

WHAT'S *next?*

OCTOBER 14-25 | DISCOVERTHEWORD.ORG

SUMMARY | What's next? It's a question we all ask, but many of us struggle to find the answers. What's next when things don't work out the way I expect? What's next for my career? What's next when things happen in my life outside of my control? This time on *Discover the Word*, we are going to see that many Bible characters in the Old Testament struggled with these questions too. So pull up a chair and discover with us how the same God who met these biblical heroes in their questions meets us in ours as well.

Get your copy of Daniel Ryan Day's book, "What's Next?" on our website or Amazon.

This Week's Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever had a "what's next" situation where you didn't know what to do and then God showed up? Did He make you breakfast as He did for Elijah? (1 Kings 17:2-6).
2. God met Moses beyond the wilderness (Exodus 3). Have you ever felt as if you were beyond the wilderness? Have you ever been at your wits' end? How did God show up and help you through that situation?
3. List the painful "what's next" questions Ruth experienced. How have you experienced some of those same questions? (Ruth 1).
4. Have you ever been in a situation where things didn't work out the way you expected? How did things work out in the end? What did God teach you through that season?
5. Why is moving so difficult? Do you think it was difficult for Abram to move his family to a new country? Why would God ask Abram to move? (Genesis 12).

Challenge

Grab a journal and write out any “what’s next” questions you are dealing with right now, leaving space under each question to write a few notes. Track how God begins to answer those questions, and notate His answers under each question. It may take a while to get answers to some of the questions (or to get complete answers), but keep taking notes and watch as God is faithful to meet you in your “what’s next” questions. And remember . . . the answers may not be what you expect or want.

Commit To Memory

“In their hearts humans plan their course,
but the LORD establishes their steps”
(Proverbs 16:9 NIV).

Prayer

God, here are my questions: _____.
(Read your “what’s next” questions to God.)
Help me have eyes to see and ears to hear Your voice.

Amen.

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SUMMARY | Have you ever longed for a direct conversation with God about His will and calling on your life? Sure, a phone call would be nice, but He doesn't leave us hanging. God gave us Scripture that describes exactly what He wants from us. Join us on Discover the Word as we look into the New Testament and see how God answers some of our biggest questions, but in different ways than we might expect.

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This Week's Discussion Questions

1. How would Mary's culture have responded to her pregnancy? How did Joseph respond initially, before the angel showed up? Are there times in your life when God's will feels more like a curse? (Matthew 1:18–25).
2. What do you think it was like to watch Jesus ascend into heaven? (Acts 1:6–11). How do you think the Jesus followers felt as they waited in the upper room for the Holy Spirit? (Acts 1:12–14). Have you ever experienced a "waiting" that felt like forever? Was it easy or difficult to trust God in that season?
3. Do you think Saul/Paul ever asked himself how he got things so wrong? (Acts 9:1–22). Do you think he re-lived those moments of pulling people out of their houses and having them imprisoned or killed? Have you ever held onto ideas about God and the Bible that weren't true? What were those ideas, and how did God open your eyes to see the truth?
4. Read 1 Thessalonians 5. How does this verse summarize the will of God for you?
5. If the call of God is a call to faithfulness, how does that affect the way we live our daily lives?

Challenge

Look up the words call, called, and calling in a Bible commentary and list out the different ways the word is used in the New Testament. (If you want an easy way to discover these verses, get a copy of the book *What's Next?: Your Dream Job, God's Call and a Life That Sets You Free.*)

What are those passages about? How would you define God's calling based on the use of the word call, called, or calling?

Commit To Memory

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”
(1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 ESV).

Prayer

God, help me to be faithful today in every situation in which You place me. Help me to listen for Your voice and to follow Your lead. Help me not to be so focused on what's next that I miss what You're doing right now.

Amen.

