

Recognize and Respond to God's chiseling work in your life

*what is causing hurt/loss/unbalance in your life right now?

*how are you dealing with it?

*how might God be using this to chisel you?

*verbalize out loud (to God) what areas God has been trying to chisel you.

*Ask the Lord for help in how to respond to His chiseling.
[You might want to also confess your sins to God]

*thank God for chiseling you

1

Ask for God's heart by connecting with Him daily

*do day 1 or day 4 of "chosen" journal

2

Test if it is of God

1. Was it a clear word or just an impression? God may give us different degrees of confidence in what he has said. We therefore need to humbly admit our fallibility. Get someone you trust to check your impression and to confirm it or not.
2. Does it exalt Christ? (John 16:14)
3. Is it scriptural? Scripture is our authority. God does not contradict himself. (Proverbs 30:5-6)
4. Do other Christians confirm it? (Proverbs 20:18, Proverbs 15:22)
5. Does God cause it to actually take place? (Isaiah 55:11, Deuteronomy 18:21-22)

4

Focused prayer Asking The Lord for direction

*first consider the conversations you have had so far with God today. what things/ideas/"chiselings" keep coming up? write them down.

*next, keep talking to God. Ask The Lord to speak to you. listen. keep asking. [Sometimes it is helpful to have a "conversation" with God. talk to Him about what you are thinking. ask Him to talk to you. go back and forth.]

*you can specifically ask God for guidance on how you/our group should serve dupage county on july 5, 2010.

*keep listening. be patient. God is patient. He is not a vending machine. He will speak to us in His timing.

-If you feel like you just aren't hearing anything, great! God is more interested in us being obedient (See johoshephat: 2 chronicles 20:1-24). keep listening.

3

Trust God's direction by stepping out in faith

*tell others

*act on what God told you to do

5

Surrender often asking God to give you spiritual eyes

6

RAFFETS

a guide to Asking The Lord

CHOSEN

destination unknown

day 1: abraham

READ & THINK ABOUT: GENESIS 12:1-7

Leave and go. These were God's first commands to Abram (whose name God changed to Abraham). God was pretty specific about what he was to leave: his country, his people, and his father's household. Things got a little more vague after that: "Go to the land I will show you." That's all God told Abraham about his destination. He called him to leave everything and start out on a journey of faith. Only God knew where he was heading.

God's commands were followed up with a promise: God had chosen to make Abraham and his descendants into a great nation. Eventually all the world would be blessed through them. God's promise probably helped Abraham obey God's call, but it also probably brought a little confusion. Abraham's wife Sarai (whose name God changed to Sarah) was unable to have children. The likelihood of a great nation coming through this couple wasn't very great; not by human standards anyway. But the journey God was taking Abraham on would help him see, step-by-step, that he could trust God.

"So Abram left as the Lord had told him." Abraham did it. Even though his destination was unclear, and the promise seemed impossible, he went. The journey included some extreme highs and lows but God was faithful to his promises. Abraham and Sarah gave birth to their son, Isaac, long after they'd qualified for senior citizen's benefits. God led Abraham and his family to the land he had promised. Your faith in God today is a testimony to the fact that God blessed the nations through Abraham's descendants. Sometimes we just have to leave and go.

respond:

- What "things" is God calling you to leave behind as you seek to follow him more fully? Anything specific for this mission trip?
- Why do you think God so often chooses to lay out his plans for people step-by-step, rather than all at once?
- Ask God to bring to mind any Scriptures with promises that you'll need to cling to as you follow him where he leads.

Have I not
commanded you?
be strong and
courageous do not
be terrified;
do not be
discouraged.
For the Lord your
god will be with
you wherever
you go.
Joshua 1:9

CHOSEN

god's battle plan

day 4: Jehoshephat

READ & THINK ABOUT: 2 CHRONICLES 20:1-24

Three armies were coming after them. Instead of gathering his men together to strategize and pore over battle plans, Jehoshephat gathers all the people together to fast and pray. Those in the crowd who leaned more toward an "act-now-think-later" attitude must have been going crazy.

The situation looked pretty hopeless, but King Jehoshephat helped lead his people to a great victory. It wasn't his knowledge of weapons or battle formations that gained them the victory. Jehoshephat knew where to turn when the enemy was in pursuit: God Almighty.

He says it perfectly in verse 12: "We have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you." We are clueless Lord! Help us! The people fast, pray, and call out to God. They are desperate to hear from him. God responds by laying out a battle plan for them that's far from ordinary, but leaves plenty of room for God to show his power, which, of course, he does in an amazing way. The next morning the people set out for battle. By the time they reach the enemy, God has already been victorious.

Respond:

- How can you follow Jehoshaphat's example while you are on your mission trip?
- In what areas do you want to see the Lord give you victory this week? Ask him to reveal his battle plan to you.
- Meditate a bit more on verses 15 and 17. What is God saying to you?

**DO NOT BE AFRAID
OR DISCOURAGED
BECAUSE OF THIS
VAST ARMY.
FOR THE BATTLE
IS NOT YOURS,
BUT GOD'S.
2 CHRONICLES 20:15**