

In Search of God's Will

Discerning a Life of Faithfulness and Purpose

By Trevor Hudson

Study Guide Chapter 7: Reflecting on Our Circumstances

1. Trevor Hudson shares this quote from his first pastoral supervisor, "We do not learn from experience, we learn when we reflect on experience." Do you agree? Do you usually take time to reflect on experiences? If so, how do you find this helpful?
2. If we want to know how the Holy Spirit is leading and guiding us, we need to also examine the "outer landscape" of our lives. List some examples of external circumstances we encounter in our daily lives.
3. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is a great mentor to us as we look at the reflective life. Share 2 examples of Mary's reflective life in Luke, Chapter 2.
4. What are the questions that help us understand what we must ask as we seek God's personal will in our own external circumstances? (p.81)
5. What is the one central conviction on which discernment is based? (p.82) Where have you felt God's active presence in your life this week? Can you share an example or journal about this?
6. What does Trevor Hudson say happens when we live without reflection in our life? (p. 83)
7. Describe the fullness of life we may experience when we reflect on our experiences of success and failure and listen to what God may be saying to us. (p. 83)
8. Pray the prayer in the Discernment Exercise on page 84. You may want to incorporate this into your daily devotional or prayer time with God.
9. Discuss or journal how we can reflect on our present circumstances in three areas of our outer landscape.
10. Discuss the 5 basic steps of the daily Examen and how you might incorporate this into your daily life. On your own practice the Examen. (See Discernment Exercise on p. 89)

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