

MAKING WISE CHOICES

9TH GRADE

OBJECTIVE

Help your student understand how daily choices shape their future and why wisdom from God is essential in every decision.

WHAT TO KNOW

Your 9th grader is adjusting to high school, and with that comes more freedom—and more decisions. They're learning who they are, who they want to be, and how their choices affect the direction of their life. From the friends they keep to the content they consume, every decision is shaping their character.

At this stage, it's important to talk about wisdom as more than just knowing right from wrong. Wisdom means thinking beyond the moment and learning to align choices with God's truth. Your student may not always make perfect decisions, but they can learn to pause, pray, and ask for guidance. And they need to know you're walking with them through it all.

TRUTH FROM THE BIBLE

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault.

James 1:5 NIV

God will give you wisdom when you ask—no guilt, no shame.

Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 11:14 NKJV

Wise choices are built with the help of trusted people.

I keep asking that ... God ... may give you the Spirit of wisdom ... so that you may know Him better.

Ephesians 1:17–18 NIV

The more we know God, the more clearly we understand wise living.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5 NIV

Wisdom means relying on God, even when things don't make sense.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom ... Proverbs 9:10 NIV

Respecting God is where true wisdom begins.



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TALK ABOUT IT

- Where in your life do you feel like you need more wisdom?
- What's a choice you made recently that you're proud of?
- Have you ever seen someone face big consequences because of a small decision?
- Who are the voices you're listening to most right now—and are they leading you closer to God or further away?

Encourage your student to think carefully before making big choices. Talk about how short-term wins can lead to long-term pain, and how true wisdom comes from seeking God and listening to trusted mentors.

LIVE IT OUT

EXAMPLE

Plan a simple “Friendship Playdate” with your kid. Go for ice cream, have a park picnic, build a fort, or bake something together. Use the time to talk about what it means to be a good friend and how Jesus wants us to treat others. You could even help your kid invite a friend who is known for being kind, patient, or helpful.

During or after the time together, ask what your child enjoyed most about their time with their friend. Talk about whether they shared, took turns, or used kind words, and how it felt to show love to someone else.

You can also encourage your child to draw a picture or make a card for a friend, showing them love in a simple way. Help them see that friendships don't have to be perfect—but they can always reflect God's love through care, forgiveness, and kindness.

PRAY TOGETHER

The decisions your student faces can feel heavy—especially in a season of growth and independence. Remind them that God offers wisdom freely and generously. Together, ask Him to guide every step.

"God, thank You for being generous with Your wisdom. Help us slow down and ask for Your guidance. Give us courage to do what's right, even when it's hard. Grow us into people who live with purpose and make choices that reflect You. Amen."

