



## Series Discussion Questions

### Series: In Search of God's Will, Pt. 3

*Mike and Michael will alternate and give their message at each campus this week and next week. We will provide a guide for each message today that will be used for both this week's and next week's discussion. You should use the one that best fits your group depending on which message most of your group members heard. This is from Michael Flake's sermon.*

#### **INTRODUCE IT**

So far in this message series, we have explored a couple of big ideas related to determining God's Will. First, we determined that most of what God wants for us comes from His sovereign will and His moral will and that the great majority of the references in scripture speak to one of these two aspects of His plan. We also explored the idea that when we do seek God's specific will for us, God mostly gives us a wide range of choices that fall between His sovereign will and his moral will. It is like walking a wide path, not a tight rope.

Too often, we worry that God has designed a plan for our lives that is so specific that any missed step will bring doom on us. But this is not the message we see in scripture. The canyon we walk in is one that has God's Sovereign will on one side and his moral will on the other. As long as we stay between those two areas, we have much freedom in the specific steps we take. We also explored the idea that God's Will is much more about our relationship with Him and that through this relationship He guides us toward the right actions and steps.

This week, we are going to address a question most of us have probably had at some point. What if I have gotten too far off track from God's plan for my life? Keeping in mind that God offers lots of freedom in the steps we take, we can still go down paths that are completely outside of the canyon. What happens when we do this and what can we do to get back on track?

**When you were a child, how was your disobedience sometimes more costly than obedience? Tell about a specific time you remember.**

#### **STUDY IT**

##### **Read Jonah 1:1-3**

What character traits do we see in Jonah by the way he responds to God's call?

In running away, Jonah is clearly not following God's specific plan. What else is he doing by traveling in the opposite direction from where God wants him to go? What kind of thoughts and feelings do you think he might have experienced during the journey?

**Read Jonah 1:14-16**

When the sailors discover that they are in peril due because of Jonah, What do they decide to do? What tension and struggles do the sailors face because of Jonah's disobedience? In what ways does God use this calamity to demonstrate his grace and mercy?

God uses a big fish to help Jonah see the error of trying to run from Him. Have you ever had situations where things weren't going well in your life that might have been God's way of letting you know you were on the wrong path? They might not have been as dramatic as this, but in hindsight you could surmise that God may have been behind them. What happened that let you know the path you were following was outside of God's plan?

**Read Jonah 3:1-5**

We don't know how long after, but this occurs at some point after Jonah's initial response to God's call. What do you think Jonah has learned from his previous experience? If you were Jonah, how would you have felt when the word of the Lord came to you a second time?

What does the way that God handles the situation with Jonah show us about God's character?

**USE IT**

In his message, Michael addresses what happens when we run away from God or we give up on the plans that God has clearly revealed He is calling us to, based on the book of Jonah. Talk with your group about when you might have experienced one of these.

- (1) God doesn't write us off.
- (2) What seems like God's judgment may be God's rescue.
- (3) Whether we run away from God or walk in step with God, He uses our life to make a difference.

Which of these three points do you need to take to heart? What difference do you think it would make in your life?

If you are feeling that you may be off track and outside of God's will in an area of your life, share this with your community group. Allow them to provide perspective and to suggest what principles from the Bible apply to your situation