

# Ask It



## Introduction

What if there were a single question you could ask yourself that would guide just about every decision you need to make in your life? A question that would bring clarity and fresh insight for every choice you have to make? A question that would pierce the fog of your self-deception and erase all those shades of gray that cloud your reasoning? A question that would sidestep waste of effort and prevent useless regret, fool-proofing every aspect of your life?

*I believe there is such a question. I believe you can use this question in all aspects of your life to help you reach your fullest potential. Ready for it? First, some facts:*

1. We've all done some really \_\_\_\_\_ stuff.
2. We believed we could control the \_\_\_\_\_ of our decisions.
3. Some bad decisions embarrass us, others \_\_\_\_\_ us.
4. We are all victims of poor \_\_\_\_\_.
5. It takes a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ to make a bad decision.
6. We have all suffered from a lack of necessary \_\_\_\_\_.
7. We are all good at \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves.
8. Bad decisions require \_\_\_\_\_ reasoning.

*"I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received" (Ephesians 4:1).*

*Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the Lord's will is. (Ephesians 5:15-17)*



# Ask It



After sharing Lessons 1 and 2 of *Ask It*, reflect on the following:

1. What are some of the past decisions you have made that you regret the most?
2. How did poor planning or self-deception contribute to those mistakes? Besides yourself, who was hurt, and how?
3. How has asking the question “Is there anything wrong with it?” gotten you into trouble when making decisions in the past?
4. How would you define wisdom?
5. What is a major decision you are facing right now, whether in your personal life, on the job, with your business, with your family, in your church or in your community? Analyze your options according to the following three questions:
  - In light of your past experience, what is the wise thing to do? That is, what insights about your strengths and weaknesses that you have discovered through previous experience can guide your decision?
  - In light of your current circumstances, what is the wise thing to do? Perhaps understanding the season of life you are in can help you determine some options.
  - In light of your future hopes and dreams, what is the wise thing to do? You want to make decisions today that can help lead you to the kind of future you have in mind for yourself tomorrow.
6. What would it look like for you, your family, your employees or your team members at work or in the church to use the same past-present-future analysis when making decisions?

