



Week 3 – Making Good decisions and Raising Good Decision-Makers

If someone asked you to name the wisest man who ever lived, who would you choose? Would you say, King Solomon? He is known throughout the world and down through history as an incredibly wise man. The book of Proverbs is filled with wise teachings from Solomon, and in Proverbs 4:1-2. He tells his sons, "listen, my sons to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching." Solomon's wisdom was given to him by God, but this famous King also credits his earthly father, King David: "when I was a boy in my father's house, still tender, and an only child of my mother, he taught me and said, 'Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commandments and you will live.'" Proverbs 4:3-4 . David passed down to Solomon, what he had learned about making good decisions, and Solomon tried to teach those lessons to his own children.

This week we will discuss how parents can raise good decision-makers. What does the Bible say about the topic, and why it is so important.

Before you begin this week's discussion, think about how you currently make decisions. If you are a parent, also consider the ways in which you influence your children's decisions. For each of the statements below, indicate your level agreement by placing a "x" through one of the options. In a sense, the word "decisions" refers to an important decision, like the choice of the new job, moving to a different city, deciding to make a major purchase, reacting to peer pressure, or asking someone out on a date.

Before I make decisions, I think your options and weigh pros/cons.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

I pray and ask for God's guidance before I make decisions.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

Before I make decisions, I consult people and ask for their opinion.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

I think about what the Bible says (or look in the Bible for guidance).before I make decisions.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

Other people come to me for my help and guidance when they need to make decisions.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

If you are a parent answer the next question

My guidance and example are a major influence on my children when they make decisions.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

Read Proverbs 3: 1- 17

According to verses 3-4, what is the benefit of being constantly loving and faithful?

According to verses 5-6, what is the benefit of always trusting the Lord and allowing him to guide you?



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According to verses 7-8, what is the benefit of not being arrogant about your own wisdom, but instead respecting God and avoiding evil?

According to verses 9- 10, what is the benefit of giving money to God (to the church or other organizations doing God's work)?

According to verses 11- 12, God disciplines those he loves. Share a time when a parent of yours disciplined you in a way that helps you make better decisions.

Wisdom is different from intelligence. Intelligence is about knowing things. Wisdom is about knowing what to do in real-life situations. If you have the chance to give intelligence and wisdom to your children, what proportion of each would you give to them. and why? Why did you choose the combination?

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A. 90% intelligence, 10% wisdom | D. 30% intelligence, 70% wisdom |
| B. 70% intelligence, 30% wisdom | E. 10% intelligence, 90% wisdom |
| C. 50% intelligence, 50% wisdom | |

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-7

According to these verses, the formula for passing wisdom to your children looks like this:

- love the Lord (verse 5)
- live by the Bible (verse 6)
- teach your children to do the same (verse 7)

Which of these three you think you do best? In which area do you need the most improvement? Explain your answer.

Which of the ratings that you gave above was the lowest and why?

What is one specific way in which you can improve your ability to make decisions?

What is one specific way you can help your children learn to make good decisions?