

Important Decisions



Scripture

Take turns reading the following scriptures out loud.

Joshua 24:14-15; ¹⁴Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the river and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. NIV

2 Corinthians 6:14-16; ¹⁴Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." NIV

Colossians 3:17; And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. NIV

Story: Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

As we begin to talk about decision making we must always remember to make decisions based upon what the Word of God says is right. We cannot go off of feelings but rather what is right. Wise decisions will always be accompanied with honesty, integrity, character, work ethic, and authority.

We are going to talk about 3 of the greatest decisions you will ever make in your life. It's important to get these three right because your quality of life will greatly depend on what choices you make. Yes, there are many more important decisions along the way, but these three are ones that provide the foundation, and key direction in one's life.

The first decision is choosing salvation. Making Jesus your number one priority in life. This means being baptized in the precious name of Jesus and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost. Salvation is the most important decision in one's life, it will greatly affect your quality of life, presently, and in the life hereafter.

The second important decision in life is who you will marry. Lives are destroyed through marital strife and divorces. Many people have unfortunately seen first hand the heartache involved when two people are unequally yoked

together in marriage. For a Christian, it is so important and biblical not to become married to an unbeliever. Having the same goals, objectives and values in life is a necessary part of marital success. It is better to remain unmarried than be married to the wrong person. Learn at an early age to listen to those in authority over your life, your pastor, your parents, and those that have your best interest at heart.

The third important decision is what one does for a vocation, i.e., what you do to earn a living. The wise old saying is, "If you do what you love, you will never have to work a day in your life" because you enjoy what you do. Young people should consider what they really are interested in doing. Once you figure out what career you are interested in, try to find an opportunity to actually do some type of work in that field. You will probably have to volunteer your time, but what better way to determine if you really like that type of work enough to spend the rest of your working years doing that job. One who really enjoys working on cars may be called to be a mechanic. One who really enjoys working with children may be called to be a teacher. Check the desire, pray, and pursue. Remember we can plan our steps but God will order them! If we do our part God will do His.



Application

Important Decisions

A very popular business author once said, “A failure to plan, is a plan to fail.” For some of you this topic may seem a bit premature but it is never too soon to start planting seeds into our children. If they grow up knowing what the expectations are for them they are more likely to follow through with these expectations. Thus, the seed planted early is more likely to grow deep roots and produce a bountiful harvest of blessings.

1. Have a time of family prayer and devotion:
 - Start with praise and worship to God.
 - Everyone at the same time repent of any sin in your life, wrong thoughts, bad attitudes, wrong words, etc.
2. Ask God to plant seeds of righteousness into your children's spirit that will help them make right decisions as they get older.
3. Parents pray that God would help you be an example of a good parent/spouse. Your children will look for someone like you when they get older.
4. Ask God to give you wisdom. James 1:5; If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.
5. Praise God for hearing your prayers. Thank Him in advance that He is helping your children make wise decisions.



Family Activity

Mad, Sad and Glad

Get some of your favorite cookies ready, (baked or store bought) pour some milk, and everyone sit down at the table together. As you munch on your tasty treat, have a round table discussion.

- Go around the table and have each person share something from their day or week that made them mad.
- Go around the table again and have each person share something from their day or week that made them sad.
- Have each person share something from their day or week that made them glad!
- Ask the question; was it the decisions of another person that affected your mood?

Remember we are all affected not only by our own decisions, but also by the decisions of others. Make wise choices – Your affecting someone!