

DETERMINING DIRECTION

Proverbs 16:9

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This discussion guide is designed for Saylorville Church Community Groups as they live and learn together each week. The sermons and guides can be found at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- What are some decisions you've already made today? Talk with your group about some bigger decisions that are in front of you right now.
- Be honest - what are the ways that you determine direction in the decisions you need to make? Keep that in mind as you study the passage below.

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Rob Pearson reminded us that God-first hearts plan boldly, and then rest securely.**

Proverbs 16:9 - The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

Three Keys to Determining Direction:

1. Have a God-First Heart (Proverbs 16:9)

- Rob told us that our hearts are always bending toward God OR toward self. As a group, brainstorm some ways that you might be able to tell which direction your own heart is bending.
- Read Psalm 37:4 together. How has this verse been misunderstood or misused by some? What's the correct interpretation of the principle in this passage?
- Take a quick "desire inventory" of your life right now. Are there desires or plans that you are pursuing that don't clearly come from God? What can you do about that this week?

2. Plan Boldly and Humbly (Proverbs 16:9)

- When your desires are aligned with God's, you can begin boldly and humbly planning. Here are some questions to ask to be sure your plans continue to be in the middle of God's will:
 - *Does my plan/decision agree with God's Word?*
 - *Have I genuinely fasted and prayed about this decision?*
 - *Am I counting the cost...and willing to obey even if it's difficult?*
 - *Who are the godly people I've asked to speak into this decision?*
- What are some other questions you might add to this sample list from the sermon?
- Which of the questions above is the most difficult or unnatural for you to take action on? Why?

3. Step Forward Confidently (Proverbs 16:9)

- Rob mentioned that many people struggle to actually move forward and instead get stuck in the planning or "tinkering" phase. We don't want to move until the plan seems perfect. Talk about a time when you *tinkered* instead of moving forward in trust?
- When God makes it clear which direction you should go, you can walk forward in trust. How might Genesis 24:27b help you take confident steps, even though you don't know the future?
- *You can't follow God's direction if you're not willing to move.* Get personal and practical. Are you willing to move, or are you stuck in convenience or comfort?

Consider the decisions you mentioned at the beginning of this conversation. Now that you've studied Proverbs 16:9, how might your decision-making process change?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that you and your group would submit your plans to God, then walk boldly and humbly in the steps He has laid out before you - not matter the cost!