

# Destino Leadership Institute

## Module 2: Gray Areas and Biblical Principles Leader's Notes

Begin by saying: *"This week, we will be focusing on our own lives; the problems and questions that we all deal with."*

**Get them to think about how God speaks to them.** Say, *"in order to live a Christian life, we need to know how to hear from God. There are four main ways that God speaks. Do you know what these are?"* This is a fairly directed question, but you want to guide them to the four main answers: The Word, prayer, the church (or other believers), and circumstances."

**Once you get these four answers, transition to the lesson.** Say, *"usually, when we are hearing from the Lord, something is always changing. Our circumstances are always changing. The Christians in our lives are always changing. Our prayers are always changing. But when it comes to hearing from God in his word, things are different. God's word is the main way we hear from God because it has a major advantage - it is unchanging. That's why, if anyone claims to have heard from God through their prayers, circumstances, or even from other Christians, but what they say directly contradicts God's word, then we can disregard it as not being from God. God's unchanging word is the final word on life and doctrine."*

Continue: *"However, even if God's Word isn't changing, our world still is. We have an activity that illustrates this."*

**An Illustration.** Find a line somewhere on the floor. Then say, *"I'm going to read a short list of activities. These are all things that either we engage in directly, or people we know engage in. For each item, I'm going to ask you to represent your posture towards that activity by either saying 'it's ALWAYS ok,' 'it's NEVER ok,' or 'I'm on the line.'"* Motion to which parts of the floor represent "always ok" and "never ok" and tell them that if they are "on the line," they need to stand on one foot. Then read the list slowly, allowing people to choose a position on the line for each:

- Drinking Alcohol*
- R rated movies*
- Physical intimacy with your boy/girlfriend (without sex)*
- Using Marijuana*
- Swearing*
- Playing violent video games*
- Visiting "racy" websites (not porn)*

After you are finished, say *"these are all topics that we all deal with, or that those close to us deal with. However, they are also all topics to which the Bible DOES NOT DIRECTLY address."*

Conclude the activity by asking, *"How do we hear from God's word when faced with an issue to which the Bible does not directly refer?"*

(It's ok to affirm that we still hear from God through prayer, circumstances, and the church in these times. Still, emphasize that God's word is still the most important way we hear from God, even if his Word does not directly address an issue.)

**Introduce the lesson** by saying, *"Here's the main point: when faced with an issue to which the Bible does not directly refer, we can still hear from God's word when we learn how to discover Biblical principles."*

### **What is a biblical principle?**

*"A Biblical principle is a governing law of conduct that is timeless, not bound by culture, non-negotiable, and is to be obeyed."*

Next, say, *"I want to read to you a section of scripture that relates not directly, but indirectly, to most of the topics in our activity."*

**Read to them 1 Cor 10:23-31**, or have someone read it in an appropriate translation. Below is ESV:

"All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. For "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof." If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience—I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience? If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks? So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

Next, make sure you affirm that this is a safe place. Tell them you want them to practice something now so they can learn a new skill, but remind them they have to be willing to make some mistakes in order to learn something new.

Ask: *"What are some principles in this passage that might relate to the topics in our activity?"* Allow time and space for honest discussion of this passage with respect to the "gray areas" listed above.

### **Practical Application to Life**

Next, say, *"Here are some questions you can ask about your own life so that when you're confronted with a topic that God's word doesn't directly address, you can still be guided by his Word. These questions are easy to remember, because they all start with an H. These are all principles that flow out of God's word. They aren't the only principles, but they are a good place to start. You would have to study God's word yourself to be sure that these principles are really what God says, but here are a few to give you an idea of how God's word can still speak to us even over issues that it does not directly refer to."*

### **The "4 H's"**

*Is it HELPFUL?* (1 Cor. 10:23)

Is it *HARMFUL*? - Consider especially other believers. (1 Cor 10:29)

Is it *HABIT FORMING*? (1 Cor. 6:12 and 1 Cor. 10:23) Reminder: not all habits are bad - just the enslaving ones!

Is it *HONORING* to God? (1 Cor. 10:31)

### **Conclusion**

Have everyone stand up on one foot, like they did in the activity. While they are doing this, say, *“This posture represents a place in life that everyone visits, where we are unsure about what the right thing to do is. But even in this place, God’s word still speaks to us.”*

While they are standing like this, have them repeat after you: *“When I am on the line, I can hear from God in His word.”*