



Decisions, decisions

Life is full of decisions. Some are as simple and mundane as which sock to put on first. Other decisions, like what we will believe, which career we will choose and who we will marry, can change the course of our life. God wants to help us make good choices in our lives, but there is one choice that is more important than all the rest...the choice to live a life that reflects the character of God.

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Before you start:

1. Prayerfully read through the whole lesson at least twice.
2. Gather all the materials you need for each section (see right).
3. Work with another team member and plan who will manage each section of the session.

Leadership Personal Preparation:

What are some of the big choices you've made in your life? How did you decide what to do? How did your relationship with God help you to make the choice you made? How did you know you'd made the right choice? Did you have any startling experiences that guided you in the right direction? What do you think would have happened if you'd made a different choice? How has God used your choices to help you become more like him? If the Holy Spirit invites you to do so, be ready to tell the story of your experience during the welcome or the conclusion. Otherwise use the inspiration of your personal experience to fill you with enthusiasm for today's session.

You will need:

- Paper and Pens
- Icebreaker:**
- 4 large letter signs – A, B, C, D.
- Sticky tack to stick signs to the walls
- Copy of the Icebreaker scenarios
- Mission Possible:**
- Copies of the Mission Possible Instruction Cards
- Word Search:**
- Copies of Word Search studies - 1 complete study per person
- Family Focus Time:**
- Family Discussion Cards - 1 card per family
- Drinks and cups
- Praying Together:**
- CD player and CD of soft worship music
- Jesus and Me (JAM) Session:**
- CD player and CD of soft worship music
- One set of 'Jesus and Me' Journal Pages per participant
- Take-away Menu (optional):**
- A large sheet of card that can be cut up, or pieces of card about half the size of a postcard
- Old maps or road atlases that can be cut up
- Glue sticks
- Scissors or paper cutting machine

Stick a large piece of map carefully onto a large piece of card and cut it into smaller pieces when the glue has dried, or cut the map into neat sections that will fit on the small cards and glue one piece of map to one side of each card.

By the end of the session, the group members will:

- Know that God wants to help them make good choices for their lives, especially choices that will help them to reveal his character to those around them.
- Feel that God cares about each person, has positive plans for their life and wants to help them make the best choices.
- Respond by making important life decisions based on God's eternal plan for their life, and not on popular ideas about human success.



KID for Teens: Leaders Guide: 19 Decisions, decisions



Welcome and Prayer – 5 mins

Say:

“ Sometimes it’s really hard to know what to do. Have you ever had to make a difficult decision? How did you decide what to do? Some people think that looking at the stars, or even the tea-leaves that fall out of their cup, will help them to make good decisions!

But Christians know that God loves them, cares about every detail of their lives, and knows their future. His ultimate goal is for us to become more like him. So today we’re going to explore how to make the best decisions for our lives. ”

Icebreaker - 8 mins

You will need:

1. Four large pieces of card, each with a different large letter printed on it – A, B, C and D
 2. Sticky Tack
 3. Multiple-choice decision sheet – ‘What would you do?’ – (from session resources)
- Before the session, stick one of the letter signs in each corner of the room, or on a long wall.
 - When you are ready say: ‘To begin the session I’m going to read out some different situations and some of the different ways you could respond. Think about the situation and what you would do and then go and stand by the letter that best represents your choice.’
 - Read out the situations, let everyone respond by moving into a letter group and then comment on the responses as appropriate.
 - Try to keep the pace lively and fun.

Mission Possible - Imagine - 15 mins

You will need:

1. Instruction cards
 2. Paper and pens
- Form people into groups of 3-4 and give them 5-7 minutes to work through this exercise.
 - The instruction cards ask them to imagine that they are God and that they are trying to help a human being to make the best choices throughout their life.
 - The group’s task is to list all the ways in which God might try to communicate with the person. They also need to discuss and list the ways in which God might try to guide a person, and how he might protect them and respond to them when they make an unexpected or unwise choice. There are many different examples of God guiding and influencing people in the Bible that can inspire their answers.

Mission Possible - Feedback

Let each group contribute one of their ideas in turn until all the ideas have been listed.

Discuss - How might it feel to be Father God, watching all the children you love make wise, crazy, stupid, creative, dangerous and interesting decisions?

What might be challenging about being God, knowing the future and seeing and feeling the results of the different choices your children are making? How would you feel if you saw someone make a bad choice that would affect generations of his or her descendents?

How might thinking about these things change the way you make your choices and the ways in which you involve God in your decision-making process?





19 KID for Teens: Leaders Guide: Decisions, decisions



Word Search – 25/35 mins

You will need:

1. Paper and pens
 2. Copies of the 'Word Search' studies - 1 complete study per person
- Divide the larger group into sub-groups of at least 8 people. (*Small groups see instructions below)
 - Allocate one of the numbered sections of the study to a smaller group of 2-4 people so that each of the 4 topics is covered within the sub-group.
 - Allow 10 minutes for each of the 4 small groups to study their section.
 - Then bring the 4 groups together and let each small group present their different thoughts and discoveries.
 - *If you have a very small group – break into two groups and let one group study sections 1 and 2 and the other group study sections 3 and 4. Allow a longer study time and then bring the two groups together to share their discoveries.

Praying together – 10 mins

- Ask one person to tell the rest of their family about a decision they need to make.
- Let everyone in the family spend a few moments praying together about the decision and praying that God will help the person make the best possible choice.
- Continue this pattern until everyone has been prayed for.

JAM Session (Jesus and Me) – 5 mins

You will need:

1. CD player and CD of soft worship music
 2. One set of Journal Pages per participant
- Give out the 'Jesus and Me' journal pages for this week.
 - Allow at least five minutes for people to make a start on their pages so that they will be encouraged to complete their projects during the week ahead.

Family Focus - 15 mins

You will need:

1. Drinks and cups
 2. Family Discussion Cards - 1 card per family
- Serve drinks.
 - Let the everyone re-assemble into their family groups, collecting a drink on the way.
 - Give each family a discussion card.

Take-away Menu – 5 mins

1. *You will need:*
Ready-prepared small cards with
 2. pieces of map glued onto one side
Pens
- Give each person a small card with a piece of old map or road atlas stuck onto one side.
 - Let them reflect on one thing they have learned from the study today that will help them to make good decisions and follow God's direction in their life.
 - Ask them to write this message on the back of their card to take away.

Closing Prayer





19 KID for Teens: Leaders Guide: Icebreaker Scenarios



You are walking through an unfamiliar town to meet a friend whose mobile phone is dead, and you're lost.

Are you more likely to:

- A – Just keep walking until you find your way again?
- B – Ask someone for directions?
- C – Sit on a bench until your friend finds you?
- D – Phone another friend and ask them to look on Google maps to see where you are?

You're looking for a birthday present for one of your friends, but you're not sure what to buy.

Are you more likely to:

- A – Rush into a shop and buy the first thing you see?
- B – Call your friend and ask them what they would like?
- C – Buy them a gift voucher?
- D – Buy them a crazy toy for a joke?

You want to go away on holiday and you don't know where to go. Are you more likely to:

- A – Stick a pin in a map and go wherever it lands?
- B – Go to a place you've been before and know really well, so you won't be disappointed?
- C – Go somewhere your friends have recommended?
- D – Go to the local dry-ski slope and pretend you're really in the Alps?

You need an outfit for an interview. Are you more likely to:

- A – Go to a discount store and buy the cheapest thing you can?
- B – Borrow an outfit from your parents?
- C – Buy the best outfit you can afford at the moment and try to buy something you can use again?
- D – Pick the first three things you pull out of a crumpled pile on your bedroom floor: surely the interviewer is more interested in you than the clothes you're wearing?

You want to redecorate your room. Are you more likely to:

- A – Look through lots of magazines and get some ideas?
- B – Recycle what you already have – dye the duvet cover and curtains, repaint the furniture etc?
- C – Let the youngest person in the family choose your wallpaper?
- D – Let a TV designer do whatever crazy thing they want to your room?

Something you were going to do has been cancelled so you have a whole day to yourself.

Are you more likely to:

- A – Stay in bed?
- B – Call a friend and see what they're doing?
- C – Do something fun you've always wanted to do?
- D – Do a job that you've been putting off for ages?

You are ordering a meal in a restaurant. Are you more likely to:

- A – Have the same food as your friend?
- B – Try something unusual you've never had before?
- C – Ask the serving staff to tell you what they think is the best dish on the menu today?
- D – Number the dishes 1-6 and roll a dice to help you choose?

You or your wife has just had a baby and the baby doesn't have a name yet.

Are you more likely to:

- A – Call the baby after your favourite famous person?
- B – Name the baby after a grandparent?
- C – Make up a name by pulling Scrabble letters out of a hat?
- D – Open the Bible and call the child after the first Bible character you can find?



Imagine...

Imagine that you are God and you're trying to help a human being (maybe you) to make the best choices throughout their life.

What are God's goals for each person and how are these different from the goals that our culture and society say we should achieve?

List all the ways in which God might try to communicate with the person, guide them, protect them and manage the situation when the person makes an unexpected or unwise choice.

There are many different examples throughout the Bible, of God guiding people in their decisions and lives, that might help you to create this list.

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19 Handout: Word Search: Decisions, decisions - A



Why does it sometimes seem so hard for us to know what God wants us to do with our lives? And even when we do know what God wants, why is it so hard to follow God's plans for us?

Jeremiah 17:9

Proverbs 14:12

What other things make it very hard for us to discover and do what God wants us to do with our lives?

Discovering God's will for our lives is not about choosing the perfect thing to do, or choosing the perfect place to be. It's about choosing to become a person who reveals something of God's character to the world.





Handout: Word Search:

19 Decisions, decisions - B



How does God help us to know his will for our lives?

Psalm 119:105

John 16:13

Genesis 45:5-8

What other methods does God use to help us know his will?

Discovering God's will for our lives is not about choosing the perfect thing to do, or choosing the perfect place to be. It's about choosing to become a person who reveals something of God's character to the world.





19 Handout: Word Search: Decisions, decisions - C



What are some of the things we need to do that will help us to be more aware of what God wants to do in our lives? Look up the verses and write the guidelines in your own words.

Proverbs 3:5-6

1.

2.

3.

Proverbs 9:10

4.

5.

Romans 12:1-2

6.

10.

7.

11.

8.

12.

9.

What other ways does God use to guide us in our lives?

Discovering God's will for our lives is not about choosing the perfect thing to do, or choosing the perfect place to be. It's about choosing to become a person who reveals something of God's character to the world.





19 Handout: Word Search: Decisions, decisions - D



How do we know God has our best interests at heart, and wants to help us make the best choices for our lives?

Jeremiah 29:11

Romans 6:28

Revelation 21:3-7

What other things do you know that reassure you and help you to believe that God wants only the very best for you?

Discovering God's will for our lives is not about choosing the perfect thing to do, or choosing the perfect place to be. It's about choosing to become a person who reveals something of God's character to the world.



LESSON 19 -

FAMILY Discussion CARD

Something important I have learned today about God's plan for my life is...

One good decision that God helped me to make was... and he helped me by...

When I need to make a big decision I usually...

One stupid decision I made in my life was to...

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19 Handout: Jesus and Me Journal Lesson 19 Decisions, decisions...



My Child, I love you with all my heart. I have great plans for your life. Not that you will be rich or famous or good-looking, but that your life will be full of truly good things. I know that you'll be most happy and fulfilled when you grow to become more like me. Here are some of the hopes, dreams and plans I have for you....

God has great plans for your life!

Summarise these verses in your own words, as if God was writing a personal letter to you:

Jeremiah 29:11

John 10:10

Luke 10:38-42

2 Corinthians 3:18

Romans 8:28

With all my love, always, your Father God





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Handout: Jesus and Me Journal Lesson 19 God's Global Positioning System...



Read the following texts again and write in the arrows some of the ways God guides us, and some of the things we can do to help God guide us.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Psalm 119:105 | Ephesians 6:11-12 |
| John 16:13 | Luke 6:31 |
| Genesis 45:5-8 | Deuteronomy 6:5-6 |
| James 1:5 | Jeremiah 33:3 |

The form consists of ten large, empty arrows of various sizes and orientations, scattered across the page. These arrows are intended for students to write their reflections on the Bible verses provided above.





19 Handout: Jesus and Me - Journal Lesson 19

Heroes and Heroines I: Story-lines



Choose your favourite Bible character (if you're stuck use Hebrews 11 as a shortlist).

Re-read the story of your character's life to remind you of the important details and events.

Draw the plot of their story on the page below or on a larger piece of paper.

Use pictures, lines, pathways, symbols and words, etc, whatever is easiest or most interesting for you.

Or you can use string to represent their life-line. Lay it out on the floor or a table and find objects or draw pictures to illustrate the different parts of their lives.

Use symbols and signposts to illustrate the different ways God guided their life along their journey to help them become more like him.





19

Handout: Jesus and Me - Journal Lesson 19 Heroes and Heroines II: Wondering



Look at the journey of your hero or heroine's life and wonder about it...

Can you imagine a
SUB-PLOT in their life
THAT you THINK COULD
HAVE BEEN LEFT OUT
OF THE BIBLE
STORY?

With WHICH PARTS
OF THEIR STORY
DO YOU IDENTIFY
MOST CLOSELY?

IN WHAT WAYS DID
THEIR CHARACTER
BECOME MORE LIKE
GOD'S OVER THEIR
LIFETIME?

WHAT DO YOU LIKE
BEST ABOUT THIS
PERSON'S STORY?

WHEN your CHOSEN HERO
OR HEROINE MADE a POOR
OR WRONG CHOICE, WHAT
DID GOD DO?

WHAT IS THE
MOST IMPORTANT
THING YOU'VE
LEARNED FROM
LOOKING AT
THEIR LIFE?





19 Handout: Jesus and Me - Journal Lesson 19 Your Unique Story-line



Now make a story-line for your life, just as you did for your Bible hero or heroine:

- Plot the important events and decisions in your life.
- Mark how God helped you, or your parents, to make the different choices that have influenced your life. Did he provide circumstances that guided you, answered prayers, closed down certain choices, gave you wisdom to know what to do, involved other people in helping you make the choice, inspired you through messages in the Bible, etc?
- Look at the journey of your life and wonder about it...



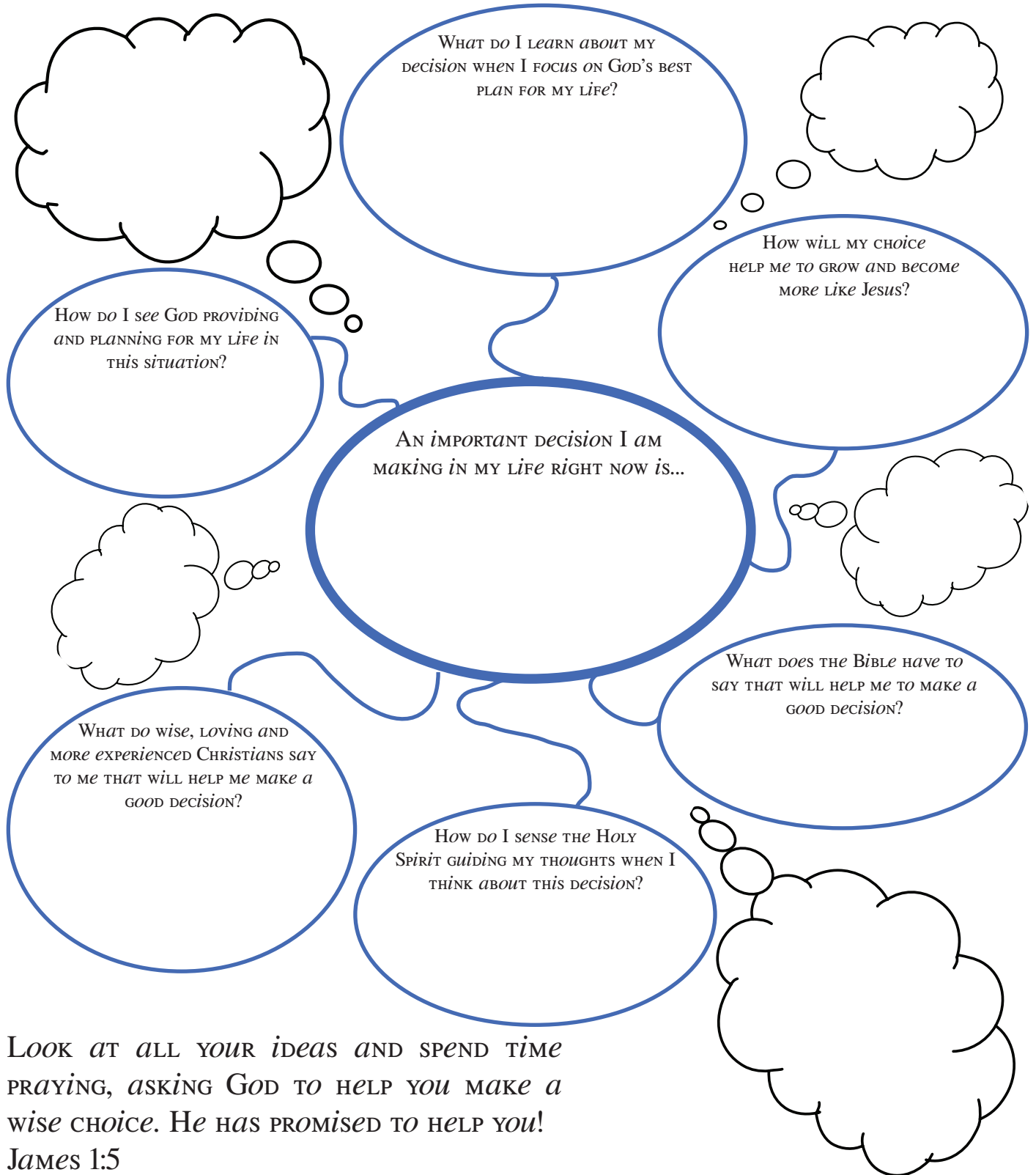


19 Handout: Jesus and Me - Journal Lesson 19

How to make a good decision for your life



Write a decision in the middle of the diagram and answer the questions in the satellite shapes. Write any other thoughts and ideas about the decision in the clouds between the shapes.



Look at all your ideas and spend time praying, asking God to help you make a wise choice. He has promised to help you!
James 1:5

