



# **Bible Teaching Weekend**

## **THINKING ABOUT GUIDANCE**

How do Christians expect God to guide them? List as many methods of guidance you can, whether found in the Bible or not, and whether you disagree with them or not. Think of all the different ways God guides or is said to guide his people.

For what issues do Christians need guidance?

For what issues does society need guidance?

What major life decisions do you expect to confront over the next 5 - 10 years?

What decisions have you made today? What priorities have you set today?

**We're going to think about HOW we should go about making decisions or forming a Christian view on issues.** Briefly, as a group, **without using the Bible**, try answering the following questions. (Maybe pick just two or three issues that interest your group.)

1 Should Christians with homosexual inclinations be encouraged to express them?

2 Should Christians work at the casino?

3 Are we obligated to look after our parents when they get old?

**Remember, this study is not about these issues.** It's about how we arrive at answers. How does God guide us in these things? Reflecting on your answers to the questions above, how did you arrive at your decisions?

What difference do you expect using the Bible would make to your decisions?

What kind of guidance do you expect the Bible to give you?

### **A matter of Authority**

What was Jesus' view of the Old Testament? **(Pick any 3 of these references)**

Matthew 4:4,10  
5:17-22  
11:10  
12:3  
19:1-6  
19:18,19  
21:42-44  
22:29-32  
22:37-40  
23:2,3  
Mark 7:1-13  
12:36  
Luke 4:21  
16:29-31  
24:25-27  
24:44-47  
John 5:39-47  
10:35



What was Jesus' view of his own teaching? **(Pick 3 of these references)**

John 5:24  
6:63  
7:15-17  
8:26-28  
8:43-47  
12:48-50  
14:10  
15:3,7,26  
17:6-8  
18:37



What was Jesus' view of the apostles' authority? **(Pick 3 of these references)**

Matthew 10:17-20  
10:40-42  
16:13-20 (cf. Lk 11:52)  
28:16-20  
Luke 24:45-49  
John 14:25-26  
15:15-16  
15:26-27  
16:12-15  
17:13-18  
20:21-23  
Acts 1:1-8



## The Reformation

At the fourth session at the Council of Trent in 1563, The Roman Catholic church declared that Scripture and Church traditions comprised a dual source of final authority and divine revelation and therefore, both were of binding authority. The Reformers countered that **Scripture alone** is the **supreme authority for the church in all matters of faith and conduct**; it alone has the absolute authority to bind the conscience of a person.

We might all agree that the Bible is necessary for guidance, but is it actually enough? Is it actually sufficient for "all matters of faith and conduct"? And what will this mean in practice?

What guidance does the Bible say it will give? 2 Timothy 3:15-17

While there are instances in the bible of guidance by dream, vision or intuition, does the Bible actually promise guidance apart from scripture itself?

How should we make specific decisions when the Bible doesn't tell us precisely which choice to make? For example: choosing a job. How does the Bible guide in this decision? What other factors, if any, should we consider?

Do some jobs make it harder to keep "godly priorities"? How should this affect decisions?

How - for example - should warnings about "the deceitfulness of wealth" (Jesus) affect this decision?

## Consider James 1:16-25.

How will God's word guide us?

What should be our attitude to God's word?

Since the garden of Eden, the origin and authority of the word of God has been questioned (Genesis 3:2-3). People's sinfulness is essentially a rebellion against God and His authoritative word. It is therefore not surprising that the Bible's divine origin and authority are consistently under attack. Most Christians - and others as well - will look for guidance in one of the following areas. Our Bible Teaching weekend will help think through the merits of each.

Tradition	Experience
Bible	Reason

In which quadrant do YOU usually look for guidance?

*The Bible does not claim to say "everything about everything." But it does tell us **all we need** to live a life of **godliness and wisdom**. If you're looking for "God's will for your life," that's exactly what it is - that you live a life of godliness and wisdom as you **grow to be more like Jesus**. That "primary life commitment" will then shape every other decision.*