



# THY WILL BE DONE



SESSION 1  
GOD'S WILL  
*and* GOD'S  
PROMISE



SESSION 2  
GOD'S WILL  
*and* MY  
INADEQUACY



SESSION 3  
GOD'S WILL  
*and* MY  
DREAMS



SESSION 4  
GOD'S WILL  
*and* MY  
IDENTITY



SESSION 5  
GOD'S WILL  
*and* MY  
WORLDVIEW



SESSION 6  
GOD'S WILL  
*and* MY  
RESPONSE



A 6 SESSION **BIBLE STUDY**  
FOR LENT

leader's guide

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## *Introduction*

What is God's will for my life? Perhaps believers have always sought an answer to that question. Yet for many of the saints portrayed in Holy Scripture, God's will for them stood in sharp contrast to their own dreams, ambitions, worldviews and identities. The call of God through the Gospel changed everything for them and it has changed everything for us. What is God's will for my life? Jesus gives us the answer: "For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:40).

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## Leader's Guide for Session 1

**BEFORE CLASS:** Read through this session yourself. Examine the Bible readings listed and become acquainted with them.

**READ:** Have a member of the group read the Introduction on page 4 aloud.

**READ:** Have someone read the Opening Prayer or read the prayer in unison.

### SESSION 1

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## God's Will and God's Promise

*Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." Genesis 22:8*



#### **Opening Prayer**

Heavenly Father, your servant Abraham believed your promise, and you counted it to him as righteousness. Like Abraham, our father in faith, we too believe your promise and by faith in Christ our Savior we are counted as righteous in your sight. We pray that you would work through our words of witness and bring the blessing of salvation in his name to all nations. Hear our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

**DISCUSS:** Discuss God's promises found in Scripture.

**READ:** Read aloud or have someone read aloud the Introduction.

### *The Promise*

1. God would make of Abraham a great nation and bless him and make his name great. Those who bless Abraham will be blessed, and those who curse him will be cursed. In Abraham all the families on earth will be blessed because the promised Messiah would be born into the family line of Abraham. God promised to give him the land of Canaan. Abraham's own son would be his heir and he would have countless descendants. Since Abraham did not yet have a son, Eliezer of Damascus (probably his chief servant or steward) would be his heir. Abraham believed that God would keep his promises, and his faith was counted to him as righteousness.

2. God had promised that Abraham's own son would be his heir, but now God asks him to kill his only son. • Abraham believed that God was able to raise the dead, so he would receive his son again. Answers will vary; Isaac was Abraham's only son; Isaac carried the wood up the hill of sacrifice; the sacrifice of Isaac was stopped, the sacrifice of our

**Discussion**  
What are some of the promises of God that are found in Scripture?

**Introduction**  
After the fall into sin, God promised Adam and Eve that the offspring of the woman would come to crush the head of the tempting serpent. The promise of that serpent-crushing Savior was passed down from generation to generation until God called Abraham to leave his homeland and go to the land that God would show him. Abraham and his descendants were to be bearers of the promise. When the time was right, the promised Messiah, God's anointed one, would be born into the family line of Abraham.

**The Promise**

1. **Read Genesis 11:27-32, Genesis 12:1-9 and Genesis 15:1-6.** What was included in the promise that God made to Abraham? What particular concern did Abraham have about the promise? What plans had he made to address his concerns? Why was Abraham righteous in God's sight? What did he believe about God?
2. **Read Genesis 22:1-18.** Why would the sacrifice of Isaac seem contrary to everything that God had promised to Abraham? **Read Hebrews 11:17-19.** What did Abraham believe about the power and promise of God? In what ways was the sacrifice of Isaac like and unlike the sacrifice of Jesus our Savior? What did the Lord provide? What does the angel of the LORD repeat concerning the promise made to Abraham?
3. **Read Genesis 25:29-34, Genesis 26:1-5 and Genesis 27:26-29.** Isaac's wife Rebekah gave birth to twins, Esau, the firstborn, and Jacob, whose name means "he cheats." How was Jacob able to cheat Esau out of his birthright? What was included in that blessing that Jacob received through his deceit?

Lord was completed. The Lord provided a ram to offer as sacrifice. Abraham would be blessed and his offspring would be multiplied. He would defeat his enemies and all nations would be blessed through his offspring.

3. Esau was hungry, so Jacob had his brother trade his birthright for bread and a bowl of stew.

Jacob then tricked his father into blessing him instead of Esau. Isaac told Jacob that he would be blessed and peoples and nations would serve him and bow down to him. Those who cursed him would be cursed. Those who blessed him would be blessed. The Messiah's line of descent would pass through Abraham, to Isaac and now through Jacob.



## Offering of Abraham

1. Paul quotes the Old Testament, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness,” to show that it is those who believe who are justified before God. Just being circumcised in obedience to the law is not enough. Faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness before he was circumcised, so Abraham was not justified by his works or obedience. He is the father of those who are circumcised and of those who believe without being circumcised, those who walk by faith. Our faith in Christ will be counted to us as righteousness. Paul also points out that Abraham was to be the father of many nations, not just of the Jews. The words “it was counted to him” apply to us who believe in Christ; our faith is counted as righteousness.
2. Paul explains that Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness. So it is people of faith who are the sons of Abraham, who was a man of faith. All who trust in Christ are Abraham’s offspring. An heir according to promise is one who trusts in the promises of God and so by grace inherits eternal life.
3. All of God’s promises are fulfilled in and through Christ Jesus. It is through Jesus, the descendant of Abraham, that all the families of the earth are blessed, for Jesus died for the sins of the whole

### Offering of Abraham

1. Scripture says, “Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4). We are encouraged in hope through the story of God’s promise to Abraham. **Read Romans 4:1-25.** How does the apostle Paul use the example of Abraham to explain our righteousness before God? How does he use the example of circumcision to show that the promise of God is not only for the Jews (the circumcised) but also for the Gentiles (the uncircumcised)? What does Paul say to indicate that just being Jewish was not sufficient for salvation? What had God said to Abraham that indicated even the Gentiles would benefit from the promise? Why does Paul say that the words “it was counted to him” were written for our sake?
2. **Read Galatians 3:1-9 and 25-29.** The Christians in Galatia were being dangerously foolish. Even though the Holy Spirit brought them to faith through the hearing of the Gospel, they were attempting to justify themselves before God through their works instead of through faith in Christ Jesus. How does the apostle Paul use Abraham as an example to show the Galatians just how foolish they are in such thinking? God told Abraham that his offspring would be as countless as the stars. Who, according to Paul, is numbered among those offspring? What does it mean to be called “an heir according to promise”?
3. **Read 2 Corinthians 1:15-22.** How is Jesus the Yes to all of God’s promises? How is he the Yes to the promises to Abraham?
4. **Read Hebrews 11: 8-16.** When Abraham died, he owned only the burial cave he had purchased for his wife Sarah (Genesis 23:17-20). Yet God had promised to give to Abraham’s descendants the land “from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates” (Genesis 15:18). God led Abraham’s descendants, the children of Israel, out of slavery in Egypt and brought

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world. All who trust in him receive the gift of eternal life (John 3:16).

4. Abraham looked forward to a city whose designer and builder is God. Abraham knew he was a stranger and exile on earth who was seeking a homeland. He desired a better, heavenly country. Answers will vary.

**READ:** Read responsively the words of the psalm.

**SING:** Sing (or speak) aloud the words of the hymn in unison.

them into the land of Canaan. Yet Abraham, by faith, knew that even the land of Israel was not the final fulfillment of God's promise. What kind of homeland did Abraham seek from God? We too seek that homeland. What do you most long for as you anticipate that "better country"?

**Psalm 105:1-3, 7-9**

℣ *Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;*

☩ **Make known his deeds among the peoples!**

℣ *Sing to him, sing praises to him;*

☩ **Tell of all his wondrous works!**

℣ *Glory in his holy name;*

☩ **Let the hearts of those who see the LORD rejoice ...**

℣ *He is the LORD our God;*

☩ **His judgments are in all the earth.**

℣ *He remembers his covenant forever,*

☩ **The word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,**

℣ *The covenant that he made with Abraham,*

☩ **His sworn promise to Isaac.**

**Hymn**

*(Tune: O Mein Jesu, Ich muss Sterben 87 87 D)*

Come to Calvary's holy mountain, sinners, ruined by the fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain flows for you, for me, for all,  
In a full, perpetual tide, opened when our Savior died.

**READ:** Have someone read the Closing Prayer or read the prayer in unison.

**SUGGEST:** Suggest that participants memorize one or more of the verses listed, which are related to the theme for the session.

They that drink shall live forever; 'tis a soul-renewing flood.  
God is faithful, God will never break his covenant of blood,  
Signed when our Redeemer died, sealed when he was glorified.

**Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus, by faith we are Abraham's offspring and heirs of the promise of eternal life. All of those promises are fulfilled in you, for you are the Yes to all of God's promises. By your death and resurrection, you fulfilled the promise to Adam and Eve to crush the power of Satan, the tempting serpent. Like Isaac, you were God's beloved Son, the innocent Lamb, offered up as a willing sacrifice for our sins. By the power of the Spirit at work in your holy Word, keep us strong in faith as we, with Abraham, look forward in hope to the promise of eternal life in "the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God." Amen.

**Remember**

Memorize one or more Scripture verses about the promises of God. You might consider one of the following, or another favorite verse:

*Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28:20*

*Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me. Psalm 50:15*

*When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3:4*

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This six session Bible study for Lent or any time of the year helps us in our quest to seek God's will in all aspects of our lives, especially in terms of our identity, our dreams for the future, our worldview and our response to Christ the Crucified. Based on the worship series of the same name, each session in this study includes Scripture readings about biblical characters to use as reference points, questions for discussion, prayers and suggested activities. A large-format Leader's Guide includes all the answers, helpful study notes and session directions.