

**Morning Star Church**  
**Small Group Study Guide**  
***Directionally Challenged, # 1 Why Bad Things Happen to Good People***  
**January 2-3, 2010**

**Message Synopsis:** Pastor Mike started 2010 with a brand new series we are calling, *Directionally Challenged*. We want to be better and we believe we can be better but do we actually *take the steps to begin moving toward* being better? Pastor Mike taught us that direction—not intention—determines our destination. All of the best intentions or our greatest aspirations cannot change the direction we are headed. It requires us to choose a path that goes in the direction we want to go. Often we deceive ourselves into thinking that we are on the right path when we are merely following our heart and as Mike showed us, sometimes our heart misleads us down the wrong path.

*The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? But I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve.*

Jeremiah 17:9-10, NLT

**Additional passages to consider:** Matthew 7:13; 1 Kings 11:1-11; John 8:32

**Questions to consider in your small group:**

1. What is the difference between a *solution* and a *path*?
2. Inanimate objects like cars, computers, lawn mowers and the like have problems that can be fixed. But generally speaking, people have directions that need to be changed. Share with your group how your experience changing a life direction in your past has brought some solution to previous problems in your life.
3. Pastor Mike talked about how difficult it is for us to be honest with ourselves. We deceive ourselves about why we choose the things we choose. Then we spin a web of excuses to protect ourselves. Can you think of a time when you lied to yourself in order to make a bad decision seem more acceptable, describe it?
4. Read John 8:32, what kind of "truth" is Jesus talking about here? What will knowing this truth do for you?

**Prayer Requests:**

Morning Star Church  
*Directionally Challenged #1: Sermon Notes*  
January 2-3, 2010

### Principle of the Path

“Direction—not intention—determines my destination.”

### Why Bad Things Happen to Smart People

We are on a quest for happiness instead of on a quest for Truth.

### The Heart of the Matter

*“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”*  
(Jeremiah 17:9)

*“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*  
(Jesus, John 8:32)

### First Step on the Path: Honesty

### Three Questions to Honestly Answer

1. Why am I *really* doing this?
2. If someone in my circumstances came to me for advice, what course of action would I recommend?
3. In light of my past experience and my future hopes, what is the wise thing to do?

### *For further devotional study ...*

January 4	Matthew 7:13	January 6	Psalms 25:4-5
January 8	1 Kings 1:1-11	January 10	Isaiah 26:7
January 5	Psalms 16:11	January 7	Proverbs 3:5-6
January 9	Isaiah 30:21		