

# **JUST DO SOMETHING**

A LIBERATING APPROACH TO FINDING GOD'S WILL

by Devin DeYoung

## **Summer Gathering Study Guide**

High School Book Study  
7 to 8:30 pm Wednesday Evenings  
Redeemer Youth Room  
[www.TheGraze.org](http://www.TheGraze.org)

# Schedule

Youth Book study 7 to 8:30 pm Wednesday Evenings

## June 1st 2011

**Week 1:** Foreword, Get to know each other, snack sign up.

## June 8th 2011

**Week 2:** Chapter One, The Long Ride to Nowhere & Chapter Two, The Will of God in Christianese, Pages 9-26.

## June 15th 2011

**Week 3:** Chapter Three, Directionally Challenged, Pages 27-42.

## June 22nd 2011

**Week 4:** Chapter Four, Our Magic 8-Ball God, Pages 43-54.

**June 29th: No Summer Gathering due to Oasis Mission Trip**

## July 6th 2011

**Week 5:** Chapter Five, A Better Way, Pages 55-62. Chapter 6, Ordinary Guidance and Supernatural Surprises, Pages 63-74.

**July 13th : No Summer Gathering due to RiverRanch**

## July 20th 2011

**Week 6:** Chapter 7, Tools of the Trade, Pages 75-86.

## July 27th 2011

**Week 7:** Chapter 8, The Way of Wisdom, Pages 87-98.

## August 3rd 2011

**Week 8:** Chapter 9, Work, Wedlock, and God's Will & Chapter 10, The End of the Matter, Pages 99-122.

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**June 1st 2011**

**Week 1**

**Read: Foreword,**

Get to know each other, Snack sign up and Board

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**June 8th 2011**

**Week 2**

**Read:** Chapter One, The Long Ride to Nowhere

**Read:** Chapter Two, The Will of God in Christianese  
Pages 9-26.

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“I am God and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.’” -  
Isaiah 46:9–10 (An example of God’s will of decree)

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. - 1 John 2:15 (An example of God’s will of desire)

God’s will of decree means “God always gets His way.” Nothing can stop Him from accomplishing His will. What does that tell you about the nature and qualities of the God of heaven and earth?

In your opinion, is there only one person in the world that you should marry to be in the will of God?

DeYoung says, “We’re not consistent. We’re not stable. We don’t stick with anything. We aren’t sure we are making the right decisions.” (p 12)

Do you think you are usually unable to make decisions or that you are unsure of the decisions you do make? If so, why?

How many times have you had a “great idea” and not stuck with it for longer than 2 weeks? Why don’t we stick to things?

As you begin reading this book, do you believe God has a specific plan for your life? (Be honest in your answer.) Why or why not?

DeYoung said, “I’d like us to consider that maybe we have difficulty discovering God’s wonderful plan for our lives because, if the truth be told, He doesn’t really intend to tell us what it is. And maybe we’re wrong to expect Him to.” (page [location 130]) Does the idea that God may not reveal what you should do in every detail worry you, bother you?

List three three toughest decisions you expect to make in the next four years.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Answer these quickly

- a. What should I do this summer?
- b. What should my major in college be?

- c. What career do I want to pursue?
- d. Should I get married?
- e. Do I want kids?
- f. How many kids?
- g. What extra curriculums should I do?
- h. Where should I go to college?
- i. Should I be a missionary?
- j. Should I pursue full time vocational ministry?
- k. How do I know if I should date someone?

Why does DeYoung think we have trouble making decisions?

(p 14)

1.

2.

Do you agree? Why or why not?

In your own words define God's:

a. Will of Degree:

b. Will of Desire:

Is 1 John 2:15 - 17 an example of God's will of

Degree or  Desire

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.” 1 John 2:15–17 ESV

How about Isaiah 46:9-10?

Degree or  Desire

“remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’” Isaiah 46:9–10 ESV

Can God's will of degree be prevented?

Can God's will of desire be disobeyed?

Underline where you see the will of desire in this verse. Circle the where you see the will of degree.

““The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”

Deuteronomy 29:29 ESV

Read the quote on p 25 to 26 and let that stress you out. Now know that's not right thinking. Stop stressing now.

DeYoung says, “Stop thinking of God’s will like a corn maze or a tightrope, or a bull’s-eye.” What in the world does he mean by that?

So...Does God have a specific plan for your life?

And...Must God reveal that plan to you?

What is your part in determining it? (last paragraph p 26)

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**June 15th 2011**  
**Week 3**

**Read:** Chapter Three, Directionally Challenged  
Pages 27-42.

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“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” Romans 8:28–29 ESV

Do you feel duty towards anything? what?

Why does DeYoung say Christians are so desperate to find out God’s plan for their lives?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

“But if you remember that God promised we will be pilgrims and this world may feel more like a desert or even a prison, you might find your life surprisingly happy” (p 29)

Why does he say this?

Turn in your Bible to Hebrews 11 and read the first 3 heroes.

Are you “stuffed full of praise for mediocrity”? Do you expect people to affirm you for everything, criticize you for nothing, and pay you for anything you want to do? (p 30). Why? Why is this harmful?

4.

What is a choice in your life right now that you feel like you have too many options? (p 34)

Do you agree that if you had less choices you would be better off?

Of all the choices you face today, why don't we consider how we can most effectively and fruitfully serve the church?

5.

What percent would you give each of these two options in your life, Make Money \_\_\_\_%; Make a difference \_\_\_\_%

What would you have done at this point if you were Esther?

**13** Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. **14** For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Esther 4:13-14

Do you think there is any chance Gods will for your life is to suffer and die at a young age?

Do most of your prayers fall into one of these categories?:

1. Asking that everything will be fine
2. Asking to know that everything will be fine

“Having faith doesn’t guarantee your life—or the lives of those around you—will be all candy canes and lollipops” (page 30). What is wrong with thinking that God’s will leads to perfect fulfillment in our lives?

If we can’t expect total fulfillment, what can/should we expect?

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**June 22nd 2011**

**Week 4**

**Chapter Four, Our Magic 8-Ball God**

**Pages 43-54.**

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“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8 ESV

“Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”” James 4:13–15 ESV

Viewing the will of God like a maze, or bull’s-eye or Magic 8 Ball is dishonoring to Christ. (p 43) Why?

Have ever used spiritual feelings for not telling someone how you feel? Do you think the girl saying the Holy Spirit said no to them dating was wrong?

List the 5 problems to the conventional approach to discovering God’s will:

- 1.

What does he mean when he says, “God doesn’t care where you go to school or where you live or what job you take?” (p 44)

Finish this sentence: “I should spend less time...

And this one: “I should spend more time...

What is most important to God? (p 44)

How can that become more important to you too?

What do you want to be when you grow up?

How can you use “act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God” (Michah 6:8) in that profession?

2.

3.

Define “anxious” according to page 47.

“We risk because God does not risk” (p 48) What does this even mean?

4.

Does Scripture command us to find God’s will for life’s choices?

Then what does God’s Word command of us?

5.

“How do you know when an open door is the Lord’s open door or the devil tempting you?” (p 52)

“How do you know when a closed door is the Lord’s answer to your prayer or the Lord testing your steadfastness and resolve?” (p 52)

“Why did the Lord give us brains and say so much about gaining wisdom if all we are supposed to do is call on the Lord to tell us what to do in a thousand different non-moral decisions?” (p 53)

Does “bad” not also come from the hand of God?

What’s wrong with telling our Christians friends that we made a decision because “God told me to do this” or “It’s God’s will”?

Have you ever been angry with God because He did not tell you His plan? Have you ever been frustrated that God does not make clear his will of direction? If so, when?

Must you be at peace about a decision to be sure it is the right decision?

**June 29th: No Summer Gathering due to Oasis Mission Trip, Feel free to draw a picture of an animal that does not exist.**

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**July 6th 2011**  
**Week 5**

**Read:** Chapter Five, A Better Way  
Chapter Six, Ordinary Guidance and Supernatural Surprises  
Pages 55-74

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“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”...“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Matthew 6:25–26, 33 ESV

“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

Psalms 16:11 ESV

Read aloud in your group Matthew 6:25-34 (p 55-56)

What is the big idea of this passage?

What are daily decisions you personally make to be in God’s will?  
(p 57)

Are you disappointed to hear 1 Thessalonians 4:3 “For this is the will of God, your sanctification”?

What is something in your life that you have put off making a decision about hoping to find God’s will before you do anything?

What about the future ,most worries you? Does Matthew 6:25-34 help you to not worry so much?

How has this chapter changed your outlook on that?

What will you do about it?

How can you use this decision to seek first His kingdom?

Kevin said, "The question God cares about most is not, "Where should I live?" but "Do I love the Lord with all my heart?"  
Which question do you tend to be more worried about yourself?

Are you surprised that God's overarching will for your life is to be holy? Why or why not?

A key part of God's will for us is to always rejoice, pray, and give thanks (see 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Which one of these three actions is most difficult for you?

Why is it difficult?

What can you do to become more joyful, prayerful, or thankful?

Do you agree that worry is fundamentally a spiritual issue? How do you deal with feelings of worry or anxiety?

What is God's will for your profession?

What is God's will for your marriage?

Hint: Rhymes with "moly"

## Chapter 6

Kevin said, "The most important decision we face is the daily decision to live for Christ and die to self."

Is this a decision you actively deal with daily? Why or why not?

God wants us to stop:

and start:

Do you feel there is one right answer to the question... "where should I get a job this summer?" or, "what should I take for my elective next school year?" etc.

What is the difference between God guiding us in decisions and revealing what we should decide? (p 64)

What does it mean that God now speaks to us by His Son? (p 66)

How does God speak to you through the Scriptures? (p 67)

In your own words, summarize what Hebrews 1-4 says. (p 68)

What is God's reason for doing anything that He does?

How does that help you not get frustrated when you feel lost?

Kevin says there's a big difference between God guiding us in decision making—which He does—and God expecting us to discover His plan for our lives—which He does not. What is the difference between His guiding us toward a decision and our expecting Him to give us the answer? How should that affect your decision making?

God "sovereignly directs our affairs at all times," and He does so "behind the scenes—down to the smallest detail" (page 65). Do you believe that statement? If so, what confidence does that give you about God and about your future?

Those who believe certain gifts of the early church have ceased (cessationists) and those who believe all the spiritual gifts continue (charismatics) agree that one area of guidance continues as the primary, sure guide in knowing God's direction for our lives. What is it? Why is it superior to all other would-be revelation?

**July 13th : No Summer Gathering due to RiverRanch**

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**July 20th 2011**

Week 6

**Read:** Chapter 7, Tools of the Trade

Pages 75-86.

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“Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”” Matthew 4:7 ESV

Does fear you might do the wrong thing, keep you from doing anything?

Have you heard people speak of “open” and “closed” doors?

How can we use these terms to just be selfish?

The author speaks of “open doors” for Jonah that were not God’s will (p 78). What are other examples in Scripture (or your own life) that prove this is not a Biblical way to make decisions?

Why is opening your Bible randomly, reading a passage and thinking it's a "sign" not a great idea? (p 81)

In general, do you believe if you don't "have a peace" about a decision, it's the wrong one?

Why is that flawed thinking? (p 85)

Have you ever laid out a fleece for God to make a decision?  
(Judges 6)

Of the four "tools" mentioned for making decisions—open doors, fleeces, random Bible verses, and impressions—which one do *you* think is most vulnerable to misinterpreting?

Give an example (either personal or someone you know) of one of these tools being used to make a decision. What was the outcome? Based on this example, what caution, if any, would you give in using a tool to help discern God's will?

Kevin says, "Humble goals and loosely held plans are good."  
What is a goal you have?

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**July 27th 2011**

Week 7

**Read:** Chapter 8, The Way of Wisdom

Pages 87-98.

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“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:1–2 ESV

Circle three commands in the verse above.

Are we ever told in scripture to ask God to reveal the future or to show us His plan for our lives?

Define “wisdom”

Define “information”

What are the key differences between the two?

Do you agree with the statement, “Where information has increased, wisdom has decreased”?

In Proverbs 2:1-6 in your book on page 89, circle the “ifs” and underline the “then.”

What are the 3 ways we get wisdom?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What is the opposite of *external* obedience?

How did the author get to be a Jell-O connoisseur? How do you get to be a Bible connoisseur?

Three ways to have wisdom are to read our Bible, listen to sound advice, and pray to God our Father. Which of these is (are) hardest for you to do regularly? Why do you think that is?

What are three good things you should be praying for? (p 96)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Kevin wrote, "Those who are wise read and memorize Scripture. They love to hear it read, preached, and sung."  
Based on this statement, how wise would you say you are?

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**August 3rd 2011**

Week 8

**Read:** Chapter 9, Work, Wedlock, and God’s Will

**Read:** Chapter 10, The End of the Matter

Pages 99-122.

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“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31 ESV

“Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment,” 1 Timothy 6:6 ESV

When you are considering a job, what things do you consider?

How did this book change what you will look for?

Go, ask your parents what careers they think you would enjoy and do well at. Write their answers below.

Ask a friend the same question (before telling them your parents answer), write their answer below.

How can you honor the Lord as...

A Homemaker (stay home mother) -

A Fireman -

A Banker -

A Teacher -

A \_\_\_\_\_ (one thing you might like to do for a living) -

Define “complacency” (p 103-104)

Define “contentment”

Unequally yoked refers to unbelievers marrying believers. What other ways can you be unequally yoked? (p 105)

How much does(will) it matter to you if your parents approve of your boyfriend? Girlfriend?

Make yourself a list of 17 things **you** need to be in a husband or wife:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.

How is Genesis math different than school math? (p 109)

Kevin said, "Make a decision. I know this may sound crass, and your parents might not appreciate the advice, but you guys, if you like a girl and you're both Christians and your friends and family aren't alarmed and she actually likes you back, you should get married."

What do think of this? Wise? Nuts? What do your parents think of this?

The decision to marry is a key one, part of learning how best to glorify God; you can honor him both as a single person or a married individual. Which of the four steps—searching the Scripture, getting wise counsel, praying to God, and making a decision—is the hardest for you? Why?

## **Chapter 10**

"The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." Ecclesiastes 12:13 ESV

"If we must fear something," writes DeYoung, we should "fear God, not the future." Read the instruction to fear God in Ecclesiastes 12:13. What does it mean to fear God?

Can you think of a circumstance in your life that you have been waiting on God, when really maybe He's waiting on you?

Ask your grandparent or old person, give bob alb rights number

Read the last paragraph on page 122 again. What have you learned from this study that will change the way you live life?

Kevin asked his grandpa, "Is there anything you think younger generation of Christians have lost that your generation understood?"

Ask your grandparent or any old person this question. (Bob Albright's number is 816-361-9081 if you need an old guy), write their answer below.

The author concludes the book by saying that if you live for God, obey the Scriptures and love Jesus, you can “do whatever else you like, with whomever you like” and you will be walking in God’s will. Is it as simple as that, or would you add something to this instruction?