DEEPER BIBLE[15 min]

How Do I Know God's Will?

Supplies

- Bibles
- "Choices Cards" handout (at least 1 copy) (download here)
- lumps of modeling clay, refrigerated (1 per child)
- paper
- pens
- flashlight

Easy Prep

- Cut apart the "Choices Cards" on the handout. Write the number on the back of each card. Spread them out in order around the edge of the room, facedown.

Tip

- If you have more than 15 kids, consider setting up multiple stations, each with a set of Choices Cards.

Make Choices

Say: **There are some choices where it's easy to know what's right and what's wrong. It might not be easy to *do* the right thing, but it's easy to know what the right choice is.**

Ask: **• For example, what if your friend asked you to cheat on a test and give him the answers? Is the right choice cheating or not cheating?**

Say: **There are other choices, though, where right or wrong aren't so clear-cut. Maybe there's not one that's against God's rules, but it's hard to know what to choose. Let's make some of those kinds of choices. It starts with this one: Your birthday is coming up, and your parents say you can have a party! So who do you invite?**

Show kids where the cards are, and say: **If you choose to invite the whole class, read Card 1. Then keep making choices and following the directions.**

If you choose to invite just your five closest friends, read Card 2. Then keep making choices and following the directions.

Have kids make their choices and read the corresponding cards, then put them facedown again. Have kids continue to make choices until they get to a final card, which won't have any more choices.

Ask: **• Which choices were the hardest for you to make? Why?**

• Were there any choices you regretted making? Why?

Say: **Some of the choices had really great results in the end, while others didn't. But it was hard to know which ones would turn out great and which wouldn't!**

So what happens when we face tough real-life choices? How do we know what God's will is—what God wants us to do? Let's dig in to that.

Dig Deeper

Say: **We're going to explore four ways we can seek God's will. Here's the first one. This verse promises we will know God's will for us if we do something first. Listen for what that is.**

Read Romans 12:2.

Ask: **• According to this verse, what do you need to do in order to know God's will? How can you do that?**

Say: **Our first tip is this: Get into a pattern of following God. If you generally are following God instead of following other people, he'll transform—or totally change—the way you think. And then, when you face a tough choice, you'll be used to finding God's will! It's kind of like playing with modeling clay.**

Give each child a lump of cold clay to sculpt.

Ask: **• What did you need to do to get the clay ready to sculpt?**

• How is that like what God needs to do with our hearts?

Say: **The clay was too cold to sculpt with at first. But as you held it in your hands, it became more and more workable. The more we're in God's hands, the more he can work with us to show us his will.**

Tip #2 is to ask God for wisdom. Listen to this promise!

Read James 1:5.

Say: **Let's try that now. Ask God for wisdom with a tough choice you're facing.** Allow a minute for silent prayer.

Say: **God doesn't want to hide his will from us. If we're following him and seeking his wisdom, he'll show us what to do.**

Tip #3 is this.

Read Proverbs 19:20.

Give each child a piece of paper and a pen.

Say: **Write down one thing you want to ask a wise person for advice about. Maybe it'll even be something you ask your parents about on the way home.**

Allow a minute for writing. Encourage kids to take their papers home as a reminder to ask for advice.

Say: **Here's our last tip for finding God's will: See what the Bible says!**

Read Psalm 119:105.

Say: **Let's see how the Bible is like a lamp to our feet.**

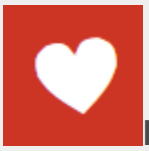
Hold a flashlight so it shines on the floor. Move it in a path for kids to follow.

Ask: **• How could the Bible help with an everyday choice like this light helped us know where to go?**

Say: **Sometimes it's dark all around us. But if we just focus on the light of God's Word, he can show us the next step to take. In fact, he promises to do that if we're seeking his will.**

Read Proverbs 3:6.

Say: **Remember, <u>wanting God's will is part of prayer</u>. So pray about your tough choices, make a pattern of following God, and seek advice from wise people and from the Bible. If it's still not clear, remember that sometimes God gives you two really great choices! Just pick one, and honor him as you do it.**



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP[5 min]

Closed Fists, Open Hands

Pray With Closed Fists

Say: **Sometimes when we pray, we're focused on holding on to our way.**

- Have kids make fists as if they are holding on to something tightly.
- Have kids talk to God about what they want.

Pray With Open Hands

Say: **<u>Wanting God's will is part of prayer</u>. Let's pray with open hands, ready to accept his way.**

- Have kids hold their hands open, palms up, as if they are about to receive a gift.
- Have kids ask God for his will to be done.