

**BETHESDA CENTRAL
BIBLE STUDY LESSON
WALKING IN THE SPIRIT:
TRUSTING GOD'S DETOURS**

Key Verse

Romans 8:14 (KJV)

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

Lesson Objective

To understand that walking in the Spirit requires trusting God's direction even when His route differs from our plans. God's detours are often the pathway to His purpose.

ICE BREAKER

If you were leaving church tonight and driving home, what is the fastest route to your house?

How many turns would you need to make to get there?

Have you ever had a GPS suddenly tell you:

"Recalculating Route"

How did you feel when the GPS changed your route?

Did the new route ultimately get you where you needed to go?

Discussion Questions

1. Why do people become frustrated when their plans change unexpectedly?
2. Why is it difficult to trust directions when we cannot see the entire route?

Introduction

Traffic signs exist to help travelers safely arrive at their destination. Stop signs, caution signs, yield signs, detours, and one-way signs all serve a purpose. Most drivers appreciate signs when they understand where they are going. However, few people enjoy detours. Detours often require extra time, unexpected turns, and a route we did not choose. Spiritually speaking, many believers love God's promises but struggle with God's detours. The Christian life is not simply about arriving at God's destination. It is about trusting God's direction.

Romans 8:14:

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

Being led means surrendering our right to choose every turn.

SPIRITUAL TRAFFIC SIGNS



STOP

Acts 3:19 (KJV)

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

Power Thought

God's stop signs are designed to protect us from destruction.



YIELD

Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Power Thought

God directs the life that is fully surrendered to Him.



CAUTION

1 Peter 5:8 (KJV)

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

Power Thought

Spiritual warnings are gifts from God.



DEAD END

Proverbs 14:12 (KJV)

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Power Thought

Repentance is God's U-turn before destruction arrives.



SPEED LIMIT

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (KJV)

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Power Thought

God's timing is just as important as God's direction.



STAY IN YOUR LANE

1 Corinthians 12:18 (KJV)

"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him."

Power Thought

God blesses us in our assignment.



ONE WAY

John 14:6 (KJV)

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Power Thought

Every road that leads to God ultimately leads through Jesus Christ.

THE SIGN MOST BELIEVERS STRUGGLE WITH: DETOUR

A detour occurs when the route changes but the destination remains the same. Many believers become discouraged because they mistake detours for abandonment. God often changes the route without changing the promise.



DETOUR #1

PAUL'S MACEDONIAN DETOUR

Acts 16:6-10 (KJV)

"Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them."

Commentary

Paul's intentions were good. He wanted to preach the Gospel. Yet God closed doors and redirected him toward Macedonia. The issue was not Paul's heart. The issue was God's greater purpose. The Spirit was directing Paul to a ministry opportunity he could not yet see.

Power Thought

God's closed doors are often as important as His open doors.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever experienced a season where God closed a door you desperately wanted opened?
2. How can believers trust God when they do not understand His redirection?

DETOUR #2

JOSEPH'S DETOUR

Genesis 50:20 (KJV)

"But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."

Commentary

Joseph likely never imagined that God's plan for his life would include betrayal, slavery, false accusations, and prison. Yet every painful turn was moving him toward Egypt, where God would use him to save nations. The pit was part of the route. The prison was part of the route. The palace was always the destination.

Power Thought

What looks like a setback may actually be a setup.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do believers often assume difficult seasons mean God is absent?
2. How does Joseph's story help us trust God's hand during painful experiences?

DETOUR #3

MOSES' DETOUR

Exodus 2:15 (KJV)

"Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well."

Acts 7:30 (KJV)

"And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush."

Commentary

Moses believed he was ready at forty. God knew he would be ready at eighty. The wilderness was not a waste of time. Midian became a classroom where God developed humility, patience, and dependence. What Moses saw as exile, God saw as preparation.

Power Thought

God's delays are often preparing us for God's assignments.

Discussion Questions

1. What lessons can only be learned through waiting?
2. How can believers remain faithful during seasons of preparation?

DETOUR #4 JONAH'S DETOUR

Jonah 1:1-3 (KJV)

"Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord."

Commentary

Unlike Paul, Joseph, and Moses, Jonah created his own detour. He intentionally resisted God's direction. Yet even Jonah's rebellion could not stop God's purpose. God used a storm, sailors, and a great fish to redirect him back toward Nineveh.

Power Thought

If we refuse God's direction, God may use unexpected circumstances to redirect us.

Discussion Questions

1. Have there been times when your own decisions created unnecessary detours?
2. What does Jonah's story teach us about God's mercy and persistence?

GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL

Jeremiah 29:11 (KJV)

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

Philippians 1:6 (KJV)

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Romans 8:28 (KJV)

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:29 (KJV)

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son..."

Proverbs 16:9 (KJV)

"A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps."

Commentary

These scriptures remind us that God sees the entire route while we only see the next turn. He knows every delay, every setback, every disappointment, and every detour. Nothing surprises Him. Nothing catches Him off guard. Even when we do not understand the route, we can trust the One directing it.

Final Discussion Questions

1. Which biblical detour do you most identify with right now: Paul, Joseph, Moses, or Jonah?
2. How have you seen God use unexpected circumstances to shape your life?
3. What area of your life requires greater trust in God's direction?

Conclusion

The Christian life is not about avoiding every detour. The Christian life is about trusting the God who controls the route. The same God who directed Paul, preserved Joseph, prepared Moses, and redirected Jonah is directing His people today.

Romans 8:14 (KJV)

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

The destination has not changed.

Trust the Driver.
Trust the Route.
Trust the Detour.
Trust God.