

## 2.25 WE CAN KNOW THE WILL OF GOD FOR OUR LIVES

Topic: Learning to Live Out Our Faith

Subtopic: We Can Know God's Will

3D. Living Christ Enlightens Us

Class: Standard II (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

Objectives:

**Knowledge:** When asked how they understand God's will, students will say that God reveals His will for our lives.

**Attitude:** Students will open their minds and hearts to discovering God's will for their lives.

Materials Needed:

Memory Verse Exercise book

Exercise book

Chalkboard and chalk

Scripture:

**References:** Acts 8:3; 9:1-9

Teacher's Notes

Memory Verse: "You are my God; teach me to do your will." Psalm 143:10

### TEACHER ACTIVITIES

#### Introduction:

1. You are a special person in God's eyes. Do you think God has a plan for your life?

#### Bible Story:

2. Today we will meet a highly educated man who thought following Jesus was wrong until the day he met Jesus. Tell the story of Saul's conversion from Acts 8:3; 9:1-9.

#### *Suggested Discussion Questions*

3. Saul was a zealous student of Jewish law. Why was he so against followers of Jesus?
4. What did Saul do that allowed him to arrest Christians?
5. How did Jesus get Saul's attention?
6. Was Saul able to carry out his plans to arrest followers of Jesus?

#### Application:

7. What if you are being misled in your life? How can Jesus get your attention and help you know what is right?
8. When things are very tense and people are angry with each other, can God help us know truth and what to do?

#### Evaluation:

9. How can I recognize God's will for my life?

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

#### Introduction:

1. Let students express their sense of God having a plan for their lives.

#### Bible Story:

2. Students listen carefully to the story of how Saul's life was changed.

#### *Possible Answers to Questions:*

3. He didn't believe in Jesus. He thought Jesus was a threat to the Jewish teachings.
4. He went to the Jewish high priest, asked for letters of introduction to take with him to Damascus asking leaders there to locate followers of Jesus so he could arrest them.
5. Nearing Damascus, a bright light flashed around him and he landed on the ground. He heard Jesus ask him why he was persecuting Him.
6. No. Saul was now blind and had to be led into Damascus. Jesus told him he would be told what to do.

#### Application:

7. Talk about things where students might be being misled—destroy someone's property, stealing. Jesus can get attention through the Bible, prayer, other Christians.
8. God can enlighten us and give us discernment

#### Evaluation:

9. He never leads us contrary to the Bible. Through prayer, Bible

### **Extension Activities**

1. Have students write their new memory verse in their Memory Verse Exercise book: “You are my God; teach me to do your will.” Psalm 143:10
2. In their exercise books, have the students write at the top of the page: “Living Out Our Faith”. Underneath have them write: “We Can Know God’s Will” Beneath that, have them write ways that will help them know God’s will. e.g. ask God what His will is; read the Bible for God’s instructions; circumstances in your life; guidance from a Christian person.
3. Let the Bible introduce you to ways God used to let people know His will. On the chalkboard, write these references before class takes up. Then have a student look up each reference. Then either have them read the reference out loud (some may be a little long) or read it to themselves. Then ask each one how God let His will be made known.

Numbers 22:21-34 (talking donkey) Luke 1:26-28 (angel)

Judges 6:36-40 (fleece) Acts 2:14-41 (sermon)

I Samuel 3:1-14 (God spoke) Acts 8:26-40 (Holy Spirit’s words)

Matthew 2:7-12 (dream) Acts 10:9-20 (vision)

## **NOTES FOR TEACHERS**

### **Highlights for the Bible Story**

1. Saul was a very well educated man who had studied Jewish law. He thought he knew the way God wanted people to live but he didn’t believe in Jesus.
2. Saul went to the high priest in Jerusalem and asked for letters to be written to religious leaders in the city of Damascus. He wanted them to help him find the people who were following Jesus so he could arrest them and have them put in jail.
3. Not far from Damascus, a very bright light from heaven surrounded Saul. It was so powerful it made Saul fall to the ground. Saul heard a voice, “Saul, Saul, why are you trying to hurt me?”
4. Saul asked, “Who are you, sir?”
5. The voice answered, “I am Jesus, the one you are hurting. Now get up and go into Damascus. Someone there will tell you what to do next.”
6. The men who were with Saul heard the voice but didn’t understand what it said. They didn’t know what to say.
7. As they tried to help Saul up, Saul couldn’t see anything. He was blind. His friends had to lead him into Damascus. For three days he was blind. He couldn’t eat or drink during that time. He waited for Jesus to tell him what to do next.

### **Key Point**

Jesus wants us to know His will for our lives. He will reveal it to us but we have to recognize what He says. We can know His will by reading the Bible, praying and asking God to show us His will, listening to teachings from the pastor or other Christians.

### **Discerning God's Will**

Discernment is a word we often use when we are trying to get clarity and understanding about the next steps. To discern God's will, we need to be very open to letting Him show us His will. Saul's heart was very hard and Jesus had to get his attention very dramatically. Often times Jesus gives us a knowing in our hearts what is right. For example, do you need to ask your mom if you can hit your sister? You already know what your mother will say. You know in your heart that would not be right to do. Or do you have to ask your father if you need to do your homework for school? Of course not, you know what your father will want you to do.

Just as you know your parents' will about hitting and homework, you can know God's will about things that are important to Him. One way we learn that is to read the Bible. Another way is to ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's will. Talking things over with a trusted Christian friend can be helpful. When you are obedient, God is able to teach you more.

Sometimes when you are faced with a difficult situation where people are angry at each other or they are dealing with disagreements, listen for God to help you know what you can do to guide the situation into a peaceful outcome.

### **Teacher Evaluation**

Do I allow God to show me His will in small things as well as big things? Do I believe that it matters to God that children need to seek His will at this young age? How does God want to use me to encourage the children to discern His will?