

Praying at the Stop Sign:

Spiritual Preparation for Major Life Change

WEEK FOUR – Surprised by God

April 14

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Proverbs 3:5-6

If I go up to heaven, you are there;
if I go down to the grave,^[a] you are there.
If I ride the wings of the morning,
if I dwell by the farthest oceans,
even there your hand will guide me,
and your strength will support me.

Psalm 139:8-10

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

Ephesians 3:20

The pessimist complains about the wind.
The optimist expects it to change.
The realist adjusts the sail

--William Ward

Where We've Been:

Week One – Seasons of Life

Week Two – Identity as a Child of God:

Week Three – Listening to God

Week Four – Surprised by God

Quote:

“It’s easy to believe the myth that we are in control, especially when we have a decision to make. Turn your head from the illusion, the kind we often have when we are considering our next right thing, and see a different reality on the other side of the glass.”

Emily Freeman, *The Next Right Thing*, p. 226

Questions:

1. Has adult life turned out to be what you expected as a child?
 2. Are you doing the work you trained for?
 3. What is your next transition and what do you expect from it?
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Prayer

Almighty God, Creator of all things,
you know us so intimately
that no thought in our minds
or cell in our bodies is hid from your eyes.
Secure in the loving embrace of our Savior Jesus Christ,
we open our hearts and our lives to your searching gaze.

Paul Detterman
Psalms for All Seasons

Spiritual Practice

The next time you ride in a car, bus, train, or airplane, take time to look out the window. Pay attention to what’s happening around you and, in turn, within you. When was the last time you felt surprised by God?

Emily Freeman