



LEADER'S NOTES | GET TO WORK

QUESTION 1

Question one familiarizes your group with the scripture that we are discussing. Take your time with this question and enjoy it. As a group leader, you may want to read the full section referred to in this first question; it may take up to 10 minutes, but it will be well worth the time.

QUESTION 2

Question two focuses on God's love, reminding us that Jesus was anchored in His Father's love. The question also reminds us that giving love and receiving love require a different skill set. Then the question asks you to discuss with your group which of these skills you seem to be more proficient in, and talk about how you intentionally seek, or at any time in your life have sought, to receive God's love. You may want to discuss that receiving God's love may be a different experience for different people. Some people may receive God's love by getting quiet and meditating on His character. Others may find it more readily available as they take time to worship Him. There are many paths to receiving God's love. You also may want to share that receiving God's love often requires getting over some internal obstacles, like feeling unworthy of His love, or even overcoming some of the difficulties in your relationship with your earthly father. This question has great potential, so please give it the time it deserves.

QUESTION 3

The invitation in the parable that we are studying is to go to work. Question three focuses on the two kinds of work that God calls us to do: the necessary work that we must do internally to become like Christ, and the external work of leading others to accept Christ and become like Him. This question invites your group to discuss the two types of work and invites a discussion about the old-fashioned hard work of building God's kingdom.

QUESTION 4

Question four takes an interesting turn as we begin to discuss knowing and doing the will of God. The question asks: Discuss what you feel to be the nature of God's will, how you discover what God's will is, and what it's like to do God's will. In the question, I present the nature of God's will as continually present, meaning that in any situation, God desires something. There may be some in your group who do not feel God's will is as present, thinking of it as more remote and only occasionally relevant. That's something you may want to discuss as a group. I'm sure there'll be great interest from your group members in discussing how we come to know God's will. Here are some tips.

Key Ways Christians Discern God's Will

- **Studying Scripture:** The Bible is viewed as the foundational and absolute guide revealing God's moral commands, character, and instructions on how to live.
- **Prayer and Surrender:** Regular prayer helps believers submit their personal desires, listen for the Holy Spirit, and cultivate an inner peace about decisions.
- **Renewing the Mind: Romans 12:2** teaches that avoiding worldly patterns and transforming one's mindset helps prove what God's will is.
- **Seeking Counsel:** Believers often look to wise peers, church community advice, and closed or open doors in life circumstances as confirmations.
- **Internal Guidance:** There are times when God guides you through your own internal desires, drawing you toward what He wants. Typically, in these situations, you find yourself with a new desire, something you've never really felt before. This desire always lines up with Scripture and often presents something difficult, even what others might describe as undesirable.

Be sure to discuss the last part of the question: how it feels to do God's will. **Romans 12:2** says that God's will is good, pleasing, and perfect. Let your group members share how they feel when they know they are doing the will of God.

QUESTION 5

Question five draws out a natural observation from the parable. Obedience does not come from our words alone; it always also involves our actions. I think this question is important to discuss, but I don't think it will be difficult. You might think of an example from your own life when your words and actions did not match.