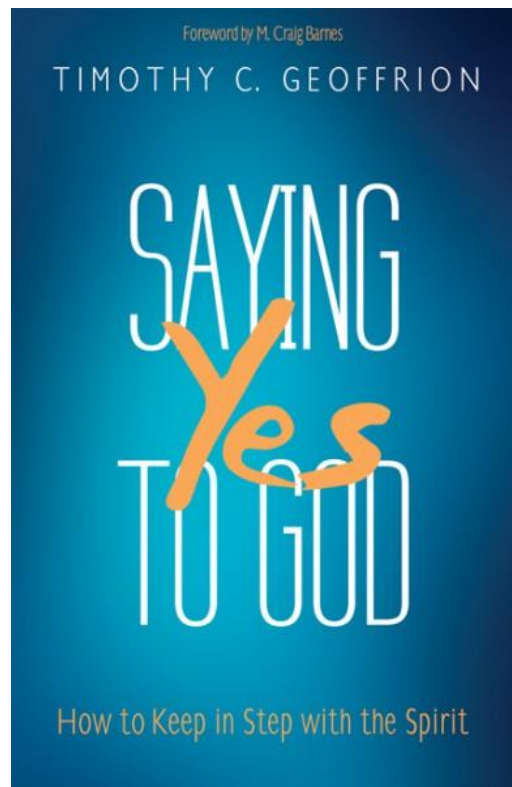


Saying Yes to God: How to Keep in Step with the Spirit

By Timothy C. Geoffrion

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LEADER'S GUIDE¹



This guide is intended for use for small group discussions of the book, Saying Yes to God, with or without a designated leader. One hour sessions, one chapter per week for 12 weeks, is recommended to allow adequate time for reflection and application of each topic. An additional week may be desirable at the beginning of the series to discuss the Introduction in order to better set the stage for the study.

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Chapter 1 "Listen and Cooperate"

Key Scriptures: John 14:16-17; 16:12-15; Mark 8:34-35; Romans 12:1

1. Which of the opening questions most connected with your own experience of listening to God? (See page 19.)
2. Discuss Mike's story (pages 20, 27-28). How does his experience resonate with your own struggles to know the will of God for some important matter in your life?
3. What makes sense to you about the author's "simple path" for the spiritual life, i.e., to listen and cooperate (pages 20-21)? What makes this path not so simple or easy for you?
4. How do you understand the central role of listening to God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) from a biblical point of view? (See pages 21-24.)
5. What does listening to God look like today, in real life, everyday experience? What kinds of things might the Spirit say to you from day to day? (See pages 24-30.)
6. How would you describe an "appropriate response" to whatever you hear God say to you? What does it mean in real life experience to say "Yes" to God? (See pages 30-36.)
7. On pages 36-37, there are some suggestions in the section titled, "Your Next Spirit-Led Steps." What is one action step you could take that fits with how the Spirit spoke to you by reading and now discussing this chapter?

Chapter 2 "Be Humble and Open"

Key Scriptures: 1 Peter 5:6; Luke 18:9-14; John 8:32-36; Hebrews 4:12-13

1. Discuss Frank's story (pages 38-39). How does his experience resonate with your own struggles to be humble and open?
2. What does it mean to you to be humble before the Lord? How does Jesus' story of the Pharisee and Publican speak to you (Luke 18:9-14)? (See pages 39-40.)
3. How is humility different from self-denigration? How can a Christian maintain a humble attitude and still stand tall? (See pages 41-42.)
4. How would you know if you are truly open to the Holy Spirit? (See pages 42-44.)
5. How would you define the Word of God? From a biblical point of view, what are the multiple ways the Word of God can be understood? How does each of these various ways help us to better understand God and know God's will for our lives? (See pages 44-48.)
6. On page 50, there are some suggestions in the section titled, "Your Next Spirit-Led Steps." Which of those questions strikes you as particularly relevant for your own relationship with God? What is one action step you could take that would help you to become more humble and open to the leading of the Holy Spirit?

Chapter 3 "Be Discerning"

Key Scriptures: Romans 12:2; Philippians 1:9-11

1. Discuss Ellie's Dilemma (page 53). How does her experience resonate with your own experience?
2. What is something that you're struggling to decide or understand?
3. What makes this discernment so challenging for you?
4. Which of the 10 steps are natural to you when you are engaged in a discernment process? Which ones do you tend to neglect? Which of these steps and suggestions strike you as particularly relevant in your life right now?
5. On page 61, there are some suggestions in the section titled, "Your Next Spirit-Led Steps." What is one action step you could take to be more discerning in the coming week?
6. Discuss the following suggested prayer to begin a discernment process. How could this kind of prayer be helpful to you? Finish by praying it together.
Lord, please help me to see what I need to see,
Give me courage to face the truth, and
Wisdom and strength to act on whatever you reveal.

Chapter 4 "Commit to Yes"

Key Scriptures: Luke 1:38; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Chronicles 28:20

1. Discuss Bill's story (pages 62-63). How does his experience resonate with your own struggles to follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit?
2. What is something that you're struggling to commit to doing?
3. What makes committing so challenging for you?
4. What is the difference between obedience to and cooperating with God? (See pages. 65-68.)
5. Practically speaking, where do you need to obey more? How could you cooperate better with the Spirit? Is there some other kind of response that better describes what God is asking for from you right now? (E.g., trust, reflect, care, engage, etc.)
6. What does saying Yes to God *feel* like in your experience? (E.g., energizing, peaceful, powerful, frightening, joyful, etc.)
7. Apart from the big decisions in life, what would your life be like if you were more conscious of listening to and cooperating with the Spirit on a *daily* basis? (See pp. 70-74,)
8. On page 77, there are some suggestions in the section titled, "Your Next Spirit-Led Steps." What is one action step you could take that fits with how the Spirit is leading you? Will you commit yourself to taking it?

Chapter 5 "Join the Sacred Love Flow"

Key Scriptures: 1 John 4:7-8, 11-12; John 10:10; 1 Cor. 13; 1 Peter 1:22; 4:8

1. What kind of reaction did you have to the author's vision of the "sacred love flow" (pp. 78-79)? How does his ideal of "living my whole life immersed in the love of God and being a conduit of God's to others" fit with your idea of God's will for you?
2. Discuss the author's foundational prayer for his daily life (p. 79). What resonated with your priorities and desires for your own life?
3. If prayed more "on purpose," what would you include in your foundational prayer to help orient you on a daily basis and breathe new life into you on a regular basis?
4. Most Christians understand that we must depend on God to live the Christian life, but what struck you as significant as the author talked about *how to* rely better on God in the section, "Depend on the Holy Spirit" (pp. 82-87)?
5. What does the author mean, "don't believe in magic" (p. 87)? How would you describe the proper balance between depending on God and taking initiative to put love into action?
6. What is "The Rule of Love" (p. 88-91)? When and under what circumstances could this "rule" be helpful to you in your relationships?
7. In the Conclusion (pp. 91-92), the author writes about choosing to participate in the sacred love flow regardless of how others respond to how we try to love them. Where are you already doing this? Where could you do so (more)?
8. On pages 92-92, there are some suggestions in the section titled, "Your Next Spirit-Led Steps." What is one action step you would like to take that fits with how the Spirit is leading you? When are you going to take it?