

# Voice of Truth

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as  
**STEP 1** **Lesson 12****Focus:**

God guides our everyday lives.

**Lesson 12****Bible Basis:**

Genesis 24

**Lesson 12****Memory Verse:**

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior.  
—Psalm 25:5

**Students will discuss who they receive guidance from and will discover ways to seek God’s guidance in their lives.**

**Materials:**

- Internet access
- Paper
- Pens/pencils

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring supplies with them to class.

As students file into the classroom, distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home) and have them begin to make a list of people in their lives they go to for advice and guidance. They can write beside each one what makes that person stand out as a trusted confidant. After they’ve had a chance to think and write, ask:

- **Who do you go to for guidance in your life? Why?** (Let students share their lists; if time is a factor, choose a few volunteers.)
- **How do you choose the right person to listen to?** (Some possible answers: You choose someone you think is smart and who makes good decisions for themselves; choose someone older; etc.)

**Sometimes it can be tricky to know which voices to listen to. How do we really know who’s telling us good information and who isn’t?**

**In the last couple years, some people have been turning to popular videos for guidance about their “hearing age”. I’ll play the following video. Watch the screen and make a note of the “hearing age” listed when or if you stop hearing the sound.**

Play the following video for your students, noting your own hearing age (and inviting any other leaders to note theirs as well [2:00]):

How Old Are Your Ears ? Hearing Test

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUmbmssqHOY>

Share your own hearing age and whether it was close to your actual age. Invite other leaders to do the same.

➤ **What was your “hearing age”? Was it pretty close to your actual age?** (Answers will vary.)

➤ **Do you think this test is a reliable measure of someone’s hearing? Why or why not?** (Accept all reasonable responses.)

**While this video’s hearing test may provide a general idea of what someone can hear, it is not a replacement for an actual hearing test conducted by an audiologist. Someone who suspects they may be suffering from hearing loss should seek guidance from a doctor to give a correct assessment on the state of their hearing.**

**We have so many voices in our lives who want to offer us guidance—on what to wear, how to spend our money, what to think, and more. These voices pull us in all different directions and every voice is convinced their way is the best way. How can we know for certain? Which voices can we trust for guidance? None of us want to make a bad decision. So, how do we live life making the right ones?**

**In today’s lesson we’re going to see how Abraham’s servant dealt with this same dilemma. He was in charge of making an important decision and wanted to make sure he received God’s guidance in the matter. The servant couldn’t get this decision wrong, it was too big. Let’s see how the servant was able to decipher God’s direction from his own and what that means for you and me.**

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

Lesson 12 / November 17, 2024

# Voice of Truth

for use as  
**STEP 4** 

**Lesson 12****Focus:**

God guides our everyday lives.

**Lesson 12****Bible Basis:**

Genesis 24

**Lesson 12****Memory Verse:**

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior.  
—Psalm 25:5

**Materials:**

- Internet access
- Whiteboard and marker (or screenshared document)
- Verse Mapping Formula printouts (1 per student; template found at the end of this article)
- Bibles or Bible apps for each student
- Paper
- Pens/pencils

Before class, print out enough Verse Mapping Formula sheets so that each person has a copy (template found at the end of this document). (If your class is meeting online, email families the printouts so they can print copies for students at home. Encourage students to come to class with printouts, pieces of paper, and pens/pencils.) Also, write the following on the whiteboard (or display it on a screenshared document):

HELP – DEFINITION

to give assistance or support to; to make more pleasant or bearable.

SYNONYMS

Assist, support, encourage, save

**Earlier we learned how important it is to receive God’s guidance in our lives. Abraham’s servant had a very important job to do and didn’t want to make a mistake. So, he went to the only One that could give him the correct guidance and truth: God. With God’s direction we will never go wrong.**

➤ **How can we receive God’s guidance and help in a situation?** (We can pray for His help, we can read the Bible for His instruction, etc.)

➤ **How do we know the answer we’re receiving is from God and not just from our own thoughts or the thoughts of others?** (Answers may include: the Bible will always confirm God’s instructions to us; I can ask my minister or parent for help figuring it out, etc.)

**Jesus says that His sheep know His voice and follow it (John 10:27). The way we begin to recognize God’s voice is to get to know Him and His voice by reading His Word, the Bible. The more we read the Bible and study it, the more we begin to experience God and understand when He’s speaking to us.**

**One way we can receive His guidance is to study the Bible by a topic or problem. For instance, if we are having a problem with a friend, we might look up verses on friendship to see what God has to say about it. If we’re struggling with anger, we can look up verses on anger or kindness to see God’s direction.**

Spend a few minutes showing students how to use the concordance in the backs of their Bibles or a Bible search app if they don’t know how.

Make sure each of your students has access to a Bible with a concordance or a smartphone with a Bible app. Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). Walk your students through steps 1-9 of the formula on the printout using the word “HELP” as your sample study word. Give your students a minute on each step—they may not be able to finish, but they should at least get a feel for what each step entails so they can do it at home. When you come to the step about the definition and synonyms, refer them to the whiteboard (or screenshared document) to save time. When you get to the step on finding verses with a Bible app or concordance, have them look up one or two in Psalms since there isn’t class time for more.

Optional: If you feel comfortable, you can play this song as students work [5:23]:

Voice of Truth - Casting Crowns (Lyrics Video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ylyCvOmRNTM>

**We are in need of God’s truth and guidance for our lives every day. The more we read God’s Word and spend time in prayer, the more we will begin to hear His voice speaking truth into our situations. God will always guide us toward His truth, just as our verse from Psalms today says (ask a volunteer to read Psalm 25:5 aloud.)**

**Take your Verse Mapping Formula home with you and finish up the steps you started today in class. Don’t let your studying stop after this class—there’s so much more for you to find! Use your new verse mapping skills to seek God’s guidance and instruction in every area of your lives.**

Pray to close.

Sources:

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/help>

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/thesaurus/help>

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# Verse Mapping Formula

1. Choose a word you want to learn more about. It might be a word that stood out to you while reading. Write it in the middle of a blank piece of paper.
2. Look up the definition of the word ([www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com) is a good place to do that online). Write the definition somewhere near the word.
3. Find words that mean the same thing (synonyms) and write those down, too. Synonyms can be found at the bottom of the definition page at [www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com)
4. Use a Bible search app ([www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)) or a concordance to find other places in Scripture that use this word. Look up as many verses as you can. Read each verse. Choose one or two verses that spoke to you and write out the entire verse.
5. In another version of the Bible, look up and read the verses you wrote out. Try looking it up in the Amplified version (AMPC), the English Standard Version (ESV), or the Message (MSG). Write down anything that stands out to you in these other versions.
6. Rewrite the verse putting in your name to make it your own. (Example: "Count it all joy, Sarah, when you meet trials of various kinds" [James 1:2].)
7. Draw and doodle any pictures or symbols of different words or overall ideas that come to mind as you're reading.
8. Write your thoughts about what you've read and learned about your word so far.
9. Write questions that are coming to mind from your study of this word.
10. Spend time in prayer over your questions and thoughts.
11. For further study, research answers to your questions or ask a trusted Christian mentor.