1. Read 1 Samuel 9:1-27. In these verses, by His sovereign providence, God makes his will clear about who Israel’s future king should be. Notice how Saul, who is chasing wandering donkeys, ends up in the very region where Samuel lives, and meets him just “in the nick of time” at the city gates. It all appears random and even chaotic. And yet, God makes clear to Samuel that he had “sent” Saul to him (see vs. 16). The doctrine of providence is the idea that God superintends, governs, and guides all things in the universe in such a way that his purposes always prevail, and his will is ultimately done. As you look at God’s providential leading in Saul’s life, how have you seen God’s providential leading in your own life? How do passages like Proverbs 16:9 and 19:21 relate to this passage and to our lives as believers?

2. Read 10:1-16. God reveals his will to Samuel and to Saul through his Word. Notice that God’s Word was spoken clearly and directly through God’s prophet, and then confirmed by the various “signs” that came true. Today, as Christians, we also have the clear and true Word of God written down for us in Scripture, which contains the writings of the Prophets in the Old Testament, and the writings of the Apostles in the New Testament. The whole Bible is inspired by God (see 2 Timothy 3:16). Do you believe the Bible is important for discerning God’s will today? If so, how should we rightly use the Scriptures to discern the “revealed will” of God on any given issue that we face?

3. 1 Samuel 10:1-16 also tells us something of the way the Holy Spirit reveals the will of God. To anoint someone with oil was a way of setting them apart for God’s work by the power of the Spirit. In the case of Saul, he should expect God’s Spirit to empower him to carry out his future kingly role, and God made his choice obvious by causing the Spirit to “rush upon Saul” so that he prophesied. The following is a list of ways the Holy Spirit interacts with Christian believers today. Based on this list, how does the Holy Spirit help us understand and obey the will of God for our lives?

- The Spirit permanently indwells every Christian believer (Romans 8:9-11).
- The Spirit reminds God’s people that they are wonderfully loved and permanently adopted into his family (Romans 5:5, Romans 8:14-17).
- The Spirit helps us when we pray, and he prays for us (Romans 8:26-27).
- The Spirit convicts us of sin (John 16:8).
- The Spirit makes us more like Christ (2 Cor. 3:18).
- The Spirit illuminates the Scriptures, helping us understand God’s Word (1 Cor. 2:12).
- The Spirit gives us gifts to be used in service of God (1 Cor. 12).
• The Spirit empowers us to witness (Acts 1:8).

• The Spirit leads us and bears fruit in our lives (Galatians 5:16-23).