

## Life Group Leader's Guide

For the week of November 12, 2017



Leaders, since this is the final Leader's Guide we will be providing along with sermon-based homework until January, we want to encourage you to discuss ideas of how your entire group or individuals and families can be involved in #4Lincoln2017.

In December of 2015, we touched over 1,400 lives through #1000LIVES / #1000STORIES. In November & December of 2017, we want to touch the lives of 2,017 lives. How? Look for the needs of the people in your spheres of influence and meet that need. Then share your story on our #4Lincoln map or social media using the hashtag #4lincoln2017. If each person who called First Free home touched just 2 lives over the next two months, we'd meet our goal. Let's show the city we are #4Lincoln2017!

Some may be quick to meet needs but hesitant to share stories. After all, it's not about us, and isn't that kind of prideful??? Not at all! We want to be encouraged by everyone's stories. Your idea may spark something in someone else. And there's no need to share your name if you are uncomfortable doing so.

Questions??? Seek Nat at [ncrawford@firstfreelincoln.org](mailto:ncrawford@firstfreelincoln.org)

### **Quick Review:**

What from Mark's message on God's will made simple was new or challenging to you? Do you agree or disagree that we make finding God's will too difficult? (Leaders, this question was written before the writing team had Mark's sermon in-hand. If you feel you can ask a better introductory review question, feel free to do so!)

### **My Story:**

1. What's the hardest decision you have ever had to make?
2. How do you find (or determine) the will of God, currently? What's your decision-making strategy?

### **Digging Deeper:**

Mark's focal verses this week were **Colossians 1: 9-14**. A few things to keep in mind as we study this passage:

- Paul was writing to a group of Christians that he had never met.
  - Verses 9-14 describe how Paul *prays* for this group of people.
1. Read Col. 1: 9-14. Verse 10 begins with "so that" or similar.
    - a. What was the "so that" Paul was praying would come from knowledge of God's will, wisdom and spiritual understanding?
    - b. Read similar verses in **Ephesians 4:1** and **Philippians 1:27**. Again, Paul was writing to entire churches, not individual Christians. With this in mind, what would it mean to apply the call to "walk in a manner worthy" in concrete ways?
    - c. What are the specific elements listed in Colossians 1:10, and how do these elements tie in to knowing and doing the will of God?

2. We are studying God's Word as the primary way to discern God's will. Too often voices in our culture communicate messages contrary to God's Word and can "muddy the waters" in discerning God's will. Read each of the following Scriptures and discuss the following:
  - a. What is the Biblical teaching of these verses?
  - b. What is the common, cultural "wisdom" about this topic?
  - c. Verses: **1 Thessalonians 4:3-4; Ephesians 6: 5-7; Leviticus 19: 11-18**
3. As stated above, Paul was writing to a group of Christians and telling them how he prays for them. In general, how often do you pray for others, and when you do, what sort of things do you pray? What can we learn from these verses about how to pray for others? How is thankfulness a part of this prayer?

Leaders, a primary theme in all of Paul's writing, and really throughout the whole Bible, is that God wants to move us from self-focus to His focus. God's will is about His glory, not ours. Discovering God's will is supposed to produce something in us that will expand His kingdom, not make us happy or comfortable, although it might!

4. How does Paul's prayer challenge how you pray? What enables Paul to pray this way for people he has never met?
5. Read **Acts 16:4-8**. Have you ever experienced this kind of resistance to a decision or course of action that seemed to you like a good plan? How is the will of God different from what we may think of as the will of God?

## Taking it Home

1. What has been your most-recent, most-serious struggle with God? What do you suspect would happen if you totally submitted to His will? How can your group pray for you?
2. Who needs you to pray Colossians 1: 9-14 for them, this week? Is there someone that would be encouraged to know that you are praying this way for them?