

Guidance — Day 1



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#61) — KJV

Psalms 32:8 "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

💖 Apply the Promise!

God promises to be our personal teacher. When we ask Him for wisdom, He watches over us with loving care and guides our steps in the way He wants us to go.

📖 Bible Story (Exodus 13)

When God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, they faced a frightening journey. Thousands of men, women, children, and animals had to travel through the wilderness, but there were no road signs, no maps, and no clear path to follow.

God did not leave them to find the way alone. He gave them a wonderful guide that everyone could see. By day, a pillar of cloud went before them, shading them from the hot desert sun. By night, the same pillar became a shining fire, lighting the dark wilderness around them.

When the cloud moved, the people packed their tents and followed. When the cloud stopped, they stopped too. They did not have to guess which way to go, because God Himself was leading them step by step.

Sometimes the way may have seemed strange. God did not always lead them by the shortest road. But He knew the safest path, and He could see dangers they could not see.

The pillar of cloud and fire reminded Israel that God's eye was always upon them. He was not far away. He was guiding, protecting, and teaching them the way they should go.

Today, God does not usually guide us with a visible cloud or fire in the sky, but He still promises to lead His children. He guides us through His Word, through prayer, through the Holy Spirit speaking to our hearts, and through wise counsel from godly people. As we choose to obey what He has already shown us, He teaches us the next step. We can trust Him to instruct us, watch over us, and guide us one step at a time.

☀️ True Story

George Washington Carver was a brilliant scientist who wanted to help poor farmers. The problems he faced were massive. The soil in the South was completely ruined from years of over-farming, bugs were eating the crops, and families were going hungry. George knew he couldn't fix the problems on his own. He needed God's guidance.

Carver had a quiet habit. Early in the morning, before the world was busy, he would walk outside and pray. He watched the plants, listened to the birds, studied the soil, and asked God to guide his thoughts. He called this his "listening time." He would walk among the trees, look at the plants, and pray. He didn't ask for money or fame; he simply asked God to guide his mind.

George later told his friends, "All my life, I have risen regularly at four o'clock and have gone into the woods and talked with God. There He gives me my orders for the day."

During those quiet walks, God instructed his mind. Because he followed God's guidance, George went into his laboratory and discovered hundreds of brand-new uses for the humble peanut and the sweet potato, saving thousands of struggling farms! He transformed these simple plants into valuable, everyday items like cooking oils, fresh flour, and soap, giving the poor farmers a brand-new way to make a living.

George proved that the greatest scientific discoveries start by simply waking up and asking the Creator for directions. When we ask Him for wisdom and take time to listen, He can teach us how to use our gifts to help others.

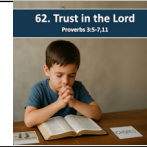
💬 Discussion Questions:

- When the Israelites were wandering in the massive, trackless desert, what two miraculous things did God use to guide them during the day and the night?
- What did George ask God for while he was walking in the dark woods?
- What is a quiet time during your day when you can stop and ask God for His guidance?

🎨 Activity:

George Washington Carver went into nature to ask for God's instructions! Take a short walk outside with the children, but make a special rule: no talking for the first three minutes! Just walk quietly and listen to the birds, the wind, and the sounds of nature. Talk about how we have to turn off the noisy distractions in our lives to hear God's gentle guidance.

Guidance — Day 2



 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#62) — KJV

Proverbs 3:5–7, 11 "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:"

Apply the Promise!

God does not want us to guess what He wants us to do. When we face a confusing choice, we can trust Him, pray for wisdom, and follow the light He gives one step at a time.

Bible Story (Judges 6)

The Israelites were living in fear. A cruel army called the Midianites kept raiding their land, destroying their crops, and taking their animals. Many of God's people hid in caves and secret places just to survive.

One day, God sent an angel to a frightened man named Gideon. Gideon was hiding as he threshed wheat, trying to keep the food safe from the Midianites. But God had a much bigger plan for him: Gideon was chosen to help deliver Israel.

Gideon felt small and unqualified, and the mission seemed far too big for him. But God promised, "Surely I will be with thee." Gideon did not need to trust his own strength—he needed to trust God's word.

Later, Gideon was still afraid and asked God to help him know that He was truly leading. He placed a fleece of wool on the ground and asked that the wool be wet with dew in the morning while the ground stayed dry.

God patiently answered. The next morning, Gideon squeezed a bowl of water from the fleece while the ground was dry. Then Gideon asked once more, and God answered again—the fleece stayed dry while the ground was wet.

Gideon's fleece does not mean we should ask God for signs instead of obeying His Word. God had already spoken to Gideon, and He patiently helped him trust and take the next step. This story teaches us that when God's Word clearly shows us what is right, we should obey. But when we truly need wisdom, we can pray, listen to Scripture, ask godly counsel, and trust God to guide us one step at a time.

True Story

In 2007, a young woman named Lori had her own perfect plans. She was temporarily working as a Bible teacher in sunny Florida before beginning her nursing career. When her leader invited her to move with the team to Idaho to keep teaching, she immediately said no!

Lori thought Idaho was much too cold and too far away. Plus, her old car had just broken down, so she had no way to travel. She didn't even pray about the decision because her mind was firmly made up.

A few weeks later, a friend named Julie called and said the team truly believed God wanted Lori in Idaho. Lori thought, *Surely that cannot be true*. But while still on the phone, she finally prayed, "Lord, if You really want me to go, I am willing. But You will have to make it very clear—and I will need a car."

Less than thirty minutes later, Lori's phone rang again. It was her mother! Her great-aunt had just decided she was too old to drive and was giving Lori a beautiful, incredibly reliable car with only 27,000 miles on it!

Instead of being excited, Lori panicked. For three whole days, she wrestled with the clear answer, terrified of moving to a freezing new state. She felt no peace until she finally surrendered her own plans and prayed, "Okay, God, I will go."

Looking back today, Lori shudders to think how entirely different her life would be if she had not gone. Her ministry partner and future husband was waiting for her right there in Idaho! Her story proves that when we trust the Lord instead of our own understanding, He beautifully directs our paths!

Discussion Questions:

- What did Gideon ask God to do to the piece of wool on the very first night?
- When Lori prayed for God to make her path to Idaho clear, what amazing gift did she receive less than thirty minutes later?
- If you aren't sure whether you should do something, who are some wise people God has given you to ask for guidance?

Activity:

Give each child a crayon and a piece of paper. Ask them to hold the crayon, but tell them to make their arm completely limp and relaxed. Gently hold their hand and guide it to draw a simple picture (like a heart or a car). Afterward, explain that if they had stiffened their arm and tried to draw their "own" way, the picture would have been messy. When we surrender control to God, He draws a beautiful path for our lives!

Guidance — Day 3



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#63) — NKJV

Isaiah 30:18, 19, 21 "...For the Lord is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him...You shall weep no more. He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; When He hears it, He will answer you...Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left."

💖 Apply the Promise!

God promises that when we cry out to Him, He will answer us. He will guide our steps, acting like a gentle voice behind us, telling us exactly which way to turn so we stay safely on the right path.

📖 Bible Story (1 Samuel 3)

During the days when Eli served at the tabernacle, a young boy named Samuel lived there and helped with God's work. Samuel was still learning to recognize the Lord's voice, and messages from God were rare in those days.

One night, while Samuel was lying down, he heard someone call his name. "Samuel!" Thinking Eli needed help, Samuel quickly ran to him and said, "Here am I."

Eli looked confused and told the boy he hadn't said a word, sending him back to bed. But as soon as Samuel lay down, the voice called out again! This confusing cycle happened three complete times before the elderly priest realized what was happening. It wasn't a human voice at all; the Lord was trying to speak directly to the boy! Samuel must have felt surprised and maybe a little nervous. He was only a child, but God knew his name and wanted him to listen.

Eli told Samuel what to do. If the voice called again, Samuel was to answer, "Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth." So Samuel went back and waited.

The Lord called again, "Samuel, Samuel." This time, Samuel listened and answered just as Eli had taught him. God gave Samuel an important message, and from that time forward, Samuel grew as a faithful prophet of the Lord.

Samuel's story reminds us that God wants His children to listen. We may not hear an audible voice like Samuel did, but God still guides us through His Word, prayer, the Holy Spirit, and wise counsel. When He shows us the right way, we should answer with willing hearts.

☀️ True Story

One dark, foggy night in Scotland, a young man named Peter Marshall was walking home across the moors. He thought he knew the way, but the fog was so thick that he could barely see in front of him.

As he walked through the darkness, he suddenly heard a voice call his name: "Peter!" He stopped and looked around, but no one was there. Everything was quiet except the wind.

Peter started forward again. Then the voice came a second time, urgent and clear: "Peter, stop!" This time he froze. Something about the warning made him obey at once.

Carefully, Peter dropped to his knees and reached one hand forward into the darkness. Instead of touching solid ground, his hand felt only empty air. He was kneeling at the edge of an old stone quarry. One more step could have sent him falling into the pit below.

Peter never forgot that night. God had seen the danger hidden in the darkness and had stopped him at exactly the right moment.

Most of the time, God does not guide us with an audible voice. He guides us through the Bible, prayer, wise counsel, and quiet impressions that agree with His Word. But Peter's story reminds us that when God shows us the next right step, we should listen and obey.

This story reminds us that God can guide His children one step at a time. We may not always see the danger ahead, but He does. When His Word, His Spirit, or wise counsel shows us the way, we should listen and obey.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- Who did Samuel think was calling his name in the middle of the night?
- Why did Peter Marshall need to stop walking, even though he could not see the danger ahead?
- God's voice usually sounds like a quiet "thought" or "feeling" in our hearts. Have you ever felt like you should do something kind for someone else out of nowhere?

🎬 Activity:

Have one child sit in the middle of the room and close their eyes tightly. Have the rest of the family or classmates quietly scatter around the room. Point to one person at a time to whisper the child's name. The child has to keep their eyes closed, point in the direction of the voice, and guess exactly who called them! Explain that Samuel had to learn how to recognize God's voice, and as we read the Bible, we learn to recognize it, too!

Guidance — Day 4



Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#64) — KJV

Isaiah 42:16 I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, And crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, And not forsake them.

♥ Apply the Promise!

Even when we feel completely blind to what the future holds, God promises to take us by the hand. He will safely guide our steps down unknown paths and make our crooked, confusing roads straight!

Bible Story (Mark 8)

When Jesus and His disciples arrived in Bethsaida, a group of faithful friends brought a blind man to Him. They begged the Lord to touch him and heal his sight.

Because the man could not see a single thing, the bustling town with its loud voices and crowded streets was a confusing and disorienting place. Jesus wanted to heal the man, but He did not just snap His fingers or shout a quick healing command in the middle of the chaotic crowd.

Instead, He did something incredibly gentle and personal. Jesus reached out, took the blind man by the hand, and began to walk. The man could not see the road ahead, the obstacles in his way, or even the face of the Man leading him.

But he willingly allowed Jesus to guide him, step by step, through the twisting streets and out of the town until they reached a quiet, peaceful place. The blind man had to trust his Guide to lead him safely down an unknown path.

Once they were alone, Jesus did something highly unusual. He spit on the man's eyes, placed His hands on him, and asked if he could see anything. The man looked up and replied that he could see people, but they looked blurry, like walking trees. So, Jesus placed His hands on the man's eyes a second time.

Suddenly, the darkness completely vanished! His sight was restored, allowing him to see everything clearly. This story shows us that Jesus is a patient Guide. Sometimes we do not understand everything at once, but we can trust Him to take us by the hand, lead us carefully, and finish the work He has begun in us.

Discussion Questions:

- In the Bible story, where did Jesus safely lead the blind man before He finally healed his eyes?
- What specific object did the mountain guide tie to his backpack so Erik could hear exactly which way to go?
- Erik had to focus completely on the sound of the bell to know where to step next. When we feel confused and can't see the future, what are some ways we can 'listen' to our Guide so we know which step to take?

True Story

Erik was a very active, adventurous boy, but when he was thirteen years old, a rare disease caused him to lose his eyesight completely. Suddenly, his entire world was plunged into permanent darkness.

Many people assumed Erik would have to stay inside and live a very quiet, limited life. But Erik decided he wasn't going to let his blindness stop him from doing the things he loved. He trained hard, learned how to rock climb by feeling the stone with his hands, and set a goal to climb Mount Everest.

Mount Everest is the tallest mountain on earth. The path to the top is very dangerous, filled with massive cliffs and terrifying, crooked drop-offs. One wrong step can be deadly.

Because Erik couldn't see a single thing, navigating this treacherous path on his own was completely impossible. He needed a guide he could trust with his life. During the climb, Erik's climbing partner walked just a few steps ahead of him.

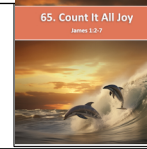
The guide tied a single, small brass bell to the back of his backpack. As the guide walked, the bell jingled. Erik locked all of his focus onto the sound of that ringing bell. When his guide said, "Step up high to the right," Erik immediately stepped up to the right.

Erik didn't try to guess where the path was, and he didn't panic about the dark. He simply listened to his guide's voice and followed the bell. Because he completely trusted his guide, Erik successfully reached the summit of Mount Everest, becoming the first blind person in history to stand on the top of the world!

Activity:

If you have a set of stairs (or just an obstacle course of pillows in the living room), this is perfect! Blindfold the kids and act as their "mountain guide." Tie a small bell (or just shake your keys) right in front of them, and give them very specific, step-by-step instructions on how to climb the stairs or step over the pillows. Experience what it feels like to completely trust a guide!

Guidance — Day 5



 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#65) — KJV

James 1:2–7 "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord."

Apply the Promise!

If we ask God for wisdom in faith—without doubting or wavering back and forth—He promises to gladly give us the exact brilliant ideas and guidance we need!

Bible Story (Daniel 2)

King Nebuchadnezzar had a frightening dream that troubled him deeply. When he woke up, he could not remember the dream, but he knew it was important.

The king called his wise men, astrologers, and magicians. He demanded that they tell him both the dream and its meaning. The wise men were terrified. No human being could know what another person had dreamed.

In anger, the king commanded that all the wise men in Babylon be destroyed. Daniel and his friends were included in that terrible order, even though they had done nothing wrong.

Daniel did not panic. He respectfully asked for time, then gathered his friends and urged them to pray. Together, they asked the God of heaven to show them the secret.

That night, God answered Daniel's prayer in a vision. Daniel praised God, saying that wisdom and might belong to Him. Daniel knew the answer had not come from his own cleverness, but from the Lord.

The next day, Daniel stood before the king. He explained that no wise man could reveal the secret, "but there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets." Then Daniel told the king the dream and its meaning.

Daniel's story teaches us that when we lack wisdom, we can ask God in faith. He knows what we cannot know, sees what we cannot see, and can give wisdom at exactly the time we need it.

True Story

In the 1980's, a police officer named Jamie Winship was working on a sad case. A young boy had been kidnapped, and the police were desperately searching for him.

Jamie parked his police cruiser about a mile away from the bus stop where the boy had been taken. Sitting in his car, he was feeling angry and sad about the terrible situation.

He realized that people often ask God questions but forget to pay close attention to the answer. So, he decided to pray and specifically ask God for help. He asked God to find the kid and direct his steps to the right place.

After asking for wisdom, Jamie stayed very quiet and paid close attention. A few moments later, a car drove slowly down the street at 25 miles an hour. As the car got even with him, Jamie looked at the driver, and the driver looked at him.

Suddenly, Jamie felt a very sick feeling in his stomach. Because he had just asked God for direction and was paying attention, he decided to trust that feeling. He immediately stepped out of his police cruiser and walked up to the car.

Jamie confidently commanded the driver to get out and open his trunk. To everyone's shock, the missing kid was right inside the trunk.

Jamie later told this story as one of the times God taught him to listen instead of depending only on his own understanding. This story reminds us that God still gives wisdom to those who ask Him in faith. Whether our problem is large or small, we can stop, pray, listen, and trust Him to show us the next right step.

Discussion Questions:

- What did King Nebuchadnezzar threaten to do to his wise men when they could not tell him what his dream was?
- When Jamie asked God to direct him to the missing boy, how did God guide him when the slow car drove by?
- Have you ever felt like a tossing wave, changing your mind back and forth because you doubted God would answer your prayer?

Activity:

Give one person a piece of paper and have them draw the craziest, weirdest dream they can imagine. Without showing anyone the paper, have the other people try to guess exactly what they drew! Show them how absolutely impossible it was for the wise men to guess the king's dream without God giving them supernatural wisdom.