

Are You Deep Sea Elk Hunting?

Two Roadblocks And A Weird Dream:

Acts 16:6-10

Experiencing God's Will:

Six Things We Will Need To Know And Do

(1) God's will is usually found on a road called **OBEDIENCE**.

Romans 1:18-31/Proverbs 4:18-19/ Proverbs 3:5-6

(2) Expect a **GAME PLAN**, not a **BLUEPRINT**.

(3) A detailed and crystal-clear calling is the **EXCEPTION**, not the **NORM**.

Acts 15:37-41/ Acts 16:6-10

(4) Plan in **PENCIL**. No one gets it right all the time.

Romans 7:14-25/ 1 Corinthians 4:4

(5) A **VALLEY** doesn't mean a **WRONG TURN**.

1 Corinthians 16:8-9/ Psalm 23/ 1 Peter 4:19

(6) If we mess up **PLAN A**, there is always **PLAN B, C, and Z**.

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of September 20, 2020

WELCOME TO THE FALL QUARTER OF LIFE GROUPS!

This week we kick off our Fall Life Group Quarter. Your first meeting is designed to give you time to get acquainted, connect with each other, as well as time to discuss how to make your Life Group meetings great! The study questions have been shortened this week to allow ample time to accomplish all of this.

To prepare for your first meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great meeting as you come together to connect, encourage one another to grow and see how God might work!

Online Groups - If your group is meeting online, your leaders will be sending you the link for your group. Use this link for help on meeting with your group online - <https://lifegroups.northcoastchurch.com/pro-tips/>

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. The summer of 2020 will most likely be one we will not forget. The good news is God is still working. Chances are you've also found some new ways of doing things or you've had new experiences as a result of the COVID craziness. Take a minute and answer the questions below. Be ready to share with your group:

- What is your favorite thing/most creative idea you experience or do now as a result of COVID restrictions? (Curbside pickup, eating in the parking lot, going to bed earlier, going to bed later, new skill or hobby, going on more walks, etc.)
- What are one or two things you enjoyed most this summer?
- Besides going to church on the weekends, what social experience have you missed the most because of some of the quarantine restrictions?

2. When life gets difficult, we often try to understand what God's will is. We may wonder what God is up to, especially during the past six months with all that is going on with COVID. Looking back at Larry's message on "Experiencing God's Will," what one or two statements or points are most important for you to remember and why?

3. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This week we heard that living by the Spirit and God's will has as much to do with who we are as where we are. In Philippians 4:4-14, Paul gives us a game plan for God's will no matter where we are in life. Read the passage and jot down three or four things that catch your attention that we can do to be in God's will regardless of our circumstances.

Philippians 4:4-14 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰ I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

¹⁴ Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.

2. Trusting that God's will is working for the good in our lives (and the world) can be challenging in light of all that has happened in the past six months. How might Psalm 33:6-11 build your confidence in following God's game plan for your life?

Psalm 33:6-11 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;
he puts the deep into storehouses.

⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the people of the world revere him.

⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

¹⁰ The LORD foils the plans of the nations;
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.

¹¹ But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,
the purposes of his heart through all generations.

LOOKING AHEAD

Whether your group is meeting online or in person, it will be interesting to see how God works as you connect, care for one another and encourage each other to follow God and live out His Word. What are you looking forward to in your Life Group this quarter?

These are unusual times on so many levels in our culture today. Is there anything specific you need prayer for, or is there a focus you would like to have in order to grow this next quarter?

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word. (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). Here's how it will happen:

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned sharing questions, called "Getting To Know You." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable and will be called "My Story".

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.

ABOUT POLITICS IN LIFE GROUP

Presenting the Good News of Jesus' saving grace to all, and the unity we have as believers is vitally important to us. In light of this, remember to keep politics completely out of your Life Group discussions. We exist to minister to everyone who wants to know Jesus. Every election cycle we have Christians who become divided over issues and can be deeply offended by comments, jokes, and even prayer requests. We do not want to send the message that people who vote a certain way or have differing political views are not welcome.

If someone in your group starts to take things in a political direction (be it with humor, a rant, or even a "prayer request" for a specific outcome), gently remind them that the body of Christ (and North Coast Church) is made up of followers of Jesus – some of whom are Republican, Independents, Democrats, etc.