

# MAKING WISE CHOICES

## 8TH GRADE

### OBJECTIVE

Equip your 8th grader with a decision-making framework rooted in God's truth, helping them recognize how small choices today shape their future.

### WHAT TO KNOW

8th grade is a pivotal season—students are testing independence, managing new pressures, and encountering more significant choices around peer groups, academics, technology, and personal integrity. They're starting to think more critically about why they do what they do, not just blindly following rules. This is the perfect time to teach them discernment—how to make choices that reflect wisdom, not impulse. Wise choices protect their future, honor God, and build habits that lead to lasting character. And like all growth, it starts with small, everyday decisions.

### TRUTH FROM THE BIBLE

*If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.* James 1:5

God doesn't expect us to have all the answers—He invites us to ask Him for help.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.* Proverbs 3:5–6

Wise choices come from trusting God's perspective more than our own.

*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.* Galatians 6:7–8

Every choice we make plants a seed—either for growth or regret.

*Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I trust your commands.* Psalm 119:66

Wisdom grows when we choose to trust God's Word and follow His lead.



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## TALK ABOUT IT

- What's the hardest decision you've had to make lately?
- When you're not sure what to do, who or what helps you decide?
- How do you know if a choice is wise?
- What does it look like to make a choice that honors God, even when it's hard?
- What's one area where you want to grow in making better choices?

## LIVE IT OUT

Encourage your student to pause and pray before making decisions—even small ones. Help them think through potential outcomes by asking, “What could this lead to?” Talk about a few people they trust for godly advice and how to reach out when they need help. Give them a simple filter to run choices through: “Does this honor God? Is it honest? Will I regret it later?” Encourage them to keep a journal or note on their phone with verses or wisdom they can turn to in hard moments. As a parent, invite your student into one of your own decision-making moments this week. Walk through how you consider options, seek wisdom, and trust God—even when the path forward isn't easy or clear. Modeling this helps them see that wisdom isn't about perfection—it's about pursuing God's best.

## PRAY TOGETHER

Pray with your student this week, asking God to guide them toward wisdom and courage in their choices.

“God, thank You that You give us wisdom when we ask. Help us make choices that reflect Your love and truth. Give us courage to do what's right, even when it's hard, and surround us with voices that lead us toward You. Amen.”

