**Session 3**

**Making**

***Wise Decisions***

**Catching Up**

How would you define wisdom?

Who is the wisest person you know?

**Key Verse**

“If any of you need wisdom you should ask God, and it will be given to you.”

**JAMES 1:5 CEV**

**Video Lesson**

Watch the session three video lesson now and fill in the blanks in the outline on pages. Refer back to the outline during your group discussion.

**Lesson Outline**

A dream is worthless unless you wake up and act on it.

Life is not about making quick decisions. It’s about making the right decisions.

**God’s Principles for Making Wise Decisions:**

**1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Before you do anything else, get God’s perspective on the issue.

*“If any of you need wisdom, you should ask God, and it will be given to you.”*

**JAMES 1:5 CEV**

*“A man is foolish to trust himself! But those who use God’s wisdom are safe.”*

**PROVERBS 28:26 TLB**

**Ask: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?**

**2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

There is no contradiction between faith and fact. It’s wise to find out all you can before you make a decision.

*“Every prudent man acts out of knowledge.”*

**PROVERBS 13:16 NCV**

*“How stupid . . . to decide before knowing the facts!”*

**PROVERBS 18:13 TLB**

**Ask: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ before I make this decision?**

**3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*“The more good advice you get, the more likely you are to win.”*

**PROVERBS 24:6 GNT**

It is wise to learn from experience, but it is wiser to learn from the experience of others.

We’d rather appear wise than be wise.

*“Get good advice and you will succeed.”*

**PROVERBS 20:18 GNT**

**Ask: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?**

**4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Every decision has a price tag.

*“It is a trap for a man to dedicate something rashly and only later to consider his vows.”*

**PROVERBS 20:25 NIV**

Making a quick decision is not as important as making the right decision, and a right decision is an informed decision.

*“Don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? . . . Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him?”*

**LUKE 14:28, 31 NLT**

**Ask: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?**

**5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*“A sensible man watches for problems ahead and prepares to meet them. The simpleton never looks and suffers the consequences.”*

**PROVERBS 27:12 TLB**

You can’t ignore problems, because they are not going to ignore you. Prepare for problems, but don’t try to solve all of them ahead of time.

Never confuse the decision-making phase with the problem-solving phase.

**Ask: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?**

**6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Fear is at the root of all indecision.

*“Moses said . . . ‘They won’t do what I tell them to . . . I’m just not a good speaker.’”*

**EXODUS 4:1, 10 TLB**

*“Gideon replied . . . ‘I am the least in my family.’”*

**JUDGES 6:15 NIV**

*“Abraham . . . said to himself, ‘Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old?’”*

**GENESIS 17:17 NIV**

*“If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done.”*

**ECCLESIASTES 11:4 TLB**

Perfectionism paralyzes potential. The basic commitments of life must be made under imperfect conditions.

*“If God is for us, who can be against us?”*

**ROMANS 8:31 (NIV**

**Ask: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?**

Not to decide is to decide. What decision do you need to make?

**Living on Purpose**

1.

What decision are you facing that requires a step of faith?

2.

Which of the six questions in the lesson outline is the most pressing for you right now? Explain.

3.

At what point in the decision-making process do you usually ask God for his direction?

4.

Why do you think God lets you decide how to live your life rather than making those decisions for you?

**Prayer Direction**

If you are in the decision phase, call on the Lord as your Counselor (see Isaiah 9:6). Ask him for wisdom and discernment and to help you make the right decision. Pray for each other’s requests.

**Putting It into Practice**

What will you do between now and your next group meeting that will move you forward in the decision phase of faith?

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| --- |
| *Do something great with your life for Jesus’ sake. Don’t live a life of mediocrity. Don’t drift through life. Don’t just exist. Make the decision that you’re going to follow hard after Christ. That will determine your destiny not just on earth, but also for all eternity.* |

**Small Group Prayer and**

**Praise Report**

This is a place where you can write each other’s requests for prayer. You can also make a not when God answers a prayer. Pray for each other’s requests. If you’re new to group prayer, it’s okay to pray silently or to pray by using just one sentence:

**“God, please help \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”**

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| **Date** | **Person** | **Prayer Request** | **Praise/Update** |
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