

Growth Group Reflection Questions—April 11-17

1. Have you ever gotten lost in a strange place? How did you find your way out?
2. In his message, Dave shared some colorful verses in which God commits to personally guide His children. (Review Ps. 32:8 as a growth group.) Can you think back to a specific time in your life when God clearly guided your steps? It doesn't have to be big and dramatic. Share the story.
3. Dave taught that one way to move a stubborn horse (or a stubborn human!) is to give it a "strong tug." Where do you see examples of God's "strong tugs" in the lives of stubborn believers?
4. Finding God's direction begins with _ _ _ _ _ [Unscramble the answer: UTTSR]
5. We learned that stubborn people pay a steep price (e.g., they give up God's protection, get out of control, go backward in life, etc.) So, what are some benefits of trusting God each step of the way? (See Ps. 37:5-6; Ps. 20:7-8.)
6. Do you ever find yourself alternating between stubbornness and simple trust? Why the difference?
7. Finish the old slogan: "If you fall off a horse, _____."
If you've fallen off the "trust horse," what practical steps should you take to remount?
8. One of the secrets to finding God's direction is to seek godly counsel. Have fun looking up and discussing two Biblical "gems" on getting and following good advice.
 - A. Prov. 1:5: What kind of person seeks advice? Are you surprised?
 - B. Prov. 27:9: What is getting good advice likened to in this verse?

Follow up: As a rule, do you seek advice from others before making decisions, or do you go it alone?

Bonus question: Either on your own or in your growth group, read about a bad king who rejected good advice and paid a steep price. The story is found in 2 Kings 12:1-19. Teaser: "Old guys rule!"



I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go: I will counsel you and watch over you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him.

Psalm 32:8 - 10

I. God Will Personally Help You Find The Direction You Need.

A. God promises to be our personal instructor_____
_____.

Hold on to instruction; do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life.

Proverbs 4:13

B. God promises to be our personal trainer_____
_____.

C. God promises to be our school counselor_____
_____.

D. God promises to be our watchman_____
_____.

II. If You Want God's Direction Don't Be Like A Stubborn Horse or Mule.

Don't be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

Psalm 32:9

A. The first way to move a horse or a mule is a very strong tug_____.

Many are the woes of the wicked . . .

Psalm 32:10

Consequences for stubborn horses and mules in the Bible:

1. Stubborn people can't be protected by God_____.

The Israelites are stubborn, like a stubborn heifer. How then can the Lord pasture them like lamb in a meadow?

Hosea 4:16

2. Stubborn people become out of control_____.

So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices.

Psalm 81:12

3. Stubborn people go backward not forward_____.

But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubborn inclinations of their evil hearts. They went backward and not forward.

Jeremiah 7:24

4. Stubborn people store up wrath_____.

But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath . . .

Romans 2:5

B. The second way to move a horse or a mule is a by a very strong trust_____.

Don't be like the horse or the mule which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him.

Psalm 32:9 - 10

. . . the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him.

Psalm 32:10

III. Five Secrets To Finding God's Direction For Your Life.

A. First, Finding God's direction begins with trust_____.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5

B. Second, Finding God's direction involves reading and applying God's Word_____.

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart.

Psalm 86:11

C. Third, Finding God's direction demands a desire to do His will_____.

"I desire to do your will, O my God . . . "

Psalm 40:8

". . . for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose."

Philippians 2:13

D. Fourth, Finding God's direction invites us to pray_____.

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, This is the way; walk in it.

Isaiah 30:21

E. Fifth, Finding God's direction involves seeking godly counsel_____.

Where there is no guidance the people fall, but in the abundance of counselors there is victory.

Proverbs 11:14