

BE WHO GOD WILLS YOU TO BE

The Christian Teachings of Virtue (Series 1, Part 3, Teaching #3)

Instructions: Watch video, read aloud, underline what stands out to you most, discuss



Leader Guide...

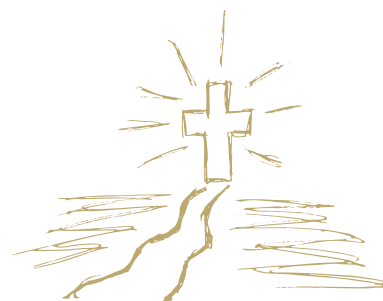
See the back page for detailed facilitator instructions.

There is a simple but profound maxim that quietly echoes through every page of Scripture, every prompting of grace, and every stirring of the heart—one that sums up God’s entire calling for your life:

“Be who God wills you to be.”

For you are called not to be who the world wills you to be, not to be who your sinful desires will you to be, but to be who God wills you to be. God does not will for you to travel the wide road to destruction and emptiness, but the narrow road that leads to holiness and fulfillment.

God does not will for you to be shaped by the vices of pride, envy, anger, sloth, greed, gluttony, or lust. He wills for you to be formed by the virtues of faith, hope, charity, prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance—that you be strengthened in faith, anchored in hope, and ablaze in charity; that your intellect be illumined by prudence, your will be guided by justice, your heart made bold in fortitude, and your desires rightly ordered by temperance.



But He will not force this upon you. He has given you free will. You must choose it. You must pursue it. You must cooperate with grace and practice it. The question is: will you align your will with His?

It’s been said, “The first end I propose in our daily work is to do the will of God; secondly, to do it in the manner he wills it; and thirdly to do it because it is His will” (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton). To live virtuously is to choose daily—sometimes moment by moment—to rise above vice and walk in the way of God’s will.

The teachings of virtue light the way to—be who God wills you to be—by revealing how to wisely and willfully weave the thread of both the inner beauty and outer brilliance of character. They reveal not only who you are, but who you are becoming—offering both the wisdom to discern what is good and the zeal to pursue it with integrity. They shape the soul like a master sculptor chiseling stone, aiming to form within you a character that reflects the radiance of Christ Himself. It is a kind of spiritual training for the soul—a sanctified shaping of the self—with the goal being not merely to awaken faith in the unbeliever, but to form the believer into a holy warrior.

The call to be who God wills you to be is not passive—it is a daily charge, a summons to transformation. God is not interested in shallow admiration but in deep cooperation with grace. He doesn’t simply want your intellectual belief—He wants your wholehearted becoming.

This process is not without its trials. You will face distractions that cloud your identity, temptations that distort your desires, and seasons where you may forget who you are and whose you are. But the call remains: rise, return, remember—be who God wills you to be.

So when your race comes to an end, you may unerringly say, “I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7), and hear the words your soul was made to long for: “Well done, my good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:23).



Watch Video: Scan the QR code to access the video for this teaching as well as additional resources such as related Scripture, quotes, and more.
Or, visit horseandchariot.com/be-who-god-wills-you-to-be



God's call for your life is ultimately a call to become—to be formed into the person He created and wills you to be. The world will try to shape you. Your disordered desires will try to shape you. But through free will, cooperation with grace, and the daily practice of virtue, you can choose another way: the narrow path of Christ.

1. Remember who you are called to become. Your identity is not determined by the world or your desires, but by God's will. → Are you becoming who God wills you to be—or who the world and your passions are shaping you to be?

2. Choose virtue over vice. Every choice forms your character in one direction or another. → Which vice is most distorting who you are becoming, and which virtue must rise in its place?

3. Cooperate with grace. God will transform you, but He will not force your cooperation. → Are you actively responding to grace—or resisting the changes God is calling you to make?

4. Practice the character of Christ. Virtue must move from knowledge into habitual action. → Are you merely learning about virtue, or intentionally practicing it in your daily life?

5. Return when you wander. Failure does not end the journey; you must rise, return, and continue becoming. → When you fall, do you remain discouraged—or quickly return to God and the path of virtue?

6. Live with the finish line in view. The goal is to finish your life faithful to the person God called you to become. → If your race ended today, would you be able to say, "I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith"?

CHARACTERISTICS OF BECOMING WHO GOD WILLS

Those who embrace becoming who God wills exhibit these traits:

1. Faithful. They trust God and surrender their lives to His direction.

2. Hopeful. They remain anchored in God through trials and setbacks.

3. Charitable. They increasingly love God and others with self-giving love.

4. Discerning. They seek wisdom to recognize what is good and pleasing to God.

5. Intentional. They understand that character is formed through daily choices.

6. Transforming. They continually allow grace to reshape them into the likeness of Christ.

Signs You Are Being Shaped by Something Else...

- You let culture or others define who you should become.
- You follow feelings or desires that conflict with God's will.
- You know what virtue requires but resist practicing it.
- You excuse recurring vice rather than working to overcome it.
- You pursue achievement, comfort, or approval over holiness.
- You let failure discourage you rather than returning to God.
- You admire Christ without striving to become like Him.

Think: I am becoming someone with every choice I make. God has given me free will, His grace, and the teachings of virtue so that I may become who He wills me to be. I am not called merely to believe in Christ, but to allow Him to transform my character from within. Day by day, virtue by virtue, choice by choice, I will cooperate with grace and become more fully the person God created me to be.

Pray: Lord, form me into the person You will me to be. Free me from the influence of the world, the pull of vice, and the demands of my own disordered desires. Illuminate my intellect, strengthen my will, and rightly order my passions. Give me the grace to practice virtue faithfully and reflect the character of Christ more fully each day. When my race is finished, may I have fought the good fight, kept the faith, and become the person You created me to be. Amen.

SELF-EVALUATION & ACTION STEP

Of the areas you underlined throughout this teaching, which stood out to you most and why?
(Reflect, write down, discuss)

Rate yourself from 1-10

1 = I am often shaped by the world or my own desires
10 = I consistently strive to become who God wills

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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← (avoid 5) →

Why did you give yourself this rating?

What is currently shaping your character most—
God's will, the world, other people, your
emotions, or your desires?

Which vice is most preventing you from becoming
who God wills you to be? Which virtue do you
most need to intentionally practice in its place?

What specific choice, habit, or action will you take
this week to cooperate with grace and become
more like Christ?

Daily Affirmation: Today, I will be who God wills me to be. By His grace, I will reject vice, choose virtue, and cooperate with His work within me—becoming, choice by choice, more like Christ.

FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS

Courageous Facilitator,

Your willingness to step forward and lead is a gift of grace to your community and a brave act of faith. God bless you for answering the call to inspire others to grow in virtue and pursue the character of Christ.

The Holy Spirit thrives in fellowship and community, working powerfully through the connections and shared experiences of small groups. That's why these lesson plans are designed to cultivate genuine relationships, inspire meaningful conversations, and foster a spirit of transformation through shared wisdom and grace.

Facilitating these lessons is both simple and impactful. While many forms of teaching rely on one-way communication, where one person speaks and others listen, true transformation happens through two-way communication. In this format, ideas aren't merely taught—they're explored together. You'll guide, but everyone will share and learn from one another, creating a rich environment where the Holy Spirit can move and grow each mind, heart, and soul.

These lesson plans succeed because they:

- **Encourage connection** in a collaborative small group setting that fosters action and accountability
- **Empower every voice** with opportunities for each participant to share and contribute
- **Inspire growth** through educational, inspirational, and transformational teachings

Your role as a facilitator is to:

- **Follow the instructions and trust the process**—the wheel is already built, you're here to guide it.
- **Honor the schedule** by being punctual and respecting the time of your group.
- **Lead with love** and rely on God's grace to inspire, guide, and uplift everyone in the group.

Your courage to create a space for growth and fellowship will not only bless others but will deepen your own journey of faith and virtue. Together, with God's help, lives will be transformed.

To God be the glory!

FACILITATOR CHECKLIST

1. Getting Started (5-10 mins)

- ☐ Give everyone a few minutes to join before getting started. Be friendly and greet people as they arrive. Get them talking! Come prepared with some good ice-breaker questions you can ask during this time.
- ☐ 3-5 minutes in, do quick introductions for anyone new to the group. What brought them to the group? Spend a moment getting to know them.
- ☐ Open with a short prayer (facilitator or volunteer).

2. Watch & Read the Teaching (5-10 mins)

- ☐ Watch the video of the teaching as a group.
- ☐ Have a volunteer read all of page 1. Have others follow along and underline what stands out to them most.

3. How it Applies (5-10 mins)

- ☐ Have a volunteer read all of page 2. Have others follow along and underline what stands out to them most.

4. Reflection & Discussion (20-30 mins)

- ☐ Have everyone quietly take 5 minutes to complete the "Self-Evaluation & Action Step" on page 3.
- ☐ Then, going around the group, have each person take a minute to share what stood out to them most about the teaching and why.
- ☐ If time allows, continue the discussion using the remaining self-evaluation questions as a guide.

5. Wrap Up (5 mins)

- ☐ Remind everyone to do the daily affirmation until you meet again next time.
- ☐ Ask for any prayer requests from the group.
- ☐ Close with a short prayer (facilitator or volunteer).