[SERMON NOTES] Acts – Week 16 (Acts 16:6-15, 40; John 7:17; 1 Corinthians 2:14-16)			
ACIS - WEEK 10 (ACIS 10.0-	10, 40, 001111 1.11, 1	Gommana 2.14-10)	
God's will is usually	, just r	not	·
Sometimes God's will doesn	't make sense to us	·	
God	by	doors	
as much as	ones!		
God's will is more of a		than it is a	·
How important is God's will o	compared to (list ou	t whatever resonates)	
Experiencing God's will		by seeking	
God's will is best		with	
•	his week's teaching	REVIEW] , was there anything you heard	d for the first time
or something that caught you			
	[MY S	TORYI	

We've all had the experience of something not going according to plan. We spend hours or days or weeks putting together the perfect plan—for work or family or vacation or whatever—only to find that when the time came to execute it, it did not end up going the way we expected. Sometimes it's a pleasant surprise but others it's a frustrating or embarrassing experience. **Tell a story of a time when things didn't quite go according to plan in your life.** 

## [DIGGING DEEPER]

When we typically think about God's *will*, we often think of it as the same thing as God's *plan*. Of course, they are similar and have some overlap, and God does indeed always have a plan, but as we learned in this week's message: **God's will is more of a compass than a map**. In other words, it's more helpful to understand it not as a linear blueprint that we must follow meticulously or else we're no longer "in God's will" but rather a direction we walk *with* God on the journey of faith. One is legalistic and rigid, the other is relational and dynamic. God's posture is that of a Shepherd, not a dictator. **How have** *you* **typically understood what "the will of God" means?** 

Understanding what God's will *is* as well as what His individual will for us is challenging and oftentimes confusing, but it doesn't need to be. There are numerous passages in scripture that help us understand God's will for us—and they're almost always clear, even when they're not specific. Choose 3-4 of the following passages (*or more if you can't get enough of the Word!*). What do we learn about God's will in these verses? What are some common themes?

Romans 12:1-2 1 John 2:15-17 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Mark 3:31-35 Philippians 2:12-13 John 6:38-40 Proverbs 19:21

John 6:38-40 James 4:13-17

In Romans 12, Paul implores believers to be transformed by the renewing of our minds so that we may be able to discern the will of God. It is an intentional process of directing our thoughts toward God and what the Spirit is doing in, through, and around us. It is the pursuit of the mind and attitude of Christ. Read Matthew 26:36-46. What is it that sets Jesus apart in his relation to the will of God? How can we learn to imitate him in this?

Learning the will of God for our lives starts with getting out our own own minds and into the mind of God by the Spirit. One of the common themes in passages about God's will is to give thanks. It grounds us and centers us by noticing what God has done and is doing all around us. It helps us have an imagination for his activity. It is central to renewing our minds. Take the next few minutes and list out all the things that you are thankful for, big and small, either on a sheet of paper or in your phone, and share your top 3 with your group. Put this list somewhere where you will be reminded of all the things you can be grateful for and be encouraged to continue giving thanks.

## [WEEKLY READINGS]

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (1 Tim. 4:8-10,16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). As a church, we believe that! Below are 4 passages of Scripture this week to dive into to pull deeper on our weekend's message. We encourage you to take notes in your Bible, and ask yourself: What does this teach me about God? Myself and others? And how do I follow Jesus better?

Acts 16 Romans 12 Matthew 26 Jeremiah 29