

Who's Driving?

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1

**Lesson 8****Focus:**

We can rely on
God to lead us.

Lesson 8**Bible Basis:**

1 Samuel 3:1a,
4-10, 19; 8:6-10

Lesson 8**Memory Verse:**

Instead, you ought to say, "If it is
the Lord's will, we will live and do
this or that."

—James 4:15

Students will watch a video about a self-driving car as they discuss discerning God's reliable guidance for their lives.

Materials:

- Internet access

The concept of self-driving cars has been around for a while. Although Google and other companies have been experimenting with self-driving cars for years, certain car manufacturers such as Tesla have made cars with autopilot and self-driving features more widely available.

Driving seems pretty easy—and much of the time, it is. You're just cruising along in traffic with occasional stops at red lights. But what happens when the guy in front of you suddenly slams on the brakes to avoid hitting a squirrel? What if a little girl chasing a ball darts out in front of you unexpectedly? Theoretically, the self-driving cars have technology that picks up the data on those random incidents and responds accordingly.

- **If you had the chance, would you drive a self-driving car? In other words, do you trust a robot to take you safely from one place to another? Why or why not? (Accept all reasonable answers.)**

However, even cars with these types of features still require an engaged driver at the wheel in order to be fully safe. Let's check it out.

Show your students the following video [5:05]:

AAA self driving car test

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChS_rkuUkdw

Although self-driving technology has come a long way, self-driving cars still have problems. As the video mentioned, while autopilot technology can increase a driver's awareness and reaction time, it cannot fully operate the vehicle without a driver. There are moments when a human can react instinctively—and hopefully, prevent an accident.

➤ **What would some advantages be to driverless autos? What would be some disadvantages?** (Accept all reasonable answers. Students may comment that the absence of alcohol, drugs, tiredness, and road rage would be advantages of driverless autos. Disadvantages might be failure to process data that a human would recognize as dangerous or a tech malfunction.)

For now, driven and non-driven vehicles each have their own set of problems. Nothing is completely foolproof. Leading and responding to the unexpected things life throws our way can be the same unless God is in the driver's seat. We can always rely on Him to lead us. Let's look at how God guided Samuel in a famous story from the Old Testament.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Who's Driving?

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 8

Focus:
We can rely on
God to lead us.

Lesson 8

Bible Basis:
1 Samuel 3:1a,
4-10, 19; 8:6-10

Lesson 8

Memory Verse:
Instead, you ought to say, "If it is
the Lord's will, we will live and do
this or that."
—James 4:15

Materials:

- Footstep template printouts (1 per student; see last page of this PDF)
- Pens/pencils

Before class, print out enough footstep templates so that each student has one (see last page of this PDF). If your class is meeting online, email the template for students to print ahead of time. Invite students to bring printouts and pens/pencils with them to class.

When we face tough decisions, we need God's guidance. Sometimes we might wish God's voice was easier to hear! When you're picking a college, wouldn't it be great if He woke you up one night and said in a loud voice, "Go to Ohio State"?

Although there are times in Scripture where God spoke out loud, usually God doesn't speak to people in an audible voice. What He does is give us wisdom! James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

- **What's one way that you have experienced God's wisdom?** (Students may mention a new idea they had after praying for guidance, a Bible verse that helped them make a decision, or advice from a mature, godly person.)
- **Why do you think God doesn't usually give us His wisdom in an audible voice?** (Guide your students to the idea that He may be building our faith in Him.)

Sometimes, God may be hard to hear because He wants to give us more faith! Before we're really ready to do His will, we need to surrender to Him, and perhaps take a small step forward before He reveals the rest of His plan. Perhaps if He announced the whole plan out loud from the beginning, we would shy away from taking that first step toward Him. There are times when we just aren't ready to hear the whole thing at once—we need to mature and grow and be prepared in other ways to absorb it all. Scripture tells us that His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts.

Suppose you're trying to decide what your college major will be. First question: *Do you really want God's will?* Sometimes we say we do, but if we're honest, all we want is for God to tell us what we want to hear. Say you're thinking about engineering. You're looking

forward to designing cool stuff and making good money. Would you still want God's will if it became clear that He wants you to major in Bible and earn peanuts as a missionary?

Obviously, the mission field isn't for everyone. If God made you good at math and science, He very well may want you to be an engineer! But if He doesn't, are you open to hear something different? Sometimes we have a hard time hearing because we have put up a blockade against things we don't want to hear.

Hand out copies of the footsteps template and pens/pencils (or invite students to have supplies ready at home). **The bottom line is, we want God to guide our steps. So, let's finish our lesson by making some footprints.**

Instruct your teens to use one shoe print to write down a decision they are facing. Then—*only if they really mean it*—take a minute to pray and surrender this decision to God. **Tell God that you'll do whatever He wants, even if it's not what you want. But if you're *not* ready to surrender right now, He understands—giving control to God is hard! And it won't do any good to pretend. You can take that minute to ask Him to make you willing to surrender completely to His reliable guidance.** Give students a minute or two to write on their first shoe print and say a prayer.

When they have had a chance to do this, have them use the other shoe print to write down one step of faith that they can take that will help them make this decision. **Have you checked out colleges that offer the major you're considering? Have you tried to find an adult with skills like yours to ask questions about their job? Have you asked your parents and teachers for career advice? Maybe your step of faith will be one of those things—maybe it's as simple as praying every day this week and seeing if God gives you an idea. Whatever step of faith you choose, write it on your footprint.**

If time permits, allow (but don't require) each student who wants to share an opportunity to talk about the decision they need to make, and the step of faith they're going to take as they seek God's wisdom.

Take these footprints home with you—maybe pin them to a bulletin board in your room. Let the second one remind you to take a step of faith that will help you seek God's wisdom. But don't forget about the first one—the step of surrender! Make yourself genuinely open to whatever God guides you to do because His guidance is something we can rely on!

Close in prayer.

(We are not affiliated with and do not endorse any website or any other media listed on these pages. At the time of writing, we carefully review the referenced material and non-referenced web page content. However, due to the nature of the Internet, non-cited content on the website [including pop-ups, links, and ads] changes frequently and is beyond our control. Please review carefully before showing links in the classroom.)

