

## 2026-07-15 Small Group Guide

### Small Group Guide: Seeking God's Will in Prayer

Based on 2 Chronicles 18 - "First, Let's Seek the Lord"

#### OPENING PRAYER (5 minutes)

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to hear His voice during this discussion time.

#### ICEBREAKER (10 minutes)

Question: Share about a time when you received advice from two different sources that contradicted each other. How did you decide which advice to follow?

#### KEY SCRIPTURE

2 Chronicles 18:4 - "But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, 'First seek the counsel of the Lord.'"

2 Chronicles 16:9 - "For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."

#### SERMON RECAP (5 minutes)

The sermon explored the contrast between King Jehoshaphat's heart to genuinely seek God and King Ahab's desire to hear what he wanted to hear. Through the story of 400 prophets versus one true prophet (Micaiah), we learn about the importance of:

Genuinely seeking God's will rather than confirmation of our own plans

Discerning truth from what simply sounds good

Praying with humility: "Not my will, but yours be done"

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Understanding the Text (15 minutes)

What impressed you most about Jehoshaphat's response in this situation?  
Why do you think he insisted on seeking God's counsel even after 400 prophets had already given an answer?

What does the passage reveal about King Ahab's relationship with God?  
How did his attitude toward the prophet Micaiah expose his heart?

The sermon mentioned that God sent a "lying spirit" to the prophets. How do you reconcile this with God's character? What does this teach us about God's sovereignty and judgment?

Personal Reflection (20 minutes)

The pastor asked: "Do you ever analyze your prayers?" Take a moment to honestly assess:

How many of your prayers are about your needs versus praising God?  
How often do you wait quietly to hear from God?  
When do you pray most intensely?

"First, let's seek the counsel of the Lord." Share about a time when you made a decision without seeking God first. What happened? What did you learn?

The sermon mentioned wanting someone who prays who is "tall enough that when he's on his knees, he reaches heaven." Who in your life models this kind of prayer life? What characteristics do they display?

Application and Challenge (20 minutes)

How can we tell the difference between:

God's "yes" and our own desires?

God's "not yet" and God's "no"?

True prophetic voices and those telling us what we want to hear?

Jesus prayed, "Not my will, but yours be done." What current situation in your life requires this kind of surrendered prayer? What makes this difficult?

The pastor said, "We shouldn't come to God already telling Him what He needs to do for us." How can we shift from telling God what to do to genuinely seeking His will?

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

God is actively searching for hearts fully committed to Him (2 Chronicles 16:9)

Genuine seeking means being willing to hear "no" or "wait" - not just looking for confirmation of what we've already decided

True prophets/advisors speak God's truth, not what's popular - we need discernment to recognize the difference

Prayer should include seeking God's perspective, not just presenting our agenda

"Not my will, but yours" is the model Jesus gave us for surrendered prayer

## PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Prayer Audit: Keep a journal of your prayers for one week. At the end, analyze:

What percentage were requests vs. praise/thanksgiving?

How many times did you ask "What do You want, God?" vs. "Here's what I want, God"

How much time did you spend listening vs. talking?

The Pause Before Action: Before making any significant decision this week (large or small), pause and pray: "First, let me seek the counsel of the Lord." Wait for peace or direction before proceeding.

Practice "Not My Will": Identify one area where you've been telling God what to do. Spend time in prayer surrendering that situation with Jesus' words: "Not my will, but yours be done."

Seek Godly Counsel: Find a "Micaiah" in your life - someone who will tell you God's truth rather than what you want to hear. Ask them to pray with you about a current decision.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

What is one thing God spoke to you about during this discussion?

How will you specifically apply this week's challenge?

Who will you share your commitment with for accountability?

#### CLOSING REFLECTION (5 minutes)

Read together: Matthew 6:9-10

"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'"

Silent Reflection: Spend 2-3 minutes in quiet prayer, asking God to reveal any area where you've been seeking confirmation rather than His will.

#### CLOSING PRAYER (5 minutes)

Go around the circle and have each person complete this sentence prayer:

"Lord, I want to seek You first in the area of \_\_\_\_\_. Help me to desire Your will more than my own."

Close with someone praying for the group to become people who genuinely

seek God with fully committed hearts.

## PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK

Read 2 Chronicles 19-20 and come prepared to discuss what happens after Jehoshaphat's encounter with Ahab.

## LEADER NOTES

Be sensitive that some may struggle with the concept of God sending a "lying spirit" - allow space for questions while affirming God's sovereignty

Encourage honesty about prayer struggles - this should be a safe space

If time is limited, focus on questions 4, 5, 8, and 9

Consider sharing your own prayer struggles as the leader to model vulnerability