

# P.U.**R**.S.U.E Excellence

Being a Relevant Church: Discerning God's Call Where to *BE*

*Bible Study for April 30 & May 7, 2020*

*WORD For Life Church Ministries*

*Rev. Larrin Robertson, Pastor*

# Lesson objective

To learn how the Church gained its footing by being where Jesus determined that His disciples should be.

1. Define “discern”
2. Understand why discernment is necessary for relevance
3. Identify key aspects of relevance discernment
4. Develop a practice for discernment




*God is at all times, and in every case, relevant. So too is God's word. The same must be true of God's people. To be relevant, **we must BE** who God formed this church to be where God planted us. Relevance positively impacts the lived experiences of community.*

– Rev. Larrin Robertson



# Discern in the Old Testament

- Hebrew word *nakar*; defined as scrutinize, or look intently at, and it carries diverse implications.
  - First appears in Genesis 27:23 having to do with a sense of knowing (or not) or acknowledging (or not). “*And he (Isaac) did not recognize him (Jacob), because his (Jacob’s) hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands; so he blessed him (Jacob).*”
  - Also has to do with estrangement (as in a stranger to, separated from, or foreign/unfamiliar) or alienating.
  - Other examples include Job 34:19 and Ezra 3:13.
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# Discern in the New Testament


- Greek word *diakrino*, defined as separate (make a distinction or distinguish between), learn by discriminating (in the sense of testing), withdraw or separate oneself, dispute.
- First appears in Matthew 16:3 having to do with telling the difference between two things...“*and in the morning, ‘It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.*”
- Other examples include Acts 15:9 and Romans 14:1.



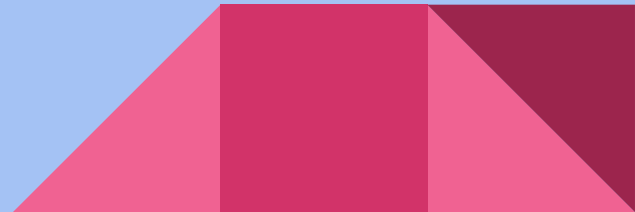
# Working definition of discern (-ing, -ment, -ed)

Taken together, to discern is to carefully consider a matter, by testing.


The act of discernment is not an end to itself, however. What one has discerned should be evident in the way one acts upon what has been considered by testing.



**Questions?**



# The role of discernment for relevance

- Confirms the one who assigned us to our purpose.
  - Confirms that we are with the One we are supposed to be with.
  - Affirms the importance of faith for the task to be performed.
  - Prepares us for what is to come.
  - Confirmed by the results.
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# Key aspects of relevance discernment

- Willingness to be identified with Jesus
- Willingness to trust Jesus
- Willingness to have our purpose associated with Jesus
- Willingness to wait for results
- Willingness to do what we discerned in the first place.



# Developing a practice of relevance discernment

Improving our ability to discern:

- Pray
- Believe
- Take action
- Value rewards above risks



**Questions?**



# Support WORD For Life Church Ministries

Three ways to continue supporting the work of God through WORD For Life Church Ministries

1. Pray for us
  2. Worship with us Sundays at 11:00 a.m.
  3. Financially support us:
    - a. **Mail**: 11519 Fort Washington Rd., Ft. Washington, MD 20744
    - b. **Online**: [wordforlifechurch.org/Online-Giving](http://wordforlifechurch.org/Online-Giving)
    - c. **Text**: "Give2wflcm" and \$amount to 73256
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