



## God's Ways Work

- Focus** In every area of our lives in which we do things God's way, we'll be blessed.
- Open** What is one thing you wish you had been told as a teenager, but nobody ever said it to you?
- Read** Proverbs 14:12 says, *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death"* (NKJV). To state it simply: our ways do not work. The ideas and plans we make on our own will not lead us to the place of blessing—of living an abundant life in Christ. God never intended for us to be able to "handle" life on our own, but designed it in a way that we must depend on Him to thrive. His ways work.
- God's ways are designed to lead us closer to His side and to make us more like Jesus. There are five elements to discovering God's ways in any area of our lives: read His Word, learn from the experts, get wise counsel, prioritize that which is important and spend time with God to hear His voice. God doesn't allow for negotiating and He doesn't play games. When we follow His ways, we *will* live an abundant, blessed life.
- Talk**
1. Read the following verses: Isaiah 55:8–9; Proverbs 3:5–8; Psalm 18:30; Psalm 25:4–5, 9; Matthew 7:13–14. What are the ways of God like according to these verses? What kind of attitude must we have to walk in His ways?

2. What kind of life does God have in mind for each of us? Describe the kinds of things you would expect to see in the attitudes and/or behavior of a person truly living according to God's ways.
3. When God wants to change our ways (what or how we are doing something), why will He apply or allow pressure in our lives? How would you say you generally respond to pressure in your life?

### **Live**

1. Briefly describe one or two areas in your life in which you are currently feeling pressure. Jot them down on a piece of paper.
2. Have you been "negotiating" with God in some way concerning the area(s) you listed? If yes, how?
3. Of the five elements that help you discover God's ways, which do you sense is most urgently needed concerning the area(s) of pressure you listed above? Share with a partner how you will take the next step in pursuit of that element this week.

### **Pray**

If you have been negotiating with God or trusting in your own ways, take a few minutes to repent and ask Him to change your heart. Ask Him to show you what the next step is to discover His ways for your life, especially the areas in which you are currently experiencing pressure. Pray for one another—that each person will hear God's voice today.