

## PICK YOUR PATH

God has given to each of us the freedom to choose our path. His Word helps us to choose wisely.

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ "There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death" (Proverbs 14:12).
- ❖ The paths that naturally seem to make sense to us might not lead to a destination we like. But at the start of a pathway how are you supposed to know where it will lead? We can only see what's right in front of us, not miles or years down the road.
- ❖ The Bible is clear that we have wonderful brains. We are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). We've invented GPSs but a GPS won't tell you your future. Neither will "Madame Stargazer".
- ❖ Jeremiah 10:23 reminds us, "the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man...to direct his own steps."
- ❖ What we *do* have, which is surer than anything else, is the word of God. But sometimes we wonder, 'How can I use the word of God to get direction for my life?'
- ❖ Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path." But how does the word of God help me choose my path?
- ❖ There's a great truth in Psalm 16:11: In God's presence is fullness of joy; at His right hand there are pleasures forevermore. But the key to it – the way to get into all of that – is in the first part of the verse. "You [LORD] will show me the path of life."
- ❖ God's Word, through the lives of individuals and histories of nations, shows us various pathways and where they lead. It shows us every kind of pathway, and invites us to choose.
- ❖ Deuteronomy 30:19 tells us: "I set before you life and death, blessing and cursing, therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live."
- ❖ There are many verses that have to do with paths, pathways, choices and the way God leads us to the right paths. (That could be a fun search during this week.) But quickly, here are ten of them:
  1. 2 Samuel 22:37
  2. Psalm 23:3
  3. Proverbs 2:7-9
  4. Psalm 25:10
  5. Psalm 65:11
  6. Psalm 85:13
  7. Psalm 119:35
  8. Psalm 139:3
  9. Psalm 142:3
  10. Proverbs 3:6
- ❖ Examples abound of people in the Bible and some of the paths they walked. Paths of:
  - faith and, for a time, falsehood (Abraham)
  - ease and advantage (Lot)
  - unfairness, submission, discovery (Hagar)

### KEY SCRIPTURES:

Proverbs 14:12; Jeremiah 10:23; Psalm 16:11

- preservation (Isaac)
- striving, seeing, surrender (Jacob)
- consistency, hope, forgiveness (Joseph)
- peace, wisdom and courage (Abigail)
- ❖ Where in the Bible have you found yourself? Can you see the path you're on? Is it the path you want to be on? Are you trying to walk more than one path at the same time? Because that can't work.
- ❖ Pick your path. Decide on the destiny you want to walk toward.
- ❖ Let the lives and experiences you encounter in the word of God live in you. Let Abraham talk to you sometime. Listen to the voice of Naomi. Sit with Joseph in a jail cell for a while. Step out of the boat with Peter. Walk a path on the water and do some things that are not supposed to be able to happen.
- ❖ If we take in the Word of God, the Spirit of God will bring to our remembrance what we've read and what we've heard and what we need – in the moment we need it.
- ❖ God will strengthen you and grow you according to the desires of your heart and the power of His word you packed in there. He will nourish your soul and define your life, day by day by day.
- ❖ God has given to each of us the freedom to choose. He has given us the patterns to see, and the power to choose life. Which path will you choose?
- ❖ You pick your path.

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Read the ten scriptures listed in the lesson and reflect on the key teachings they provide.
2. What is a "path" and what does it mean to "follow" or "walk in" a path?
3. Using scriptural references and lived/observed examples, how are we (or not) "masters of our own destinies"?

### PRAYER TIME

Dear Lord, please "show me the path of life" and I will, by Your grace, walk in it. In Jesus' name.

Start-up: How is your "sense of direction"? Where do you fall between "have a 'built-in GPS'" and "regularly get hopelessly lost"?

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)    💡 (New idea)    ☁️ (Think about)

! (Do this)    ❤️ (Speaks to my heart)    ↺️ (Must share)

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### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD  
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline