



**Educate  
+ Engage**



THE  
WISDOM WAY ~~TH~~

The way  
God Leads

### OVERVIEW

In Proverbs 16:9, we encounter a profound truth: “We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.” This verse communicates the difference between our personal plans and God’s purpose for our lives. As teenagers facing countless choices and uncertainties, it’s easy to feel overwhelmed.

Thankfully the Book of Proverbs offers a reassuring reminder that while we may chart our own paths, God ultimately guides our steps. Through this lesson, we’ll explore the effects of God’s rule in our lives and learn how to align our plans with His purpose.

#### **Scripture Passage**

Proverbs 16:9 (NLT)

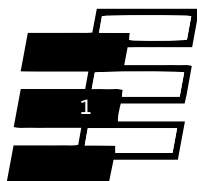
We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.

### EDUCATE

*God Will Lead Us*

In the Book of Proverbs, there’s a powerful message for us, especially when we’re trying to figure out who we are and where we’re headed. It’s all about God’s leading us and what that really means. Some people get the wrong idea about God leading us. They think it means we don’t have any say in our lives. They compare it to being like puppets on strings controlled by God, but that’s not how the Lord works in our lives at all. God leading us means He guides us as we make our choices.

Think about it like this: You’ve got plans, right? Dreams, hopes, ambitions—all those things stored up in your heart. But here’s the reality: God has something to say about those plans too. (Reread Proverbs 16:9, NLT.) He will not take away your freedom to choose, but He’s there, nudging you in the right direction if you let Him. That means after you’ve done your best to make good choices, you can trust God to guide you along the way. It’s like having a built-in GPS for life!



## Lesson 4

Sometimes we might feel like God's way is getting in the way of what we want. But really, it's all about His love and care for us. God knows us inside and out. Have you ever heard the saying, "God works in mysterious ways"? Well, it's true, and His ways are always better than our ways. Even when bad stuff happens, God can turn it around for good.

Consider the story of Joseph in the Bible. He was sold into slavery by his own brothers, but in the end, it was all part of God's plan to save his family and the rest of the world from a worldwide famine. God knows the whole picture, and here's the best part: if you're seeking Him, He's got your back. He defends you against anything that comes your way.

God's desire to direct our lives isn't about taking away choices or making life harder; it's about guiding us, protecting us, and ultimately leading us to the best life possible. So, trust Him, make your plans, and let Him show you the way.

*Discussion Question: How do you balance making your own plans and allowing God to guide your steps? Can you think of a time when you felt torn between your own desires and what you believed God was leading you to do? How did you navigate that situation?*

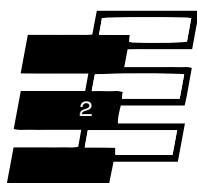
### *God Will Restore Us*

Like we've discussed, God isn't controlling us; He's guiding us. When we mess up—and we will mess it up—we face the consequences of our actions. It's like when you disobey your parents and have to deal with the punishment. But here's the cool part: God doesn't leave us hanging in our mess. He is all about restoring us. Thank the Lord for His sovereignty and grace!

Proverbs 16:5–6 talks about how God protects us from arrogance. He's like that friend who warns you not to be too full of yourself. And then Solomon dropped a bomb of wisdom: "Unfailing love and faithfulness make atonement for sin." This is who our God is! He has unfailing love and faithfulness towards us! Think about it like this: In Exodus, God showed up and introduced Himself to Moses. The Lord revealed to Moses that He is all about compassion, grace, and overflowing love.

He forgives not because we promise to be better, but because He loves us deeply. What's the big deal? God restores us because He loves us, not because we're suddenly saints. It's like getting a second chance even when you totally messed it up. Isn't that amazing? It truly is, and we call it grace.

*Discussion Question: How does understanding that God restores us out of love affect the way we view our mistakes and seek forgiveness?*



### *Our Part to Play*

Proverbs 16:3 instructs us: "Commit your actions to the LORD, and your plans will succeed." Hold up, it's not about giving up on our dreams? Nope, not at all. God made us with passions and dreams for a reason. He just wants us to trust Him with the timing and the outcome. It's like handing over the wheel of the car to someone who knows the best route to take.

Next, let's talk about fearing the Lord. It's not about being scared of God; it's about being amazed by His magnificence. In the middle of all our planning and dreaming, it's easy to get caught up in ourselves or the obstacles. But this reminder tells us to shift our focus back to God and to consider His greatness.

Now, here's the tricky part: being content. Yeah, it's tough. Our society pushes us to always want more, more, more. But Proverbs 16:8 reminds us that it's "better to have little, with godliness, than to be rich and dishonest." Contentment means checking our motives. Are you chasing after things because everyone else is? Are you seeking pleasure, possessions, or position just to feel good about yourself?

Here's the real deal about contentment: it's not about giving up on our dreams. It's about believing what God has given us is good for us. It's about trusting that nothing is worth getting if we have to do something outside God's will to get it.

*Discussion Question: How can we apply the principles of committing our work to God, fearing the Lord, and being content in our daily lives?*

### **Closing**

Remember the wisdom of Proverbs 16:9: "We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps." Life is filled with choices and uncertainties. While we select our paths, God is the ultimate guide, protector, and restorer. He leads us with love, grace, and power, and He calls us to trust Him completely. Let's commit our plans to Him, marvel at His greatness, and find contentment in His provision. As we apply these principles, may we walk confidently, knowing God is leading us toward the best life possible.

### **ENGAGE**

Let's commit to daily seeking God, trusting in His leading, and aligning our plans with His purpose. Talk with your spiritual leadership about what you feel God is calling you to do and be. Trust that God knows His plans for your life and faithfully do what He calls you to do.

