

How to Receive Guidance from God, Part 2

Small Group Discussion Guide

"How to Receive Guidance from God, Part 2"

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1. SERMON RECAP

In this message, I challenged us to understand that being led by God is the number one priority for every believer -- and that it starts with feeding and strengthening our spirit through the Word of God. Just like a physical body grows from infancy to maturity, our spirit man can be developed, trained, and strengthened until it becomes a reliable guide for our lives. The key truth I want you to hold onto is this: you cannot expect to hear the unknown will of God if you are not obeying the known Word of God.

2. KEY SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 4:20-22 (The Passion Translation)

"Listen carefully, my dear child, to everything that I teach you, and pay attention to all that I have to say. Fill your thoughts with my words until they penetrate deep into your spirit. Then as you unwrap my words, they will impart true life and radiant health into the very core of your being."

3. ICE BREAKER

Think of a time you ignored good directions -- from a GPS, a map, or another person -- and ended up completely lost or going the wrong way. What happened, and what did you learn from it?

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Getting Started

I shared that God genuinely wants to guide every believer -- not just pastors or "super spiritual" people. How does it change the way you approach your daily decisions when you really believe God is personally interested in directing your life?

2. Going Deeper on the Word

I made the point that the written Word of God is our primary guide -- even before prophetic words, feelings, or what seems logical. Can you share a time when Scripture gave you clear direction in a situation where your emotions or reasoning were pointing you a different way? What happened when you followed the Word?

3. Honest Reflection

I said that a lot of the difficulties we go through are actually the result of our own choices made outside of God's guidance -- not the devil's doing. How does taking personal responsibility for those moments, rather than placing blame elsewhere, actually free us to grow and move forward?

4. Strong Spirit vs. Weak Spirit

I talked about how a weak spirit produces a weak inner voice that is easily drowned out by emotions, circumstances, and outside pressure. What are some practical habits -- beyond just Sunday morning -- that you think would genuinely strengthen your spirit man throughout the week?

5. Soul vs. Spirit

I mentioned that our soul (emotions, mind, will) and our spirit are very close together and can feel almost identical -- and that only the Word of God can truly divide them (Hebrews 4:12). Have you ever made a decision you thought was Spirit-led but it turned out to be emotionally driven? How can we help each other discern the difference in our small group?

6. Obeying the Known Will

I said it plainly: if you won't obey the known Word of God, you have no basis for expecting to receive the unknown will of God. Which area of your life right now -- relationships, work, finances, family -- do you feel God has already given clear instruction through Scripture that you may be waiting on a "special word" about instead of simply obeying?

5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, choose one area of your life where you need guidance -- a decision, a relationship, a work situation, or a personal struggle. Before praying for a prophetic word or waiting for a feeling, spend 15 minutes each day searching Scripture specifically about that area. Write down every verse you find and ask: "What is God already saying to me through His written Word about this?" Bring what you discovered back to share with the group next week.

6. PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for hungry spirits -- that every person in your group develops a genuine, intense craving for the Word of God that goes beyond obligation and becomes a daily delight.
 - Pray for discernment -- that God gives each member the ability to clearly distinguish between the voice of their spirit, their emotions, and outside influences when making decisions this week.
 - Pray for courage to obey -- that where God has already spoken clearly through Scripture, every person in the group finds the strength to act on what they know, even when it is uncomfortable or counter to what they feel.
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7. MEMORY VERSE

1 John 2:14b (NIV)

"I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one."

Leader's Note: Don't rush through the discussion questions -- it's perfectly fine to spend the whole session on two or three of them if the conversation is rich and honest. Your job is to create a safe space where people can be real about where they are spiritually, not to cover every question on the page. You've got this!