

SAMPLE

DECISIONS | SOCIAL CIRCLE | WORK HABITS | FINANCES

WISDOM IN REAL LIFE

PARTNER CHALLENGE



**4 MISSIONS AND GROUP ACCOUNTABILITY
TO HELP YOU APPLY WISDOM IN REAL LIFE**

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— DECISIONS — WISDOM IN REAL LIFE

PARTNER CHALLENGE

MISSION 1

Use Wisdom in
Your Decisions.



DECISIONS | MISSION 1

COMPLETE ALL 4 CHECKPOINTS

- ☐ **CHECKPOINT 1:** Go to God
- ☐ **CHECKPOINT 2:** It's Already Written
- ☐ **CHECKPOINT 3:** Get the Right Counsel
- ☐ **CHECKPOINT 4:** Real-Life Examples

UPCOMING MISSIONS

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CHECKPOINT #1 - GO TO GOD!

THE SCRIPTURES

- ☐ Proverbs 3:5-7
- ☐ Proverbs 11:5
- ☐ Isaiah 30:1-3

- ☐ Psalms 48:14
- ☐ John 16:13
- ☐ James 1:5

- ☐ Psalms 32:8
- ☐ Psalms 73:24
- ☐ Proverbs 16:9

- ☐ Psalms 25:5
- ☐ Proverbs 19:21

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

☐ **OPTION 1:** <----- PICK ONE ----->

What are the benefits of going to God when you need to make a decision?

☐ **OPTION 2:**

What are the consequences of NOT going to God, and making the decision on your own?

INDIVIDUAL CHALLENGES

☐ **OPTION 1:** <----- PICK ONE ----->

Write down any decisions you need to make, pray and talk to God about each one, and put the list in your Bible or a place you pray.

☐ **OPTION 2:**

Define three words from the scriptures given.

THE GROUP CHALLENGE

☐ **OPTION 1:**

Share which scripture stood out to you and why.

☐ **OPTION 2:**

Pray for each group member and ask God to help them make the decisions that please Him.

A person is sitting on the edge of a dark, craggy rock formation that juts out over a vast, green valley. The sun is setting on the right side of the frame, casting a warm, golden glow over the landscape and the sky. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

FEAR IS A
REACTION.

TRUSTING
GOD IS A
DECISION.

Psalm 56:3
What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

CHECKPOINT #2 - WHAT'S ALREADY WRITTEN?

THE SCRIPTURES

☐ Proverbs 6:23 ☐ Psalms 119:105 ☐ Psalms 119:130 ☐ Matthew 4:1-11

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

☐ **OPTION 1:** <----- PICK ONE ----->

What did Jesus keep going back to in order to decide what to do and how to respond to temptation?

☐ **OPTION 2:**

Why is it important to find out what's ALREADY written before making our decisions?

INDIVIDUAL CHALLENGES

☐ **OPTION 1:** <----- PICK ONE ----->

Pick a topic you need to make a decision concerning, an area you struggle with, or a subject you find interesting and find at least 5 scriptures about it.

☐ **OPTION 2:**

Write Prov. 6:23; Psa. 119:105; or Psa. 119:103 on a notecard and put it near a light that you see regularly.

THE GROUP CHALLENGE

☐ **OPTION 1:**

Discuss the difference in using the written Word of God rather than our logic, emotions, or experience to guide us in making our decisions.

☐ **OPTION 2:**

Post a scripture from this checkpoint on social media and tag each other.

READ THIS ARTICLE

HOW TO MAKE WISE DECISIONS: 3 SIMPLE STEPS

Decisions, decisions: in life, no matter your age or stage, you have to make decisions. How do you, as a Christian, make wise decisions that please God? Here are three simple steps you can take to help you with your next choice.

1. GO TO GOD!

Though some (wrongly) think they are smart enough to figure out their life decisions, when you recognize how little we know compared to the knowledge of the infinite God, it only makes sense to go to Him. Psalms 48:14 says, "For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death." From the beginning to the end of our lives, He's willing to be our God and our guide to navigate us through.

We have to prioritize prayer (and fasting) and choose to seek His direction and wisdom. He wants to instruct and teach us in the way we should go (Psa. 32:8). We just have to decide we want His help! We have to resolve that we DO NOT KNOW, but we will ASK GOD for wisdom that He promised to give to all who ask Him (James 1:5). The Mission 1 testimony is a perfect example of that.

Proverbs 3:5-7 famously says, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." What tips do we learn from that?

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL THINE HEART

No matter what our hearts feel, we have to trust the Lord enough to give it all to Him. He can be trusted, so we can put our confidence in Him as we safely surrender what's going on in our hearts to Him.

LEAN NOT UNTO THINE OWN UNDERSTANDING

We cannot lean on our own understanding! Our logic is insufficient. We don't know it all, and so if the basis of our decision is simply what we think, our foundation is sorely lacking. If all we lean on is our understanding, we'll fall!

ACKNOWLEDGE HIM

Instead of leaning on our own understanding, we have to acknowledge Him. To acknowledge is to have knowledge, to recognize, respect, and honor, to show regard for. If I acknowledge God in all my ways, I want to KNOW what God thinks about it!

When you get a new job, at the start, you find out what your boss wants, expects, and requires so you can measure up and carry it out. You don't just come in with your plan and do it without consulting him or her; you respect your boss enough to acknowledge him or her, check in, get direction, and follow it. Before you make your decision, acknowledge God! Ask Him and search His Word. Not sure? Seek wise, godly counsel.

IN ALL THY WAYS

Rather than running to do what we think, feel, or want, we should pause and find out what HE wants – His Word and His will – and that should not be just when it's convenient. The scripture says, in all thy ways! He's not a part-time God who we involve when we want to and exclude when we don't want Him! He's LORD, and He demands all of our hearts and all of our ways! He wants it ALL! Invite Him in!

CONTINUE ARTICLE ON PAGE 14

CHECKPOINT #3 - GET THE RIGHT COUNSEL

THE SCRIPTURES

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 14:12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 17:9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 14:14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 12:15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 19:20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 11:14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 15:22 | <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 20:18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 1:1-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 33:10-11 | | |

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



OPTION 1:

Should we make our decisions based on what seems right to us? Should we follow our heart? Why or why not?



OPTION 2:

Is counsel important? What is the difference in godly and ungodly counsel?

INDIVIDUAL CHALLENGES



OPTION 1:

Ask someone saved and spiritual for counsel concerning your decision OR to pray for you this week because you have a decision to make.



OPTION 2:

Read out loud all of the scriptures for today, and then pray that God helps you to hear and heed the right counsel.

THE GROUP CHALLENGE



OPTION 1:

Ask three review questions based on the scriptures given, and quiz each other to make sure everyone understands the key points.



OPTION 2:

List the benefits of the right counsel and the problems of the wrong counsel.

HOW TO MAKE WISE DECISIONS: 3 SIMPLE STEPS CONTINUED

If we trust Him with all of our hearts, lean not on our own understanding, and acknowledge Him in all of our ways, HE SHALL DIRECT OUR PATHS! He'll show us the right way to go, and help us to walk in wisdom in real life.

2. FIND OUT WHAT'S ALREADY WRITTEN!

Let's go back to the job scenario: imagine if you're at your new job, and your manager has given overall direction, and now it's time to get to work! He or she gave you a manual with policies and procedures, rules and recommendations, so you know how to do the things you do. It would be foolish to throw it away, disregard what's in it, or never consult it, because they gave you in writing what you need to know so you can have answers for your everyday work life.

God gave us His Word to help us do what's RIGHT and make WISE decisions. When we have a situation or issue, it would be prudent to search the scriptures concerning the matter at hand:

Angry? Find out what the Word says about how to and how not to handle that emotion.

Fasting? Study the purpose, benefits, instructions, and examples He put in writing!

Married? Become an expert on what the Bible teaches the husband and the wife.

Ministering? Get understanding of how to walk effectively in your spiritual gift.

Talkative? Search out what God requires concerning your mouth and obey it!

No matter what decision we face, the commands and examples in His Word are relevant! When we don't know what to do and can't see clearly, Psalm 119:105 reminds us, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Though people want a new revelation or choose to do what they want to do, prioritize God's Word enough to seek out what He wrote. When we go to God and acknowledge Him, His direction always lines up with what is written in the Word. If it contradicts that, you know it's not from Him. His Word is our safeguard to help us not go astray or get off with an idea or desire – even with the best of intentions, it has to line up with the Word! Find out what's already written and then DO IT; let the Bible guide your decision.

CONTINUE ARTICLE ON PAGE 16

CHECKPOINT #4 - REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES

THE SCRIPTURES

☐ AHAZIAH: 2 Chronicles 22:2-6

☐ REHOBOAM: 1 Kings 12:1-20

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



OPTION 1:

Does being family or friends automatically mean they will give good counsel? How do you know if you should listen to someone?



OPTION 2:

What lessons did you learn from Ahaziah and Rehoboam?

INDIVIDUAL CHALLENGES



OPTION 1:

Ask someone who you know has a relationship with God to share the lessons that help them make good decisions.



OPTION 2:

Share one thing you've learned so far about making decisions with someone not in your group.

THE GROUP CHALLENGE



OPTION 1:

Testify! Share a time God helped you in real-life make a good decision or had mercy when you made a bad decision. Share what lessons you learned or how it relates to what we've been talking about.



OPTION 2:

Talk about lessons from the two examples, and how they relate to your lives.

READ THIS ARTICLE

HOW TO MAKE WISE DECISIONS: 3 SIMPLE STEPS

3. GET THE RIGHT COUNSEL

Lastly, as you go to God in prayer and study what He already wrote, wise, godly counsel can help you make wise decisions. How do we know this?

Prov. 12:15 KJV –

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.”

Prov. 19:20 KJV –

“Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.”

Prov. 11:14 KJV –

“Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.”

Prov. 15:22 KJV –

“Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.”

Prov. 20:18 KJV –

“Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.”

You don't have to make the decision on your own, BUT it has to be the RIGHT counsel. Our #1 counsellor is “Counsellor Jesus”: He truly cares, He's entirely trustworthy, and He always gives the right advice. There is also great wisdom, though, in getting counsel and advice from wise men and women who are godly, spiritual, and rooted in the Word of God.

Psalms 1:1 says, “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,” so we know if they are not living or counseling in line with God, that is NOT who you should be talking to. We'll be blessed if we do NOT walk in their counsel, and we can see throughout the Bible, history, and testimonies how many bad decisions were encouraged by bad advice. In 2 Chronicles 22:2–6, Ahaziah's own “mother was his counsellor to do wickedly,” and the Bible records, “Wherefore he did evil in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab: for they were his counsellors after the death of his father to his destruction.” Notice, they were his counselors to his destruction! Beware of bad counsel!

In 1 Kings 12, Rehoboam, as he started his reign as king, got counsel from the old men and the young men about how to handle the people. His peers, the ones he grew up with, gave horrible counsel, foolish advice, that led to the split of the entire nation. Bad counsel is dangerous, but wise, godly, Biblical counsel (often from someone older) is a blessing and one is wise to hearken to it. For by it, purposes are established and there is safety in it. Combined with praying, acknowledging God, and seeking His Word, you have the main tools to use wisdom to make your decisions in real life.

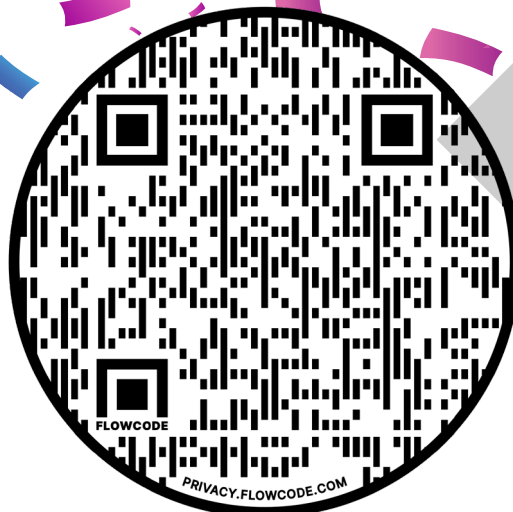
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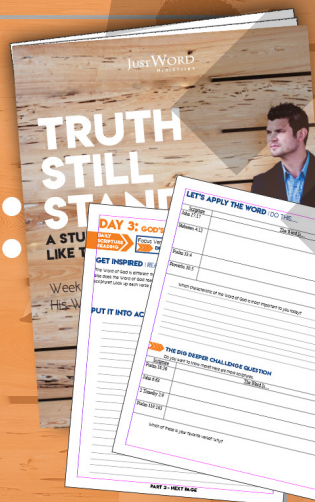
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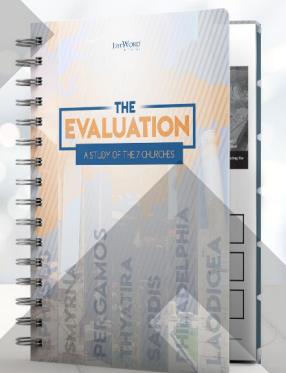
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