LESSON 6: FINDING GOD’S WAY

AIM: To give children guidelines on how to effectively find God’s will through prayer.

MEMORY VERSE: Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths. (Psalm 25:4)

OPENING IDEA:
Have a street directory ready. Ask the children if they have ever been lost. Let a couple of children briefly share their experiences. Now ask the children if they know how to use a street directory. Ask for a volunteer to give you their address. Show the children step by step how to find the exact street by using the directory properly.

Likewise, God wants to give us clear directions for our life. As we grow older, we need to develop the skills of knowing God’s way. In Italy there is a remote harbour reached only by crossing a narrow channel dangerously lined with jagged rocks. In the black of night it is extremely difficult for a ship’s captain to steer his craft through the treacherous harbour. Some years ago, recognising this danger, maritime authorities mounted three special lights throughout the harbour for the purpose of guiding vessels in the night. However, the ships captains do not steer from one light to the next as they cross the narrow channel. Rather, each light must be lined up perfectly with the others. If the captain sees two or three separate lights in the distance, he knows he is off course. All three must line up perfectly.

The same truth applies in finding God’s will through prayer. God has given us three “lights” that must be lined up carefully if we are going to live safely in His will.

PREPARATION:
Make a poster, adding the three graphics as you come to each ‘light’.
LIGHT NO 1 - THE WORD OF GOD
Just as I needed to read the street directory to find someone’s street, so we need to read God’s Word to know God’s Way for our life. The Bible clearly shows God’s will for all mankind and tells us the things we must and must not do if we are to please God. So we don’t need to question whether it is right or wrong to swear, lie, steal or deliberately hurt others, for God makes the answers very clear in the Bible. However, we do have to read it to find out what it says.

It is no use me having a street directory in my car if I never bother to open it when I need directions. I would get lost. In just the same way, we need to use God’s Word by reading it every day and then acting upon it. Often during our prayer time, God will speak to us using the words from the Bible so it is good for us to get into the habit of having our Bible open as we pray and take time to read a few verses, think about what it is saying to us and ask the Holy Spirit to help us to understand.

When you have a difficult decision to make, talk to your parents and your Children’s Church teacher, and always keep praying about it until God gives you an answer.

LIGHT NO. 2 - SITUATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES
God often shows His will for us through situations. For example, someone may be looking for a job and they have prayed and read God’s Word and several jobs look promising. Then they may find that all the opportunities close up except one. That person can be reasonably sure that God is guiding through the circumstances, providing the third ‘light’ lines up.

LIGHT NO. 3 - THE VOICE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Jesus made it clear that the Holy Spirit would live within us to give us guidance and direction (John 14:17). So we don’t need to look for flashing neon lights or a booming voice from heaven, but we need to listen to the still, small voice of God inside us. God speaks from where He lives and he lives in the heart of the Christian.

One of the purposes of the Holy Spirit is to guide or show us the way to live according to God’s Truth (John 16:13). So as we are quiet before God in prayer—not asking for anything or talking about our problems, but just listening - He will often ‘speak’ to us by the Holy Spirit. God’s thoughts will come into our mind and we will know God’s Way.

So as we are faced with decisions that we need to make and problems that require answers, we can be sure that God will show us the way as we read His Word, look carefully at the circumstances and listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit. If we do all of these things then we can be sure that God will show us the way.
GOD’S WORD IS IRRESISTIBLE

(Hold up a packet of alphabet biscuits (or cereal), pour them onto a paper plate.)

Tell the students that the thing that is great about alphabet biscuits is that you can eat them and learn from them. You can spell words on your plate and then eat them. It may drive your Mum and Dad crazy, but it’s fun to do.

(Spell some words, then eat them.)

Yum! That tasted good. Let’s see what other words you can make. (Let several students make words and eat them.) How does that taste? How does it feel to eat alphabet biscuits? (Let the children respond.)

Jeremiah 15:16 says, “When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight.”

Do you think people had alphabet biscuits when the book of Jeremiah was written? (Let the children respond.) I don’t think so.

Eating the words we make with alphabet biscuits can help to teach us to spell words and make us happy. But reading God’s Word can make us happy too because it helps us to learn how to find God’s Way. It tells us about the things we must do and must not do if we are to please God. When we read God’s Word prayerfully, He shows us the way to live. God’s Word is full of wonderful stories that teach us about His love for us, His forgiveness of our sins and that He wants to be with us forever.

But what if we never open the Bible? (Let the children respond). If we never read God’s Word we won’t know what God says. We’ll miss out on a lot. God’s Word won’t make us happy if we don’t take time to read it.

We need to take the biscuits off the shelf and get some food inside of us every day. And we need to take the Bible off the self so we can read God’s Word and feed on its goodness.

So start reading. And you’ll find God’s Way.
Colour the dotted spaces yellow to light Jack’s way through the darkness. Colour the other spaces black, purple and grey.
A Prayer

For all that we ought to have thought and have not thought,
For all that we ought to have said and have not said,
For all that we ought to have done and have not done,
For all that we ought not to have spoken and yet have spoken,
For all that we ought not to have done, and yet have done,
For these words and works, we pray, O Lord, for forgiveness.

(Traditional)

List the three ways of finding God's will through prayer:

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Starting with the red circle, followed by the green circle, write every second letter on the lines below to find out what we need to ask God if we are to find His way:

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Psalm 25:4