

WORD

Proverbs 16:9 says, "A man's mind plans his way [as he journeys through life], but the LORD directs his steps *and* establishes them." We each make plans of what we want to do in life, of who we want to be and where we want to go. We don't always understand all the different circumstances and people that we are going to encounter along the way however. But there is One who does and can lead us into all truth. He can give us clarity in all situations and help us through anything. His name is Jesus. He said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." So when we need clarity, focus, truth, help or guidance we need to go to Him. Have an encounter with Jesus and you will have clarity!

APPLICATION

- Since clarity comes through encounters look for and seek out those encounters. How? By reading the Bible, seeking wisdom from those around you, praying, and by looking at your circumstances to see what light they might shed on what you are dealing with, just to name a few.
- Realize that it is impossible for us to know it all. We need help from God and others we trust.
- Seek to have an encounter with the One Who knows all truth and can lead you to abundant life, Jesus Christ. How? Through reading the Bible, prayer and worship.

Prayer: Jesus, lead us into all truth. Help us to see the truth about ourselves, our circumstance and those around us. Lead us to encounter you and find all truth. In Your name we pray. Amen

Freedom Groups were created with the belief that we are all on a journey through life and that our heart's desire is to be free to be all that we can be. We all want to find effective ways of living and be successful. Trying to overcome the challenges we face in life by ourselves just does not work. We are all the same, no one is different. We need others to help us successfully walk our journey to effective living.
Everyone is invited on this freedom journey. Join in!



Encountering Clarity

NOTES

WARM-UP

- One of my favorite types of games, and also the most frustrating for me, are the brain teaser games. They are often like mechanical puzzles that you have to find just the right way to get them apart and put them back together again. What is so amazing about them is that once you see how to solve the puzzle they are usually quite simple.
- What are your favorite types of games?

One day when I was working at a coffee shop we were extremely busy. I was trying extra hard to make sure that I was being very friendly with the customers and not let the stress of the business show through. I was working at the drive through window taking orders when a lady pulled up. I opened the window and said, "Hello, it is a beautiful morning isn't it? What would you like?" She told me her drink. While she was getting the money out of her purse I realized that she did not clarify if she wanted her drink as a hot drink or cold drink. The barista was waiting to make the drink. It was a very cold morning so I assumed she wanted a hot drink. To clarify her order I just quickly asked the woman, "Hot?" With me being so friendly and with her being distracted digging in her purse she clearly misunderstood what I was saying! She looked at me and said, "Excuse me?" She did not say it like she did not hear me. She said it as in, "Excuse me, what are you really asking me?" I was slow to catch on so I said, "You like it hot or cold?" To which she said even more firmly, "Excuse me?" I then realized she thought I was flirting with her! We were both clearly confused. I learned not to be too friendly after that!

Clarity is a wonderfully beautiful and powerful thing. Clarity is the quality of being clear about something or someone. It is the quality of being easily understood or easily understanding something. It brings with it accuracy and a sense of certainty.

The reality is we all operate in varying degrees of clarity in many different areas and at different times in our lives. We probably all have experienced having clarity about some things and being confused about others. In today's lesson we will explore what causes us confusion and what brings us clarity.

1 - What Makes Something So Confusing?

We have all been there ... a place where we are confused about what is going on or why things are happening. Can you share a time when you, like the woman at the drive through, were really confused about something? What caused the confusion? Maybe you are in a place of confusion now? If so can you share what you are confused about and need more clarity for?

2 - Results of Not Having Clarity

Clarity can so easily elude us. We can be in a situation where we cannot find clarity. We fail to see things clearly or know clearly what we should do. What are some of the results of being confused or not having clarity? How has not having clarity affected you?

3 - How We Get Clarity

The woman at the drive through and I spent a minute or two clearly misunderstanding the situation. We were able to get clarity through better communication. I knew that that I needed to be less overly friendly and to speak more clearly! Maybe she needed to stop assuming guys were hitting on her? What are some of the ways we can get clarity when we are confused about a person, a situation or actions we should take?

4 - Clarity Through Encounters

What I have found personally is that clarity comes in my life through encounters. I encounter new facts. I encounter a situation that will shed light on another situation. I encounter wisdom that helps me see clearly what is going on or what I should do. I encounter people who give me a different perspective. I encounter the truth about myself that makes sense of my life. The point is, at least for me, clarity comes through an encounter where someone or something brings new light to a situation so that I can see clearly. I use the word encounter because I realize that clarity usually comes fairly quickly from a source outside of myself. Leading up to these encounters I tried everything I knew. So when clarity comes I know it was not just me.