



# GOD'S COMPASS

*Where is God going with my life?*

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## INTRODUCTION

This women's study about discovering God's will has been written to help you and your participants develop a working relationship between God's Word and discerning His will for your life. The Bible has always been and will always be a lamp for our feet and a light for our path guiding us into God's perfect will. Participants will discover that God's will never contradicts His Word. This simple study will help Christians discern the difference between God's general will and his specific will. Group members will no longer confuse God's will with something a person does rather than what a person is. They will learn that God's will is both who they are and what they do. By the end of these four sessions you and your participants will know what God wants: God's will is for everyone to accept Christ. The question will be: Are you marching in sync to the beat of the heavenly drum?

Each lesson has reproducible student handouts for you to use. This curriculum is written to be discussion-driven with plenty of practical application. Outreach is very important as you begin a new Bible study. Below you will find the title and descriptions of each lesson so you can announce it in the church bulletin, emails, postcards, text messages, and social networking statuses.

**The Divine Drummer:** This session is designed to clear away the confusion regarding God's will.

**Asking for Directions:** Group members will discover that God's will is obvious in His Word.

**Decisions! Decisions! Decisions!:** Group members will realize the importance of implementing biblical fundamentals when attempting to discover God's will in decision making.

**Service with a Smile:** Group members realize that God's will is not something to be dreaded, but something that gives purpose and joy to each Christian's life.

## SESSION 1 *The Divine Drummer*

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bibles
- Student handouts
- Extra pens or pencils

### LESSON OBJECTIVE

Group members will discover that God's will doesn't just apply to Christians in full-time ministry, but God has a plan for each individual. This session is designed to clear away the confusion regarding God's will, and give group members a key that will unlock the door leading to a productive life of service for God.

### CONNECT

To begin this session, explain that obeying God's will is like marching to the beat of a heavenly drum. Give each participant a copy of the handout, "Heavenly Drum Beats." Allow your group a few minutes to complete the handout. Once everyone is finished, go over the questions, asking for volunteers to share answers and read the verses.

After you finish discussing "Heavenly Drum Beats," say: *According to the Scripture references on this handout, we do not need to wonder about God's general will, because God has revealed that will for every individual—to experience salvation and sanctification. His Word also teaches that it is His will that every believer have a submissive spirit and thankful heart. Stress to the group that salvation is the most basic step toward being in God's will. Affirm their decision to follow Christ by saying: When we gave our lives to the Lord, we began to march to the beat of the Divine Drummer. When we accepted Christ, we began to do God's highest will for our lives. Assure them that God delights in making His will known to them. Inquire if anyone has ever felt like giving up on being able to understand God's will. After allowing your group to share, segue into the CONSIDER section by saying: Contrary to popular belief, God's will is not some great mystery so difficult to find. He has given us a clear set of guidelines in His Word. All we have to do is live by them. Today we will examine some biblical principles which will help us live according to the will of God.*

### CONSIDER

Ask the small group: *What is the difference between the specific will of God and the general will of God?* Allow time for discussion. To clarify the difference, remind the small group of the rules of a home. Every family has certain rules of conduct. For a home to run smoothly each family member must learn the art of discerning what is acceptable and what is unacceptable. These expectations compare to the general will of God as revealed to every believer through the Bible. There are other times in homes when more specific expectations occur—individualized household duties and detailed responsibilities. These duties reflect the specific will of God for a life—the things God calls us to do because of where God has placed us, the gifts He has given us, and the circumstances of our lives. As we become acclimated to God's general will, the easier it is to discover our place in His specific will. Ask group members to give examples of the general will of God and specific will of God. Ask them if they have ever spent so much time trying to find God's specific plan for their lives that they



missed the obvious. Allow them to give examples from their own lives.

(POSSIBLE POWERPOINT SLIDE)

Ask the group members if they believe God desires to reveal His will to His children.

Ask volunteers to read the Scriptures below:

- God is willing, Ephesians 1:8-10
- God reveals His requirements, Micah 6:8
- God delights in revealing Kingdom principles to His children, Luke 12:32

Say to the small group – *Jesus is our example. He was always about His Father’s business and doing His Father’s will. Let’s look at some Scriptures that show Jesus was determined to do God’s will.*

- John 6:38 – Came to do the will of His Father
- John 8:29 – Always pleases the Father
- John 4:34 – Determined to finish God’s will

Say to the group – *Can you think of a time in Jesus’ life when He had a struggle to do God’s will?*

- Luke 22:42 – Not My will

Say - *We are to march to the beat of a heavenly drum. Pass out copies of the handout, “D-R-U-M.” Say to the small group – Each of these letters of this acrostic stand for a Christian character trait. The letter “D” stands for disciple, “R” stands for relationship, “U” stands for unity and “M” stands for meekness. Let’s see if we can find Scriptures that support these character traits as being part of God’s will for our lives as believers.*

- D – Disciple – Mark 8:34 – To be a disciple of Jesus we must deny our own will.
- R – Relationship – John 17:3 – It is God’s will for us to personally know Jesus.
- U – Unity – Psalm 133:1 – God’s will for us to dwell in unity.
- M – Meekness – Phillippians 2:5-8 – God’s will for us to have the humility of Jesus.

### **COMMIT**

Say to participants: *Just as a faithful soldier obeys the commands of his superior officer, we are soldiers of Christ, and we are to obey the “marching orders” God has provided for us in His Word. May the character traits we have learned today from our “D-R-U-M” acrostic serve as a friendly reminder of certain aspects of the Christian life that help keep us in God’s will. May we be His disciple and have a vibrant relationship with Jesus that helps us strive for unity and causes us to learn of His meek heart. Challenge your small group to take this handout home and fill it out during their devotional time. Inform them their answers will not be discussed, but are for their own personal reflection. Encourage them to find additional Scriptures, which support the “D-R-U-M” character traits.*

In closing, say to your group members: *As we march to the “beat” of our Divine Drummer by doing God’s will, we are reaping some eternal benefits that cannot be “beat.” Can you name some of these eternal benefits of doing God’s will?*

Ask volunteers to read the Bible verses. (POSSIBLE POWERPOINT SLIDE)

**Eternal benefits that cannot be beat –**

- Peace of Mind – Isaiah 26:3
- Faithful Friend – Proverbs 18:24
- God’s Presence Continually – Hebrews 13:5b
- A Heavenly Home – John 14:3

Encourage the small group to begin today “drumming” up courage to march to the beat of a heavenly drum by doing God’s will with their whole heart.

Read and answer questions below. Discover what women in the Bible learned the art of marching in “sync” with God’s will.

1. According to 2 Peter 3:9, what is the first step of God’s will in a person’s life?

SAMPLE

## Session 1

# STUDENT HANDOUT *Heavenly Drum Beats*

2. Read Acts 16:14. How did God pursue this woman?

3. According to 1 Thessalonians 4:3, what type of life should a Christian live?

4. What can you apply from John 8:4-11?

5. What is God's will concerning our attitude? Read 1 Peter 2:13-15 and Esther 4:15-16.

6. Is it God's will for us to be humbly grateful or grumbly hateful? Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

7. How is Ruth an example? Read Ruth 1:16-17.

**Session 1**

**STUDENT HANDOUT**    *D-R-U-M*

Write beside each character trait how it can help you discern God's will.

**D – Disciple**

**R – Relationship**

**U – Unity**

**M – Meekness**

SAMPLE

God's will is very practical, and He has provided His Word so I can understand His will for my life.