

onechurch

bigIdea

Think about the last time you were traveling and got lost. You had your destination in mind. You had every intention of getting there. But you took the wrong path, and you didn't end up where you wanted to be. A disconnect often occurs between the path you choose and where you want to end up. The principle of the path says that direction, not our intention, that determines our destination. So is the path you're on taking you where you want to go?



BIG IDEA: Our direction, not our intention, determines our destination.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when you were lost. How did you get lost? How did you find your bearings?
2. *Read Proverbs 7:6-27.* What path did the young man take? (v. 8)
3. Why does claiming some sort of connection to God not guarantee that you'll choose the right path? (v. 14)
4. What role can marketing play in choosing a deadly path? (v. 21) To what destination does this path lead? (v. 27)
5. When have you watched someone else go down a predictable path? What were the choices that they made? What were the outcomes that they experienced?
6. The principle of the path teaches that direction determines destination. What are some of the paths that you have taken in life? Where did they lead you?
7. Choosing the wrong path in life can cost you years. Describe someone you know who has chosen a wrong path that has cost him or her years.
8. What is your desired destination when it comes to your career, finances, marriage, kids, or relationships?
9. What path are you on now when it comes to your career, finances, kids, or relationships? Where do you see it headed? How is it different than your desired destination? Is there a disconnect from where you want to go and where you're heading now?
10. Describe a time when you thought you were taking a short cut in life, only to discover that it led to a dead end.
11. *Read Psalm 119:105.* How does the Bible illuminate your life path? How does your current use of the Bible make it a lamp for your feet? Based upon how often you read your Bible, would you say that your path is...
 - a. Pitch black
 - b. Dimly lit
 - c. It's getting brighter
 - d. A bright sunny day
12. What path should you pursue so that you will arrive at your desired destination in one of the areas you've mentioned?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. *Read Psalm 1:1-6 & Read Psalm 16:11.* What paths are mentioned here? To what destination does this path lead?
2. *Read Matthew 7:13.* What two roads (or paths) are described here? To what destination do each of these roads lead? On which road do you think you're travelling?
3. *Read 1 Kings 11:1-11.* What path did Solomon choose as described here? What had God said about choosing this path? Describe the ramifications of his choice. How do you think such a wise man could make such a foolish choice?

THINK ABOUT IT

Why do we tend to think that we are the exception to the path principle? Why do we see our choices as individual events, instead of seeing them as a path to a destination?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Wrong paths have an emotional appeal that cause us to trade the immediate for the ultimate. If we choose immediate gratification, then we forfeit where we eventually want to be. What is one thing you will do this week to place yourself on the path to what you ultimately want?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths. Proverbs 7:25