



YOU ASKED FOR IT!

The Wise Choice

#npyouasked

Week 2

2 of 4

July 9, 2017

Bottom Line: Christ-followers have a godly filter for making decisions.

Icebreaker: What was your first experience with a church? How was it different than NewPointe in 1 or 2 words?

Key Verse: *Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.*
Ephesians 5:15-17

Christians (Christ-followers) are called and privileged to live life by a different standard than the rest of the world. It’s not because we are “holier-than-thou” or are condescending toward others. Being a Christian is all about living a Christ-centered life. We are convinced that following Jesus makes life better and makes us better at life. Jesus said, “I have come that you might have LIFE and have it to the full.” The best life. So, growing as a Christian is essentially becoming familiar with God’s ways. We begin to understand that living the God-life—living the Christian life—is about living a life of submission to God. We believe that God knows best. We believe that He has greater plans for us than we do. We believe that Jesus loves us more than we love ourselves. Therefore, we believe that our wisest and most fulfilled lives come from living within His guidelines.

We have the ability to live with the Holy Spirit as the premiere influencer in our lives. A popular gameshow gives contestants the opportunity to “phone a friend” to get wise insight before they answer a question. We always have the opportunity to listen to the Holy Spirit and get the best possible perspective on our choices. Ask . . .

What does the Bible say? Where Scripture speaks clearly – God has spoken clearly.

What do godlier or wiser people think/say? What do people who are “further along” in life, and have more experience, think/say?

What is the wise thing to do? In light of my past experiences, my present circumstances, and my future hopes and dreams, what is the wise choice?

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most specifically from the weekend message?

“We all have a tendency to play as close as we can to disaster in our lives. Our tendency is to get as close to the line as possible—to dance on the edge morally—how close to sin can I get without sinning?”
What makes this dangerous?

Discuss: “The loss of control is a sin. Loss of control has led you to some of your greatest regrets. A loss of control in someone else’s life has led to a disaster in your life. Don’t ever do ANYTHING that leads you to a point where you just can’t help yourself.”

“Anything in my life that baits me to or leads me to where I lose control, my heavenly Father is opposed to that.” How might this be different for each individual? What does this have to say about personal convictions?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

Are there some decisions in questionable areas that you believe may be different for you than for another just as devoted follower of Jesus?

How can a person recognize the Holy Spirit’s input or direction?

Submission to God leads us not to ask “what can I do or what can I get away with?” but rather “what is the wise thing to do? How would life improve/have improved for your children if they learned that when they were young? God’s Father’s heart has those same desires for us.

Once you have set a godly boundary in your life, what helps you enforce it? How do you personally keep from sliding back into unwise decisions?

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together, as a group:

- 1) Share an area where you are asking or need to ask the three questions.
- 2) Pray for each other.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Christ-followers have a godly filter for making decisions.

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:

Day 1: Philippians 4:8

Day 2: 2 Corinthians 10:15

Day 3: Ephesians 5:15-17

Day 4: 1 Corinthians 10:31

Day 5: 1 Corinthians 8:8-12

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)