

Making Life Decisions

A guide to help you learn
how to make life decisions



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Introduction | Making life decisions

“What does God want me to do?”

For many of us, this is a fairly common question we ask when it’s time to make important life decisions. It could be decisions about a career, who to marry, whether or not to try and have children, if and where to attend college, future financial goals, or even something as simple as where you should vacation.

And because all of life is walking-with-God-life, this question matters. So, let's explore what wisdom can be found in the scriptures about, “What God wants me to do?”
May you walk away from this Resource feeling more equipped to move forward in decision making moments, knowing you're seeking God's heart.

Part 1 | Developing a Heart of Obedience (to Jesus)

Our heart:

Read Mark 12:30

Read Psalm 139:23-24

Take Away:

We're making decisions all the time. And while the decisions we make are important, we see in the Scriptures that God is most concerned about our heart. Or in other words, God cares deeply about the motivations that drive our actions.

Our obedience matters:

Read Luke 11:27-28

Read John 14:21

Take Away:

Obedying Jesus (choosing His way over ours) matters, but it begins by allowing ourselves to be loved by Jesus.

Living like Jesus:

Read Philippians 2:3-5

Read Colossians 3:12-13

Take Away:

The way we choose to think and act propels us in a certain direction. It sets our trajectory. God's best way to live is seen in Jesus.

Questions:

1. Take a few moments to be alone and still as you evaluate the condition of your heart. As David wrote in Psalm 139:23, "...search me, God, and know my heart."
2. What came to mind during this time?
3. What's one specific way you can be more like Jesus this week in that part of your life?

Practice:

Now:

Pray through Psalm 139:23-24 and write down what you feel the Holy Spirit is saying to you.

Later:

Follow God's direction. Example: If He brings to mind needing to ask forgiveness of someone, do it. His way is always best.

Consider, what are practical ways you can live out Colossians 3:12 today?

Part 2 | Growing in your ability to discern God's voice

Be still:

Read Psalm 46:10a

Read Psalm 1:1-2

Take Away:

Our lives are filled with NOISE – work, phones, people, media... all screaming for our attention. We must be intentional about creating space to listen to God.

Prayer (and fasting):

Read Philippians 4:6

Read Matthew 6:5

Take away:

Bring your requests to God.

Watch for opportunities:

Read Romans 8:28

What if every moment of interaction, distraction, and frustration are actually opportunities to see God work?

Questions:

1. Am I creating a space to listen to God in my daily routine? When was the last time I was quiet and listened to God?
2. What distractions in your life make it difficult to be still? What do you need to do to keep them from controlling you?
3. What does it look like to believe every moment around you is an opportunity for God to work, speak, heal and restore?

Practice:

Now:

As a group or individual, spend a few minutes being still/quiet with God. If this feels awkward, that's okay. It may help diminish distractions if you close your eyes as you fix your attention on Jesus.

Look at your calendar this week, schedule the times where you will read the Bible and pray.

Later:

Spend some time listening to God this week.

Idea: Begin a journal of your conversations with Him.

Practice being aware that all moments are God-moments.

Part 3 | Seeking out and listening to wise counsel

Counsel:

Read Proverbs 1:5

Read Proverbs 27:9

Read Proverbs 11:14

Read Proverbs 15:22

Take Away:

Seeking out wise counsel and advice from others who love and follow Jesus is important because it aligns us again and again with the heart of God and who God has made us to be. In difficult decisions and situations, be sure to choose people you know will tell you the truth, not simply what you want to hear.

Listen:

Read Proverbs 12:15

Read Proverbs 13:10

Read Proverbs 19:20

Take away:

Actively listen to advice, especially gentle rebuke and discipline.

Questions:

1. Do you take advice well? Why or why not?
2. What circumstances in your life would you have wished you'd asked for advice, but didn't?
3. Who are the people in your life that you ask for advice/counsel from?
4. Is there anything you are seeking counsel on right now? If so, what?

Practice:

Now:

Make a list of 3-5 people that could give you wise counsel.

If you're currently in a place of having to make a decision, connect with 2-3 people who love and follow Jesus and ask if they'd be willing to listen to your situation, then offer insight.

Later:

While listening to counsel, ask yourself, "Is my heart right with God?" and, "What do I believe God wants me to do with this decision?"

Part 4 | Making a decision

First decision:

Read Psalm 27:14

Take away:

The first decision to make is deciding whether to pray and wait, or to act now.

Second decision:

Read Acts 20:16

Take Away:

If you haven't taken steps forward yet, you'll eventually need to do something – even if that means doing nothing. At least a decision will have been made.

The Holy Spirit:

Read Acts 16:7

Read John 14:16-17a

Take Away:

Sometimes the Holy Spirit intervenes directly while other times, the Spirit of God gently leads and guides us.

Read Romans 12:2

Take Away:

Be ready for decisions to be contrary to cultural norms.

Questions:

Are you going to pray and wait, or should you act?

Are you open to the Holy Spirit's intervention? How might this be better, but difficult?

Are you willing to listen and obey?

Practice:

Now:

In prayer, ask God if it's time to act or wait.

Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18-20) while seeking an answer.

Later:

Read James 4:13-17 and meditate on its meaning and application.

May you continue to learn and practice the way of Jesus in your everyday moments.