

ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Session 7

How does

God guide **Us**

Alpha

WELCOME TO ALPHA – A SERIES OF INTERACTIVE SESSIONS TO DISCUSS LIFE AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN AN INFORMAL, FUN AND FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT.

After each talk, there is a time for discussion with the people in your pew, during which you can ask questions, delve into different issues and find out what others think.

This is your guide, so use it however you like. Write, scribble, note, jot, or doodle. Whatever helps.

After each discussion there will be a short time of worship and prayer during which you are invited to sing and pray along with the rest of the congregation, or if you prefer simply listen and observe.

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“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” (Ephesians 2:10, NLT)

Why involve God in the decisions we make?

- God promises to guide us.
 - (Psalm 32:8)
 - (John 10:3–4, 27)
- God has a good plan for our lives.
 - (Jeremiah 29:11)
 - (Romans 12:2)
 - (John 10:10, 15)

How does God guide us?

1. COMMANDING SCRIPTURE

- General will
 - General instruction for marriage, work, money, children, elderly relatives (2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:105, 130–133)
- Primary calling
 - To love God
 - To love others
 - To become like Jesus

2. COMPELLING SPIRIT

- God speaks as you pray (Acts 13:1–3)
- Strong desire to do something
 - “It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” (Philippians 2:13)
- Sometimes He guides in more unusual ways
 - Prophecy, for example, Agabus (Acts 11:27–28; 21:10–11)
 - Dreams (Matthew 1:20)
 - Visions/pictures (Acts 16:10)
 - Angels (Genesis 18; Matthew 2:19; Acts 12:7)
 - Audible voice (1 Samuel 3:4–14)

3. COUNSEL OF THE SAINTS

- “... the wise listen to advice.” (Proverbs 12:15)
- “Plans are established by seeking advice.” (Proverbs 20:18)
- Need for testing (1 John 4:1)
 - Is it in line with the Bible?
 - Is it loving? (1 John 4:16)
 - Is it strengthening, encouraging and comforting?
(1 Corinthians 14:3)
 - Does it bring the peace of God? (Colossians 3:15)

Ultimately, we are responsible for our decisions, but it is a blessing to have others to talk to about the decisions we are making.

4. COMMON SENSE

- “Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.” (2 Timothy 2:7)

**“God’s promises
of guidance were not,
given to save us the
problem of thinking.”**

JOHN STOTT

5. CIRCUMSTANTIAL SIGNS

- “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)
- “In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.” (Proverbs 16:9; Psalm 37:5)
- Sometimes God closes doors. (Acts 16:7)
- Sometimes God opens doors. (1 Corinthians 16:9)
- Sometimes we need to persevere despite the circumstances and trust God.
- Be patient.
- We all make mistakes—God forgives. (Joel 2:25)

RECOMMENDED READING

Chasing the Dragon
Jackie Pullinger

We pray and give thanks for

International - Our Companion Diocese of Ho - Bishop Matthias

Mission of the Month - St Paul's VBS

Diocese - Our Bishop David and his wife Janet & Retired Bishops Harold, George, William and Claude.

Government - Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Brian Gallant, Mayor Ken Chorley and the town council

Deanery - Parish Rothesay – Rev. Canon Albert Snelgrove & Retired Clergy - Rev. John Tremblay

Parish - Rev. David & Family & Rev. Deacon Deborah Cochran & Family

St Paul's Prayer Corner

Raymond Bates, Don Buchanan, Bobbi-Jo Corner, Loretta Derrah, Barb Glauser, Rick Hatchette, Dawn Lent, Paul Robichaud, Lloyd Ryder, Sue Scribner, Erika Wisted

| August 21 | 10:00 am Holy Communion <i>Alpha 8 – How can I make the most of my life?</i> |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Music Leader | Glenna Geer |
| Layreader | Debbie Cochran |
| Reader | Alice Kennedy <i>Matthew 5: 3-12</i> |
| Greeters | R & C Kelly |
| A/V | Elaine Robichaud |
| Sunday School | Karla Lamb / Myra Stites |
| Chancel | Jennifer Whitaker |
| Counters | JoAnne DiProse / Elaine Robichaud |