

LESSON ESSENTIALS

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND WORLDVIEW

LESSON 2: MAKING LIFE CHOICES

Everyone makes decisions. Some are simple and easy, and others are more significant and difficult. If you've been struggling in the area of decision-making this lesson might give you some clarity on identifying God's will.

While God has given us free will, He longs to see us make Godly decisions. This lesson will encourage you to prioritize decisions that help advance God's kingdom and that are honouring to God.

Our choices have a large effect on our lives. God is waiting to guide you! Read on to know how you can make Godly choices.

You can safely depend on God to help you make right choices. His word says, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you." Psalm 32:8

One clear way of approaching a decision is assessing what brings glory to God and advances His kingdom.

We all value our freedom to choose, don't we? Little choices like what to wear, what to eat or what to do with our free time are fun to make. But when we have to decide on the more important areas of life, like marriage or career, we really struggle.

None of us want to make a decision that will turn out bad in the end, but how do we know how our choices will play out? We want to feel in control of our lives and be confident about our choices. But even the small choices we make can potentially affect our lives in a big way. Thus, our freedom to choose also comes with lots of responsibility. Immediate consequences, our feelings or a friend's advice don't always indicate a good decision. But you can safely depend on God to help you make the right choice. His Word says, 'I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.' (Psalm 32:8)

One clear way of approaching a decision is assessing what brings glory to God and advances His kingdom. We can often see this clearly when our choice is between a negative or positive action. For instance, in our relationships we can be tempted to get angry and hold grudges or to forgive and show grace. Both options are available to us, but only one is going to honour God, build healthy relationships, and bring us joy and peace. Many of us will face other temptations in our lives, such as sexual temptation, selfish actions, or self-destructive behaviours such as misusing drugs or overindulging in food or alcohol. But God's desire for us is that we resist these temptations and make positive choices.

Some choices, however, such as what school to go to and whether to accept one job or another may appear neither good nor bad. We can sometimes analyse the decision so much that we're paralyzed; in the end we don't make a choice at all. In this case, it is good to spend some time praying, talking to Godly counsel and waiting on God to respond before making the most informed choice you can. God does speak to us in many ways – we must be watching for it and expecting Him to tell us the right answer.

Why does it matter to God what choices we make in life? He is running the whole universe – does He even notice us? How could my choices possibly influence others around me? These are important questions. The answer is always found in the Bible. God values us, and even the smallest details of our day matter to Him. Look at Psalm 139:13-16. The Bible says that we were knit together. This doesn't describe God starting the universe in motion and then

just sitting back to watch. Knitting describes someone actively attentively putting together every stitch – every piece of us on purpose. God spent time and effort and energy to make you exactly as you are! And He designed every single day of your life.

God has a plan for each of us. We might think our decisions have little to do with those around us, and that we're in control of our lives, but in fact, God has a plan bigger than we know about. 1 Corinthians 2:9 says that "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him." When we consult Him before making our decisions, He will lead us down a path, perhaps one that doesn't make sense to us at the time, but which will result in a bigger and greater plan that He designed for us and others.

That is why your decisions matter: because YOU matter to God; your life matters. God has an amazing plan for you, for each of your days. He has something for you to do that only you can accomplish on this earth – and what is more: God LOVES you! You are precious to Him, known by Him and important.

When you go about your ordinary tasks this week, consider the number of choices that you make. When do you consider what God would have you do? When do you consult the Bible in your choices? Do you pray as you decide? God would love to hear from you and help you to resist temptation and to make the best choice. One day we'll all have to give an account of every choice that we've made in this life. Would God be proud of your choices?

IN REVIEW

- We need to make choices at every step in life. While the smaller decisions like what to wear or what to eat for dinner are fairly easy to make, it's the big ones like marriage and career that are a real challenge. But Jesus is there to guide us in all our decisions, small or big. (Psalm 32:8)
- An important question to ask yourself while making a key decision is whether your choice glorifies God and helps in the advancement of His kingdom.

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