

✘ Planning and Decision Making ✘

YOUNG PERSON KNOWS HOW TO PLAN AHEAD AND MAKE CHOICES.

By Jamie Rust

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Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



- What is the best decision you have ever made? What influenced you?
- What was one of the worst decisions you have made?
- How do you make decisions?
- What is your process for making big life decisions, such as choosing a career or relationship?
- How can our decisions impact others? Please give an example.
- Have you ever asked God for help in making a decision? Do you think God helped?
- Do you feel like your path in life is determined by God, by you, or by the both of you? In what ways?
- What feelings come to mind when you think of God's will for your life?
- How can we recognize God's direction?
- What is your biggest passion? How does this passion fit into your plans for the future? Does it tie into your faith?

EXPLORE

Isaiah 25:1	...plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
Proverbs 16:33	...but the decision is the Lord's alone.
Joshua 24:15	...as for me and my household, we will...
Micah 6:8	...and what does the Lord require of you but to...
Acts 9:15	...this man is my chosen instrument to carry my name...
Ephesians 3:20-21	...by the power at work within us is able to accomplish...



So What?



Pick one of the following that best describes your reflection on this discussion and complete the sentence with your own thoughts.

- I need...
- I hope...
- I learned...
- I will pray...
- I am still wondering...
- I am feeling...
- I will take action by....

Candle Time



Each person write on a piece of paper a decision to ask for God's guidance. When done writing, crumple up the paper. Place a large bowl in the center of the group. The bowl represents God's love and grace given at the time of baptism. One by one, drop crumpled decisions into the bowl while silently praying descriptions of how it feels to release this decision into God's hands. End by praying Ephesians 3:20-21.

Leader Page

Discussion Goal

Let God lead your decisions

Background

Self-esteem is a word that is very worn out. It is used everywhere and because of that the real meaning of self-esteem gets lost. From a very early age, my generation was taught that self-esteem was a good thing to have, but it has always been defined in terms of a consumer oriented society that assumes success, winning, earning, recognition, control, superiority, being right, being all, owning more, doing things better, looking better, and impressing others. These messages bombard us constantly and are daily reinforced through television, radio, movies, magazines and countless self-help books. We end up living in a consumer-driven trance that constantly tells us “You are not good enough. You need... more, better, bigger, prettier, healthier, faster, smarter, sexier, safer, braver, happier, _____ (fill in the blank with any product).”

Christians know that God “created our inmost being” and God “knows us.” God made us the way we are and accepts us for that. God accepts us and loves us when we don’t, and even when we can’t. Uniqueness, belonging, hope and purpose are the elements that give self-worth and meaning. God makes us unique by giving us various gifts. God says we belong by claiming us as his own child. God gives us hope in a kingdom that exists now and in the future. God gives us purpose as we learn to see God and help others recognize God’s presence, love and grace.

Motivate

Have 2 or 3 small bags/boxes packed for each person in the group. In one of the boxes place a candy bar or some other luscious prize! The other containers should be empty. Ask the first member of the group to pick between the two bags, first letting them know that only one has a wonderful prize. They may get the treat or they may not. Continue this pattern for each participant except for the last person.

Tell the last person that he or she is lucky because you will now pre-identify which container the treat is in letting him or her choose the right one. They may or may not trust you, but the point is that they were guided.

Ask last Person: What made you trust or not trust my guidance?

Ask group: What thoughts were going through your minds before the last person chose?
How did it feel knowing the last person was given guidance?

Just to be nice you may want to give a round of treats to everyone.

Read together Jeremiah 29:11

In what ways do you trust or not show trust for God’s guidance?



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