

Connect the Dots: Discovering God's Ongoing Will in Your Life

“Nothing seems to motivate a search for higher purpose than the “Big Three.” As a pastor, I have been meeting with young adults for 15 years. During that time, I have learned that the big three ... who should I marry? where should I work? and where should I live? consistently move people to start asking the seemingly simple question:

“What is God's will for my life?”

– Mike Hurt, author of “Connect the Dots”

→ If you were making a list of the top five questions that young adults ask, what questions would you add to the “big three?”

→ Would you characterize your past experiences in finding God's will for your life as frustrating or encouraging? Why?

→ If God wants to reveal Himself to us, then why do you think it's so difficult to figure out His plan.

Session 1 “The Nature of God's Will”	5 February What am I looking for anyway?
Session 2 “God's Will for Every Day”	4 March How can I hear God's voice?
Session 3 “God's Will in All Seasons”	1 April What about fleeces, doors, and signs?
Session 4 “God's Will Through His Spirit”	6 May How does the Holy Spirit help me find God's will?
Session 5 “God's Will Through Community”	3 June Is it OK to listen to other people?
Session 6 “The Silence of God”	TBA ... What about when there's nothing to hear?

Study 1 “The Nature of God’s Will: What am I looking for anyway?”

Different tendencies of thinking of God’s will

→ Listen to 1st MP3 fragment (part A)

- What has been your understanding of God’s will so far in your life?
 - A Connect-the-Dots Picture
 - How is God’s will *like* such a picture?
 - How is God’s will *unlike* such a picture?
 - A Relationship
 - Read Mark 3:35; John 14:21; and John 15:14.
 - What do these verses teach us about the people who are living by God’s will?
 - What do these verses teach us about the nature of God’s will?

→ Listen to 1st MP3 fragment (part B)

- When you think of God’s will, what comes to mind: a connect-the-dots picture, or relationship?
- What do you think most people approach God for answers for? Why?

→ Listen to 2nd MP3 fragment

- How may having this other mindset change the way you pursue God’s will for your life?

“God’s will for your future is much more than just the answers to the big questions of your life. In fact, God’s will is more about us answering His questions than Him answering ours.

God can, and many times does, give us the answers to our big questions we are looking for, but finding the answers to our big questions is not necessarily the same thing as discovering God’s will for our lives.

Though God wants us to come to Him for the answers that matter to us,
He wants our full devotion more.

– Mike Hurt

What difference does it make?

- What changes when you find God’s will for your life? How would you live, work, relate, or worship differently than you did before you knew the will of God?
- If you knew with certainty what God wanted you to do, would you do it without question, no matter the cost?

Knowing vs. Doing

“Though many of us might ask to know God’s will,
very few of us are ready to fully embrace it.”

– Mike Hurt

- Can you remember a time when you knew God wanted you to do something and you refused?

→ Read Exodus 4:1-17; and Genesis 19:1-26

- What do these verses teach us about the difference between knowing and doing?
 - Would you agree that knowing does not always equal doing?
- Why do you think that even when we know the will of God we question Him or don’t follow through exactly as He directed us to?
- What do we learn about God’s response to this from Exodus 4:14-17?

Certainty vs. Faith

- Do you think God wants you to be absolutely certain of His specific will? Why or why not?

We want ...	God wants us to ...
to know more	trust more
assurances concerning the future	place our future in His hands
our doubts and fears to go away	turn them into a strengthened faith in Him

“It is our faith in the middle of every circumstance that pleases God,
not our certainty of our next step.”

– Mike Hurt

Curiosity vs. Commitment/Devotion

→ Read Isaiah 6:1-8

- On what basis does Isaiah respond to God’s call on his life?
- How does this response differ from other responses we have studied—such as Moses’ at the burning bush?
- How can we model our lives after Isaiah’s response as we seek to discover God’s will?

“Here I am, send me”

(God did not tell Isaiah where He was sending him)

(God did not explain what Isaiah’s role would be once he was sent)

(He did not know what he was supposed to say or do)

→ Test your motivation to know God’s will:

- If it were God’s will for you never to discover the answers to the biggest questions of your life, would you still want to know God’s will?

- Does understanding lead to commitment or does commitment lead to understanding?

→ Read Romans 12:1-2

Application

- How do you need to rethink your current pursuit of God's will for your life?
- What would it look like for you to take a faith-based, relational approach to discovering God's will?

"Maybe, because God wants to be intimately involved in every detail of your life, the question we should be asking is not,

"What is God's will **for** my life?"

but rather

"What is God's will **in** my life?"

– Mike Hurt

The difference is huge.

If you are asking for God's will for your life, then you are looking for a crystal ball.

You want to see into the future to try and find the most prosperous way to go.

But if you recognize that God's will is not only *for* your life but *in* your life, then you are choosing to believe in a God who is more than just a fortune-teller.

You are choosing to believe that God's greatest call is not for you to be married or single, a preacher or a doctor, to live in Brussels or abroad.

His greatest call is for you to follow Jesus – every moment.

God is much more interested in who we are than in what we do!

Discovering God's will is not a one-day encounter, one-week experience, or something you seek for a particular season of your life;

it's something we do on a regular, daily, hourly, minute-by-minute basis.

Think about it: When are we ever done knowing God's will for our life?

→ "Homework:"

Make a list of all the big questions of your life you would love to have answered.

Then spend some time each day committing the questions to the Lord and praying that you would value your present relationship with Him more than the answers He already knows.

→ Check out our e-book *Call Waiting: Hearing and Answering God's Call on Your Life*

Available upon request: send an email to mz@vineyard-brussels.be

As we study and discuss "Connect the Dots"

we hope and pray that

you'll find not just what you are looking for,

but what God has in store for you!