

Timeless Truths for Modern Disciples

7. How Do I Make Wise Decisions?

PROVERBS 1:1-23; PROVERBS 3:5-6; JAMES 1:5

LESSON OVERVIEW (FOR THE LEADER)

This week's lesson asks one of life's most practical questions: **How do I make wise decisions?**

But before answering that question, we step back and ask an even better one: How do I become the kind of person who naturally makes wise decisions? Proverbs teaches us that wisdom begins with **the fear of the Lord**. Wise decisions are the fruit of a life that consistently walks with God.

Throughout this series we've returned to the same pattern: Separate. Saturate. God will be with you. This lesson simply applies that pattern to decision-making. Instead of reacting impulsively or relying solely on our own understanding, disciples learn to separate from the noise, saturate themselves in God's truth, and trust Him to direct their paths.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP NOTES

If children are present, involve them intentionally throughout the group. Before beginning, assign one child to be the "Kid Reporter." Let them know their job is to listen carefully because at the end of the gathering they will share the most important thing they learned.

Provide children with a Listening Sheet and encourage them to complete it during the teaching and discussion. They may write, draw, or do both depending on their age.

Also encourage children to draw a picture that illustrates the main lesson. At the end of the gathering, give them an opportunity to show and explain their drawing to the group.

Ice Breaker

Think of a decision you've made that turned out really well. Looking back, what helped you make that decision?

TRANSITION: "TONIGHT'S LESSON ISN'T SIMPLY ABOUT FINDING THE 'RIGHT ANSWER' TO ONE DIFFICULT DECISION. IT'S ABOUT BECOMING THE KIND OF DISCIPLE WHO CONSISTENTLY WALKS WITH GOD. WHEN WE BECOME WISE, WISE DECISIONS NATURALLY BEGIN TO FOLLOW."

READ PROVERBS 1:1-7

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think people often make poor decisions when life feels chaotic or emotionally overwhelming?
2. What are some common "voices" competing for our attention when we're making important decisions?
3. Why do you think Proverbs begins with **becoming wise** instead of simply teaching us **how to make wise decisions**?
4. What does it mean to "fear the Lord"?
5. Why is it sometimes difficult to trust God instead of leaning on our own understanding?
6. How can we become people who consistently grow in wisdom rather than simply looking for quick answers?

KIDS' QUESTION

1. When we have a decision to make, why is it important to ask God for help?

Prayer Time

LEADER INSTRUCTIONS

- Leader, as you begin the prayer time, explain to the group that tonight we want to slow down and genuinely seek the Lord together, not just rush through a closing prayer.
- On the next page is a list of prayer prompts based on this lesson. If you want, you can cut these out into individual strips of paper with one prayer prompt on each, and put those prayers in a basket.
- Pass the basket of prayer prompts around the circle and invite anyone who is willing to pray to take one.
- Let everyone know there is no pressure to pray out loud, and children are welcome to participate too.
- Encourage people to quietly read their prompt and begin thinking about how they want to pray when the time comes.
- Begin the prayer time yourself by leading a short opening prayer that helps the group focus on God, become calm and attentive, and invites the Holy Spirit to guide the time.
- Then leave space for others to pray one at a time using their prompts.
- Don't be afraid of a little silence between prayers.
- When it feels like the prayer time is naturally slowing down, close by thanking God for hearing His people, praying for the needs that were shared, and asking God to deepen our love for Him and strengthen our faith in Him throughout the week.

Before dismissing, invite the Kid Reporter to share the most important thing they learned. Then allow any children who would like to do so to show their drawings and briefly explain them to the group.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Thank God that He is perfectly wise.

Praise God that He delights to give wisdom generously to those who ask.

Pray that we would fear the Lord and love His ways.

Pray that God would continue transforming our minds through His Word.

Pray that we would become wise disciples instead of merely seeking wise answers.

Pray for humble hearts that gladly receive God's correction.

Pray that we would trust the Lord instead of leaning on our own understanding.

Pray for discernment to recognize the difference between God's wisdom and the world's wisdom.

Pray that we would separate ourselves from distraction, confusion, and ungodly influences.

Pray that we would delight in Scripture and seek God's voice daily.

Pray for greater consistency in prayer as we seek God's direction.

Pray that God would surround us with wise and godly counselors.

Pray for wisdom in our marriages.

Pray for wisdom as parents and grandparents.

Pray for students and young adults as they make important life decisions.

Pray for those facing difficult decisions regarding health, employment, finances, education, or family.

Pray for our pastors as they shepherd the church with wisdom.

Pray for our deacons and ministry leaders as they make decisions that affect our church family.

Pray that our small groups would become places where biblical wisdom is encouraged and practiced.

Pray that our church would become known for walking wisely before the Lord.

Pray for opportunities to lovingly share God's wisdom with unbelievers.

Pray for those in our church who feel overwhelmed or uncertain, asking God to give them peace and clarity.

Pray that every decision we make would glorify Christ.

Pray that God would continue shaping us into disciples who think and live biblically.

Thank God that He promises to direct the paths of those who trust Him.

Kids' Listening Sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

TODAY'S BIBLE PASSAGE(S):

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I LEARNED:

A WORD I HEARD TODAY:

Word: _____

What does it mean?

SOMETHING I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND:

DRAW A PICTURE OF WHAT YOU LEARNED (ON THE BACK):