

## Dysfunction Junction Part 2 *Decision Making in the Family*

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### Message to Conversation Guide

#### Today's Text

##### **Gen 3:1-7**

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" 4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, **she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.** 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. NIV

1. There are two kind of mentors: a positive mentor and a negative mentor - you can learn from both. Positive mentors show us what to do and negative mentors show us what not to do. How were Adam and Eve negative mentors in decision making (they made the worst decision in history) according to today's text?
2. Discuss the two errors in Adam and Eve's horrific decision.
  - *Eve didn't ask for input!*
  - *Adam didn't speak up!*
- 3.
4. What are some of the major decisions couples face? What are some of the minor decisions that we face as couples?
5. In your experience can small decisions create conflict in a relationship or just big decisions?
6. Discuss the definition of independence verses interdependence that is given below.

***Independence - freedom from the control, influence, support, aid, or the like, of others.***

***Interdependence - the quality or condition of being interdependent, or mutually reliant on each other.***

7. Why do we insist on being independent of one another in our relationships when it comes to decision making?
8. Discuss the principle that when we don't ask our spouse for input on decisions we make it dishonors them and undervalues them. Discuss:
  - *When we ask someone for advise on a decision it shows that we hold them in high regard and respect them.*
  - *How does it make you feel when someone asks you for your expertise or advise on something?*
9. Discuss the following list of reasons of why we don't ask our spouse (or anyone) for input.
  - *We are bent on what we want to do and don't want anyone to dissuade us.*
  - *Poor decisions that they have made in the past. (diminishing our trust of their input)*
10. Discuss how seeking counsel and advise can ultimately protect us and make our life better.

***Prov 11:14***

*14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: **but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.** KJV*

***Prov 11:14***

*14 For lack of guidance a nation falls, **but many advisers make victory sure.** NIV*

11. Eve's error was not asking Adam for advise. Adam's error was not speaking up as he stood there. Why is Adam's passive behavior as serious as Eve's lack of inquisitiveness?
12. Discuss some of the reasons for passive silence in decision making:
  - *Fear of Conflict.*
  - *A history of lack of openness from the other spouse.*

**Final Thought:**

*Good decisions come from experience. Experience comes from making bad decisions.*  
*Mark Twain*