had clear guidance from God on a decision? How did God guide you, and what was the outcome of that situation?
2. What are some of the things that can stand in the way of us seeking God's guidance in our decision-making?
3. Which of the three guiding lights Steve mentioned on Sunday (His Word, Godly Counsel & Dreams,

Visions, Prophecies, etc.) has God used to guide you previously?

4. Spending time with God and seeking Him out is part of the decision-making process. What are some practical steps we take to seek God's will and spend time in His presence when making important decisions?

START SHARING *(Pick 2 or 3 questions)*

1. In Seeking godly counsel was one of the guiding "lights" Steve mentioned. Who are the people in your life that you turn to for advice and guidance when making important decisions? How do you discern whether their counsel aligns with God's will?
2. How would you describe your current relationship with God in terms of seeking His guidance in your life? Do you feel that it extends to asking Him for guidance in various aspects of your life, both big and small? Based on Sunday's message, is there anything you need to change? What steps will you take to make that change?
3. In the message, Steve mentioned that our decisions have a significant impact on our destiny. Can you share an example from your life where a decision you made had a profound impact on your future? Were you actively seeking God's guidance in that situation?

START PRAYING

Father God, we acknowledge that every decision we make, big or small, has the power to shape our destiny, and we desire to seek Your guidance in all that we do. Your Word reminds us that You are our Guide, our Shepherd even to the end, and we take comfort in that promise. Help us to seek You diligently, to spend time with You, and to pray for Your guidance in all our decisions. We commit to doing our very best to find Your will and follow it. Amen

START DOING

If you're not in a daily habit of spending time in God's Word, find a Bible reading plan and commit to spending a manageable amount of time in God's Word daily. Aim to gradually increase it.



This Sunday, Steve shared the first in a two-part message on how God guides us. We all have decisions to make – big and small. Our decisions have a huge impact on our lives – they determine our destiny.

Faith is about a relationship with God – does our relationship with Him extend as far as asking Him for guidance?

God wants to guide us:

In your strength you will guide them ... Exodus 15:13

For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end. Psalm 48:14

... he will guide you into all the truth. John 16:13

If left to our own devices, we seek control, but God knows the future, and He is eager to shepherd and guide us.

How does He guide us?

There is a certain Italian harbour that can be reached only by sailing up a narrow channel between dangerous rocks and shoals. Over the years, many ships have wrecked, and navigation is hazardous. Lights have been mounted in the harbour on huge poles to guide the ships safely into port. The ship can safely proceed up the narrow channel when the lights are perfectly lined up and seen as one. If the pilot sees two or three lights, he knows he's off course and in danger.

God guides us in many different ways. It's not one size fits all. The ways God guides us can be equated to the harbour lights in the illustration above. The bigger the decision, the more lights we should want to line up. (Steve shared 3 of the lights this week and will share the other 3 next week).

1. His Word

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.
Psalm 119:105

The more time we spend with God in His word, the more we come to know how He thinks about things. When making a decision, one of the first questions we should ask is: Does the Bible say anything about this?

The Bible gives us the general Will of God – things that all of us are called to do.

The difficulty many of us have is that we don't spend enough time with God. It's a good idea to have a Bible reading plan.

It is not a good idea to point at a verse at random when seeking God's guidance. There's a story of a man who tried this. He said, 'Lord, what shall I do?' And he opened his Bible at random, and he happened to land on Matthew 27:5, which says: *Then Judas went and hanged himself.* So he thought, 'Oh dear, I'd better try this again,' and he went to Luke 10:37, which reads: *Go and do thou likewise.* He thought, 'Oh dear!' So he tried a third time and landed on John 13:27, which says: *What you're about to do, do quickly.*

2. Godly Counsel

Make plans by seeking advice, so if you wage war, obtain guidance. Proverbs 20:18

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. Proverbs 15:22

God is encouraging us to seek Godly wisdom when it comes to decision-making. We need to learn to ask good

questions when seeking counsel. The people we ask are not making decisions for us but are helping us figure things out! Who should we ask? Parents, mentors, church leaders, etc. This is part of the reason why the Bible is so strong on the idea of community.

If someone asks for counsel, don't just say what comes into your head. Ask them questions, and show them the options. If there is a glaring red light, mention it.

3. Dreams, Visions, Prophecies etc.

We see examples of the unique way God speaks to people in the Bible:

- Belteshazzar was guided by handwriting on the wall
- Moses was guided by a burning bush
- A donkey spoke out loud to an Old Testament prophet
- Angels appeared to people

These are pretty few and far between!

Prophecy is spoken through someone and should confirm one of the other guiding lights.

God can speak to us clearly through some of these things, but we need to remember that we are filtering them through our thoughts, so we should always seek more than one guiding light.

The Bible says that if we seek God, we will find Him. Part of the decision-making process is spending time with God, seeking Him out, praying to Him.

We should make a personal commitment to do our very best:

- To find God's will
- To follow it

For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.

Psalm 48:14

Today, make a decision to find God's will and follow it.