



GPS – God’s Positioning System

sunday 21 november
connect group resource

How to use this resource

These notes support the message shared each Sunday morning. There are four sections with thoughts and ideas for connect group leaders. Use the bits that best suit your group rather than try to cover all parts of this resource.

Each week there is a one page resource on the [church website](#) for individuals to use for their personal reflection or in discussion with family or friends.



IN THE BIBLE

Look at the Gospels when Jesus called people to follow Him and ask the group to speculate why the people made the decision they made. Some made an instant change leaving everything behind. Here are some passages to look at:

[Matthew 9:9 & Luke 19:2-8](#)

[Luke 8:2 & Mark 16:9 and John 4:25-26 & 39-42](#)

[Mark 1:16-20 & Matthew 4:18-22](#)

[Luke 9:60 & John 6:60-66 & Matthew 19:16-22](#)

Browse these portions as you compare that to Abraham’s ([Genesis 11:27-12:9](#)) and Moses’ ([Exodus 3:1-4:17](#)) and Gideon’s ([Judges 6:11-35](#)) callings. What are the similarities between the Old Testament and the New Testament accounts?

Look at these passages and direction and decisions in life:

[Joshua 18:3-6 & Acts 1:15-26](#)

[Judges 6:36-40 & Genesis 24:14](#)

[2 Kings 3:11 & Genesis 41:14-16](#)

When we face hard or risky decisions we often want someone to tell us what to do like attack or defend or we want to be able to throw a lot to allocate land or chose the replacement for Judas or to set out a test like Gideon. These sorts of approaches to finding God’s plan are harder to find after the Holy Spirit baptised the first believers. Why is that? The sort of answer you are looking for is that we have the Spirit of God in us to guide us and to help us remember what to do and say. Only a few people like the prophets regularly had the Spirit’s presence with them before Pentecost, apart from Jesus of course who was filled with the Spirit. After Pentecost everyone was to be filled with Spirit.

God also gives us guidance in the Word. Look at [Proverbs Chapter 21](#) and ask each person to identify a piece of advice which appeals to them. Do the same with [Matthew Chapter 5](#).

God has provided multiple ways to be guided in to our destiny. We are to use all these ways throughout our life.



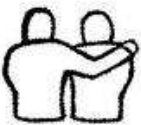
SPIRITUAL GROWTH

GPS systems work with a starting point: where are you on planet Earth measured to within a meter. This is possible because the GPS unit receives a signal from several satellites deep in outer space orbiting in a known position. The device measures distances and works out where you are. Before GPS we used other known positions such as landmarks, maps and stars to find our way. We use things which never or rarely change position or will be found in known positions at different times of the year.

Suggest the group thinks back to three or four major decisions in their life in the past couple of years. Ask them to identify how they made the decision. Look especially for God's permanent landmarks. Some might have received specific direction from the Holy Spirit so ask them to explain how they knew it was the Spirit's leading and not their own wants. **Repeat the exercise for some minor decisions in life in the past week or two**, like what to wear, where to go, what to do on the day off. Is there a difference between the process for major and minor decisions? Should there be a difference? How do we learn to make major decisions?

Someone making a major decision about what house to buy reflected that they were receiving so much advice that they no longer could discern what God wanted them to do. This is a situation many of us are familiar with. Ask if anyone wanted to share a similar experience. Sometimes God wants us to make a decision using the wisdom, experience and principles that He has given us through life and teaching of His ways. For instance, He will have taught us to be honest in all our dealings; He will have told us not to lust after what others have; He will have told us to be wise with borrowing; He will have told us to work for our keep; He will have told us He wants to bless and keep us and so on. The test becomes one of 'what is our secret heart attitude towards the decision', for example why do I really want a new car or a new computer or TV, or more new clothes? However we are not to give away all our 'seed' and 'bread' so that we do not have enough to feed ourselves in the future; it isn't simply a case of giving everything away to make Him bless us. God wants us to bless us and He wants us to bless others. His is not a rule based formula like approach for making decisions. And every so often He wants us to demonstrate faith by asking us to follow a seemingly impossible instruction. **God is far more interested in our motive behind the decision than say which type of car we drive.**

Share the above paragraph and provide time for discussion in the group. **Next challenge people to identify what Godly principles guide them in making decisions** about their next steps which will decide what they will do with their life and how they will be eternally rewarded. This will not be easy, but if we acknowledge that we have nothing definite from God then we are drifting and can be easily deceived by the enemy.



CARING & SHARING

Start off by asking each member of the group to honestly tell the others what they do when they are lost driving in an unfamiliar part of the city. Don't let them answer they way that they think they should but rather to give an answer which describes the last time this happened. Ask how many can get and work with verbal directions like turn 3rd left, right at the dairy, left after the letterbox that looks like a cow verses those who need to see a map and follow that verses those who use Google Maps directions and Street View tools.

We are all at this point and place in time in the meeting because of earlier decisions, coincidences and circumstances which change our direction. **Invite some of the people to share how they have ended up at this place in life.** If your group is large maybe split it into a couple of smaller groups for this part. Some people will have made decisions and been in control of their future to reach this point. Others may have drifted and went with whatever came up and others will have had circumstances like a death or job loss which changed their direction. Some will not really be sure how they came to this place in time.

We are all alive for a purpose. As the church's key Scripture states God has a plan for us. Even if we seem to have drifted away from that plan God is able to bring us back on course. Believing this is a starting point. The next stage is to understand what we are running towards. This requires candid reflection and wisdom to encourage everyone and bring them along towards a hope and future. Ensure everyone has paper and pen and a place where they can sit and reflect. **Pray for the Holy Spirit to highlight to each person** 1) where are you now in God's plan; 2) where the Father plans for me or what purpose am I alive; 3) what am I to do next to head towards that plan. Ask each person to sit in silence, you might have background music playing, and write down what they think in answer to each of the three questions (you might want to preprint sheets with these questions on them).

Some people will be stuck and uncomfortable with this process. Stepping out of comfort zones is essential to growth. They might think they have nothing to contribute and they might underrate their value to God. This is the time for some of the others in the group to encourage them and build them up by talking about their gifts and qualities. Suggest they think about some of the prophetic words they have received as these often show what God is thinking about them.

Finish by asking some or all to share their answers to these questions or just question 3. Research continually proves that if we do not write down what we plan to do and if we don't declare it and share it then we are likely to give up. This is no New Years resolution exercise; this affects our eternal life and the destiny and lives of others.



REACHING OTHERS

Refer to the scriptures at the start of the In The Bible section about how some people immediately followed Jesus. Look for the common aspects such as they heard His invitation and responded or they witnessed a supernatural act and followed Him. **Ask the group to discuss how much immediate obedience is important to fulfilling God's purposes.**

What are some of the ways each person could change to demonstrate immediate obedience in their daily life as it relates to sharing the love of Jesus? Some examples will be: do an act of kindness; make a phone call or send a text or email when prompted by the Spirit; naturally deliver a gift from God like a word of knowledge or prophetic word of encouragement; Share about the hope we have.

In the message we heard that we need to be alert to the moments of God. These moments can be the detail of our life and the coincidences in life. Someone has said the coincidences are the language of the Holy Spirit; He puts us alongside someone who we can connect with for a moment and deliver the love of Jesus. We have to learn to recognise these moments. **Ask the group to share some of these moments in their life and then pray for each other** to see and increase in these moments and the opportunity to share the love and power of God.