

Understanding God's Will

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight. *Proverbs 3:5-6*

Navigating the stress of not knowing God's will can be a daunting journey for teens, but you play a crucial role in guiding them through this important phase. Be a listening ear and a source of support as your teens explore their faith. Encourage open, honest conversations about what it means to follow Jesus, and share your own experiences and doubts, too. Remember, it's okay for them to wrestle with these matters; it's all part of their spiritual growth. Your love and pointing to God's Word can be a light on their path to discovering God's will.

➤ conversation starter

What are some questions or thoughts you have about understanding what God's will means in your life right now? Can I share what it means to me?

I've had my moments of uncertainty when it comes to God's plan too. (If that statement is true for you.) Can we talk about some of the things that bring you closer to God, and what feels confusing or challenging in that journey? I'm here to listen and share.

➤ navigating the conversation:

- **Know Their Fears:** These conversations are often never in the void. Teens are exploring questions about the will of God because they are looking for answers in their own lives. Before you start teaching, make sure you know what your teens are worried or afraid of.
- **Ask Open-Ended Questions:** Encourage critical thinking and self-reflection by asking open-ended questions. For example, "What do you think God's will means for your life right now?" or "What experiences have made you feel closer to God?"
- **Share Your Own Journey:** Be open about your own experiences and challenges in understanding God's will. This can help your teens relate and feel more comfortable discussing their journey.
- **Explore Relevant Scriptures:** You can introduce teens to relevant Scriptures that provide insight into understanding God's will. Here are a few:
 - **Proverbs 3:5-6:** About trusting in the Lord and seeking His guidance.
 - **Romans 12:2:** Encouraging transformation through renewing the mind.
 - **James 1:5:** About seeking wisdom from God.
- **Encourage Independent Study:** Encourage teens to read and study God's Word, books, or articles related to understanding God's will. This topic is about the journey as much as the knowledge we can gain about the topic.
- **Encourage Service:** Volunteering can be a practical way for teens to live out their faith and gain a deeper understanding of God's will in action. Encourage them to get involved in community service or church activities.
- **Pray Together:** Prayer can be a powerful way to seek guidance and understanding. Consider praying together and encouraging your teens to express their thoughts and feelings in prayer.

