

LifeGroup Discussion Questions

Passage: Various

July 5, 2020

Overview:

How do you make decisions? Every day we are faced with choices. Some major, life changing choices and other less significant choices. The one thing all these choices have in common is we must make a decision. So the question still remains: How do you go about making decisions? Do you go by your gut and just do what feels right? Do you try to follow a self-imposed moral code of right and wrong? Do you go along with what is popular in today's society? Do you choose what benefits you the most?

All of these are valid questions when making a decision. For a believer in Jesus the ultimate basis for decision making is following God's will. How do we know we are following God's will and not just our own desires? The Apostle Paul thought he was fulfilling God's will by persecuting the early church. Acts 8:3 states: "Saul (Paul) was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison." At this point in Paul's life he thought his decision making was based off of God's will. It took a Damascus Road moment to change Paul's thoughts.

The majority of us will not have something as dramatic as Jesus confronting us on a road. We must discern God's will by prayer, the reading of His word, and the wisdom of other believers. Too often we seek God's wisdom in one area of our life while blatantly being disobedient in another. It is a difficult path to be on when you are disobedient to God in your marriage and yet try to follow His will in your job. Or are disobedient with your finances and try to follow His will in leading your family. One of the first steps to follow God's will in your life is dealing with the areas of disobedience.

Quote by J.D. Greear "We often see the will of God like a "Choose Your Own Adventure" story: We have two doors in front of us, and one probably leads to peace and prosperity and the other to doom and destruction. When things go wrong later, we look back and think, "If I had only known the right door!"

How do we know what God wants us to do in any given situation? Does he give us some warm, fuzzy feeling of peace when we think about the right decision? Do we learn to see God's hand in strange coincidences or look for signs in our Cheerios?"

What if we make the wrong decision? Do our decisions somehow affect the sovereignty of God? We can see throughout both the Old and New Testament that God is sovereign over everything, even bad decisions. King David was NOT making

good decisions when he had an affair with Bathsheba and then murdered Uriah. Jacob was not making a good decision when he deceived Isaac and stole Esau's birthright. Joseph's brothers were not making good decisions when they sold him into slavery in Egypt. Rahab was not making good life choices living as a prostitute. Through all these decisions God was still in control. Many of these people are actually found in the genealogy of Jesus. God can not only use your bad decisions, but He can have them bring about His ultimate plan of salvation.

There is a certain peace in knowing that even within our bad decisions God is still in control. He knows what we are going to choose even before we know the options. God's sovereignty doesn't give us a license to do whatever we want. We still seek to follow His will in all we do, not out of only obedience, but out of love. Seeking and honoring God with our decisions is a daily challenge. Pray, read His word and seek the wisdom of other believers. These three things will help you in following God's will in your life.

Bible Study: Read the following passages. Discuss your decision making process.

1. **Psalm 121:1-2** From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
2. **James 1:5** ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.
3. **Proverbs 3:5-6** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
4. What obstacles do you face when making a major decision in your life?
5. What if you had everything you ever asked for? The dream house/life, full retirement accounts, and unlimited vacations. Do you value wisdom over all of this?
6. Why is seeking the counsel of others sometimes difficult?
7. Who in your life has the permission to tell you if you are pursuing your own happiness or God's Will?