Gleaner's Sunday School Lesson at First Baptist Church
October 11, 2026
Unit: How God Speaks: In this unit, we've learned how God speaks to us through His People, the Bible, Circumstances, His Church, and His Holy Spirit. We also learned that his voice demands a response. Being a follower of Christ means living in full obedience to the many daily choices in our lives. Today's lesson helps us discern His will for our lives and how we are to obey.

Session #6: God Speaks and We Respond (p.65)
The Scripture: Primary Source: ***Bible Studies for Life, the Senior Adult Personal Study Guide,* Fall Edition, *2026* *or*** open your Bible to (**Psalm 119:30-40)**

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Thank You for Your everlasting love, mercy, grace, and especially Your forgiveness of sin and presence with us. Please use this study to help each of us settle our "yes" in advance, determined to respond obediently when we hear You speak. In your holy name, I pray, Amen.

Question #1 (p. 65): Would your parents have described you as a compliant or strong-willed child? How do you tend to respond to authority now? My parents would have described me as being compliant. Growing up, I did what I knew I should do. I was an "A" student and was bothered by non-compliant classmates. As a senior adult now, I exercise regularly and try to eat right. Hopefully, today's lesson will bring us closer to understanding when God speaks and respond without delay in order to follow His will for our lives.
The Point: When we discover God's Will, we are to follow it.

The book of Psalms. David wrote about half of the 150 psalms. Others included Moses, Asaph, the sons of Korah, Solomon, Heman, and Ethan. Some, like Psalm 119, are anonymous. Various poets wrote worship songs over a period of about 1000 years from the time of Moses until after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC. The book focuses on people's varied responses to God and His self-disclosure.
The Setting: Psalm 119, the longest poem in the book of Psalms, consists of 176 verses. This psalm celebrates God's revelation of Himself to humanity through His Law—His Word. As an acrostic psalm, it is a literary masterpiece. It consists of 22 stanzas of 8 verses each. Each of the verses of the first stanza begins with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. This pattern continues through all 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. In verse 30-40, the psalmist expressed his commitment to understand and obey God's instruction.

Read Psalm 119:30-32 (p. 66) Choose to obey God's Will. Obedience brings profound comfort in God.
Verse 30: The writer declared **I have chosen,** meaning he selected and accepted the **way of truth** or a path with direction to God's **ordinances.** Truth refers to faithfulness and something that can be relied on as opposed to something that wavers. The psalmist used the language of action to express the depths of his commitment to God; **"have chosen,"** captures an appropriate response to God's revealed will.

Verses 31,32: Again, the psalmist used the language of action to express his commitment to God and how he had chosen to live using phrases like **cling to your decrees and pursue your commands** The poet affirms that he has chosen to be obedient to the law, judgments, testimonies and commandments of the Lord **that broaden** his **understanding**. Our understanding of God's Word is an act of the Lord.
Question #2 (p.67) What would it look like for us to take the psalmist's actions toward God and His words?
Question #3 (p.67) What relationship do you see between our choices and God's activity in our lives?

Read Psalm 119: 33-35 (p. 68) Pray for clarity and understanding of what God wants.
Verse 33: This passage has petitions related to improving the psalmist's ability to obey… He understood that increasing his understanding of God's Word was an act of the Lord. He returns again and again to his prayer for more and more of God's instructions with a fuller understanding of what he already knows while searching for more.
Verse 34: His desire and commitment to the Lord's instructions were more than shallow adherence. **I will obey and follow it with all my heart. My whole heart** refers to his depth of commitment.
Verse 35: The learning, comprehending, obeying and living according to God's revelation, truth, instruction, and ways brought pleasure to him. He turned to God's Word to bring him joy. This **pleasure** offered encouragement and purpose that led to a deeper encounter with the Lord.
Question #4:(p.69) What attitudes are essential to gain clarity and understanding about God's will?
Question #5: (p.69) What roles do our minds, hearts, and wills play in our obeying God's will?

Read Psalm 119: 36-40 (p. 71) Desire to follow God more than anything else.
Verse 36: The psalmist's prayer seems to be fully aware that his personal wants and ambitions could interfere with his devotion to godly truth. Therefore, he prayed that
God would turn his thinking away from **dishonest profit,** or selfish gain, and turn his heart toward **the decrees** of God given in His Word.
Verse 37: He did not want to be deceived by the pursuit of useless things. Vanity denotes emptiness or uselessness. Once obtained, one comes to see how **worthless** those things can be.
Verse 38: The poet is seeking confirmation of the Lord's word, work, and will. He reaffirmed the nature of his relationship with the Lord. He was a servant, and the Lord the sovereign One to be feared or **revered.**
Verse 39: The psalmist recognized the need for divine help, and asked God to turn away any **disgrace** or shame. Here, the word "*fear* "refers to ***dread*** *or* a concern that he will bring disgrace on himself by his failure to submit to the Lord and obey His holy living instructions.
Verse 40: Finally, the psalmist declared how precious the revelation of God was to him. He longed for God's precepts or commandments to give him directions for righteous living.
Question #6: (p. 72) What worthless things distract us from hearing God and responding obediently?
Question #7 (p. 72) How can we nurture a heart of absolute devotion to God?

Engage Activity (p.70)
Live it Out choices on (p. 71)

Summary: God has revealed His Word of life to us. We choose whether to follow or reject the way of the Lord. Part of living out the Word of the Lord is allowing Him to work within us to increase our understanding of His Word and will. Faithful obedience brings delight and joy to our lives. We are not to allow selfish ambitions and worthless endeavors to prevent us from living according to God's Word. We are His servants committed to worshiping our sovereign Lord. We know the fullness of life when we live with devotion to God whose Word brings delight and joy to our lives.

Prayer: *Father God, Thank You for the incredible blessing of studying and learning from Your Holy Word. Please continue to transform each of us into believers who faithfully obey Your will for our lives. Amen.*
Watchword: ***May the Lord watch between thee and me while we are absent one from another.***