



Making Decisions

Activity

For the next few lessons the ability to make decisions based on wise choices, the Word of God, and counsel will be explained and discussed. Before reading the Biblical Insight, write down two recent poor decisions and two recent good decisions. This lesson and lessons to come will refer back to this Activity.

Biblical Insight

King Solomon, in the Book of Proverbs, gives us practical prescriptions for living. Where does wisdom begin? “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 9:10).

The wise person isn’t afraid that God will harm him. This type of “fear” means an overwhelming, almost paralyzing awe of God.

Only the Holy Spirit can give you this fear of God, a sense of the holy, overwhelming awe at His existence, which is the mindset required for wisdom.

This awareness helps us realize we are ultimately accountable for our deeds. Knowing we are ultimately accountable for what we do helps us discipline ourselves. When people do not daily consider God and His presence, they accept the false belief that there are no consequences for their behavior.

The awesome awareness of God’s presence is essential to a healthy conscience. Without a conscience, we become the victims of our own foolish judgment. So wisdom begins with remaining aware of the awesome presence of God in our consciences.

Composition

Read John 18:1–11 and answer the following questions about Peter’s decision making.

What kinds of men were sent for Jesus? _____

How was Jesus’ power displayed? _____

Whom did Peter attack? _____

What was Jesus’ reaction to Peter’s decision? _____

Discussion

Using some of your own poor decisions and the poor decision made by Peter, discuss what caused Peter or you to make such a rash decision. Think about some of the facts discovered in the Composition section. Isn’t it interesting that Peter chose to attack the servant of the high priest instead of those who had the power to arrest Jesus?

Evaluation

Can you see the difference between the processes by which you made good and poor decisions in your own life? Were you more guided by the emotion of the time, rather than the wisdom that can be gleaned from God’s Word?

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A: Answers will vary.

C: What kinds of men were sent for Jesus? *Soldiers and officers of the temple.*

How was Jesus' power displayed? *He used the Word of God to Moses. He answered, "I am He" and those who came to arrest Him fell to the ground.*

Whom did Peter attack? *The high priest's servant, Malchus*

What was Jesus' reaction to Peter's decision? *He scolded Peter and then healed the servant.*

D: Answers will vary.

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