



Life Is Complicated. We Can Help.

Decision Making

#nplifeiscomplicated

Week 8

November 1, 2020

Bottom Line: Your decisions determine the direction and quality of your life.

Icebreaker: Other than receiving Jesus, share two of your best decisions in life and explain why.

Key Verse: *Be free from pride-filled opinions, for they will harm your cherished unity. Don't allow self-promotion to hide in your hearts, but in authentic humility put others first and view others as more important than yourselves. Abandon every display of selfishness. Possess a greater concern for what matters to others instead of your own interests.*
Philippians 2:3-4 TPT

Life is all about decision-making. Your decisions are the way you manage your life. Our decisions are heavily influenced by our emotions and feelings, but they shape and direct the quality of our lives. Nothing is more important than the decisions we make, and therefore HOW we make them.

Andy Stanley's new book, *Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets*, shares five questions and decisions that form a grid for wiser decision-making in our lives:

- The **INTEGRITY** Question: Am I being honest with myself?
Decision 1: I will not lie to myself even though the truth makes me feel bad about myself.
- The **LEGACY** Question: What story do I want to tell?
Decision 2: I will write a story I'm proud to tell, one decision at a time.
- The **CONSCIENCE** Question: Is there a tension that needs my attention?
Decision 3: I will explore rather than ignore my conscience.
- The **MATURITY** Question: What is the wise thing to do?
Decision 4: I will take the past, present, and future into consideration.
- The **RELATIONSHIP** Question: What does love require of me?
Decision 5: I will decide with the interest of others in mind.

These directives are the godly principles that will allow us to build a solid, satisfying life with fewer regrets.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Which of these statements resonate most strongly with you? Why?

- Our experiences confirm that our appetites often overrule our intelligence.
- Your decisions have shaped and directed the quality of your life.
- You never fully know what hangs in the balance of your decision.
- Private decisions have public implications. They probably won't stay private.
- Your personal decisions will impact and influence others.

Dishonesty is much easier to spot than deceit. Deceit is a mixture of half-truth. Discuss. How have you deceived yourself? Whom do you allow to help you recognize self-deceit?

Every decision you make becomes a permanent part of your story. When you are under pressure, it is hard to think about the future realistically. Our emotions deceive us. How can you help yourself stop and consider?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

In what ways do your appetites threaten to overrule your intelligence?

How does the tension manifest itself to you when you are uncertain about a decision?

One of the difficulties we face in making a decision is that our tendency is to only focus on the question "Is there anything wrong with it?" The question "Is it the wise thing to do in light of my past experiences, my present situation, and my current hopes and dreams?" takes it to a whole other level. Think of a scenario you are facing right now where a decision may be morally okay, but the other questions point out real issues to consider. Share.

The most dangerous question is, "What does love require of me?" It will lead you way beyond right and wrong and will provide uncomfortable clarity about what comes next: What would be most loving to the people around me? It's the way to live a life that matters. Imagine what could happen! Pray about it.

NEXT STEPS

1. Ask the five questions above every day between now and the end of the year.
2. Keep a brief, ongoing record of your decisions.
3. Keep a record of the outcome. What did God do? How is life stronger?

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Your decisions determine the direction and quality of your life.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Proverbs 16:2

Tuesday: Proverbs 26:11-12

Wednesday: Proverbs 18:2, Proverbs 27:6

Thursday: Colossians 3:17

Friday: Proverbs 2:11-12

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)