Moses Lesson 25 Handout David

Exodus 13:17
17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God led them not by way of the land of the Philistines,

Exodus 13:18 (AMP)
18 But God led the people around by way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea...

Exodus 13:21–22 (AMP)
21 The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.

Psalm 136:16
To Him who led His people through the wilderness...

How do I know where God is leading?

When We Misinterpret A Message From God

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“When God speaks to us, it does not prove we are righteous or even right. It does not even prove that we have correctly understood what He said. The infallibility of the messenger and the message does not guarantee the infallibility of our reception. Humility is always in order.” ~ A.W. Tozer

Did you ever feel confident that you heard a message from God only to find out you were wrong?
I have had this happen to me and it really challenged my faith.

It was about five years ago when a woman I knew called me to tell me that her husband had moved out because he was going to divorce her. She did not want the divorce but felt hopeless.
Since helping wounded marriages is my passion and because I know that God hates divorce, I wanted to encourage and support this sister in Christ. I told her that we needed to pray the heavens down for God to change her husband’s mind.

So we began praying for the Lord to soften this man’s heart. She and I would meet once a week, and we prayed for healing and renewal within their marriage.

A lot of exciting things began to happen that felt like confirmation that we were in the center of God’s will. Each of us would be led to Scriptures that felt like God was saying that this marriage would indeed be restored.

On top of this, one day when I went to her house to pray, God gave me a clear and vivid vision. It was so powerful. In this vision I saw her husband sitting at the head of their dining table, she was sitting on his right along with their children. On the wall I saw a huge cross. Her husband was holding her hand and praying to Jesus out loud (her husband was not a Christian).
I was so confident that God was telling me through this vision that this man would come to know Christ and that this marriage was going to be restored.

I prayed and *believed* in the reconciliation of this couple for almost 2 years. I had never been more confident that I had heard the Lord correctly and that there would be no divorce.

I was wrong. They were divorced.

I was heartbroken. Along with being sad, I was confused. How had I been so wrong in hearing God’s voice? Was my vision not real? Were those Scriptures of restoration I had been led to read not for this couple? How could this be?

The doubt I felt after this experience led me to feel concerned about my intimacy with Christ. I started questioning my ability to discern His leading. How could I trust that I would hear God correctly on other things in the future?

Although it wasn’t easy admitting that I had misinterpreted God’s message, I began to seek Him with all my questions and doubts.

Here is what I learned about interpreting God’s voice:

*Sometimes the vision is correct, but our interpretation of what God is saying isn’t.*
We have to be willing to accept that because we are humans we make mistakes. We must realize that sometimes we can be eager to believe a message that really wasn’t from God.

Pray into your situation and be open to the message being different than what you expected or thought it was. This is very humbling, but the truth is we can so easily allow our human desires and feelings overshadow God’s truth.

In my case, with my vision of my friend’s husband, I have come to realize that although I had assumed the woman sitting on his right was my friend, it was not my friend. Looking back, I now am aware that I never saw her face. I had just assumed it was her.

This man has since remarried, and although he is still not a Christian, I am wondering if he will be one day with his new wife. I now feel that my vision was for him and for the salvation of his soul, not his marriage. You see, I have a vested interest in this man. He is a close and dear relative of mine.
Psalm 37:4
4 Delight yourself in the LORD; and He will give you the desires of your heart.

God can always close a door.
Acts 16:
5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.
6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.
7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.

8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.

9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”

10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Romans 8:5 For those who are living according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh (which gratify the body), but those who are living according to the Spirit, (set their minds on) the things of the Spirit (His will and purpose).

John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
How can I know to the best of my ability that God is speaking?

Still small inner voice.

Sometimes begins with a thought in your head.

Open your Bible!
2 Peter 1:12 Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you.
13 I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder,

15 And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.