




Message by Pastor Josh 9-4-16
Message Based Questions to help your personal Study & LifeGroup Discussions

 **CONNECTING:** *Connecting to one another with a warm up question or through worship.*

What color describes your mood today? Why?

 **EXPLORING IT:** *Review the sermon outline and explore the message by using the following Q's which will help you dig in a little deeper and make sure you get the message.*

*The mission of the church is to transform the world through the life-changing message of Jesus for the glory of God.
By loving God, loving God's people and then loving the world.*

To Listen to Message (CTRL + Click the Link)

<http://www.northlakeonline.org/messages/index.html>

How do you make the right decisions?

Who or what pressures us to do what we do? Think what we think? Who makes or influences our decisions?

When making decisions-what principles should help you with your decision?

What does the Bible say about decisions?

How do you know when and if your motives are right when making decisions?

Who are the folks that help you work things out when making decisions? Why is it important to bounce your thoughts off wise counsel?

What has been your toughest decision this past year? How did you overcome fear, impatience, etc.. when making decisions? Describe what ended up prevailing—your feelings? Wise Counsel of others? Your Circumstances? Other?

What are the advantages to being cautious in making decisions? Any disadvantages?

When making decisions how do you go about getting all the facts?

Are you willing and trusting God in your decision making process?

How can we pray for you?



PRAY IT: *Now that you have connected, explored and applied it—it is now time to tap into the power of prayer individually throughout the week as well as corporately praying for one another. Perhaps by sharing the real life challenges and blessings with one another this will help people see what God can do in their lives and will lead them into a plan of action.*

More Food for thought

I know I've made some pretty dumb decisions in my life—how about you?

I have enjoyed studying Proverbs and when it comes to sorting out all the complexities of daily life only wisdom can reveal the best path. So even though we are done with this series I want to encourage you to keep reading through proverbs and using the wisdom found within it.

Proverbs 16:9 says that “In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.”

I found the below info on the subject and it is very similar to the principles Pastor Josh taught. Hope you enjoy.

"What does the Bible say about decision-making?" From www.gotquestions.org

The Bible offers many principles to aid the process of making decisions that honor God. The following list is not exhaustive, but it does represent many teachings of Scripture.

First, begin with prayer. First Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” If we should pray in all situations, we should certainly pray in times of decision-making. As we pray, we ask for wisdom (James 1:5).

Second, define the issue. Wise decisions are informed decisions. It is important to understand what options are available. Once the factors are known, options can be further considered and evaluated.

Third, seek biblical wisdom. Some decisions become easy, if there is one clear choice consonant with God's Word. Psalms 119:105 says, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” When we follow the teachings of God's Word, He guides our path and provides knowledge to make wise choices.

Fourth, seek godly counsel. Proverbs 15:22 says, “Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.” Sometimes, consulting with a friend or family member is enough. At other times, consulting with a pastor or other trusted voice can make the difference between a harmful decision and a helpful one.

Fifth, trust the Lord with your decision. In other words, if you've make your decision with prayer, sound wisdom, and biblical counsel, trust God for the outcome. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

Sixth, be willing to admit mistakes and adjust accordingly. In most cases, there is no wisdom in continuing down a wrong path after you have discovered it is wrong. Be willing to admit mistakes or failures and ask God for the grace to change.

Seventh, give praise to God for your success. When your decisions result in personal success, the temptation is to believe it is due to your own power, talent, or genius. However, it is God who blesses our efforts and gives strength. “A man can receive only what is given him from heaven” (John 3:27).

Keep Pressing On!

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