

CREW Bible Study

Message Series NOW & LATER – Week 1

About this series: We're all making decisions now that can affect our later—our future—whether we like it or not and whether we realize it or not. And while many students may get this intuitively, there's often a competing idea that what they do now doesn't really matter in the long run. That's why, in this series, you'll be leading students to the secret behind good decision-making: wisdom. Through the wisdom found in Proverbs, you'll help students learn what it looks like to apply wisdom to their everyday decisions NOW, which can lead them to a better life and a better future LATER.

- **BOTTOM LINE:** Wisdom now can help you miss mistakes later.
- **GOAL:** To help students realize that making good decisions today can positively impact their tomorrow.
- **SCRIPTURE:** *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6*

MESSAGE

Think of a time when you've made a dumb decision. What comes to mind?

We've all made them. Everything from physically going the wrong way, to eating food that clearly had been in the frig way too long, to questionable outfit choices.

Some choices OBVIOUSLY fall into the right or wrong category. Stealing and cheating – definitely wrong. But there's a lot of things that fall into more of a gray area.

Take lying for instance. Technically this is wrong, but have you found yourself in a situation where you felt that was ok to lie to spare someone's feelings?

And what about your friends? Maybe you have a friend who has been there for you for years, but now has started making some bad decisions. And you can see that their language, habits and bad decisions are rubbing off on you. Is it right to stay friends with someone like that?

How do you make decisions when the answer isn't so obvious? It's important to figure this out because what you do now will affect your later. Sometimes it doesn't even take a day to feel the effects of a bad decision. A lot of our decisions now affect our now and our later!

So what do we do about it?

There's one word that sums up the answer. Wisdom.

Wisdom makes things more clear when situations are blurry. The Book of Proverbs gives us a lot of great points about wisdom. It was written by King Solomon, who was known for being incredibly wise.

In Proverbs chapter 3, verses 5-6, he says this:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.

Above all, Solomon says to TRUST GOD. He's been around for a long time and He knows the situations we face! You and me – we've only been around for a short time compared to God. We only know what we've experienced. So we've got to admit He's more wise than we are.

So trust God. Get Him involved in every part of your life. As this verse says, don't lean on your own understanding. Get Him involved in all your ways – in every part of your life. And He will give you the wisdom you need to move forward. He will make the path straight for you. He will make it clear.

Life doesn't always present clear-cut choices. But making wise choices now absolutely gives you the best shot to avoid mistakes and have a better later.

Here's three things to remember:

1. Trust God
2. Seek out His wisdom for the situation.
3. Get Him involved in every aspect of your life.

Wisdom now really can help you miss mistakes and have a better later.

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is one dumb decision you have made in your life? What prompted you to make that decision?
2. What is one thing you hope is true about your life 6 months from now? What about 6 years from now?
3. What's one situation you've found yourself in that fell into the "gray" category of neither completely right or wrong, and you had to decide for yourself? How did you decide what to do? What was the outcome?
4. What do you do with the questions you have that you can't just Google or ask "Alexa" to answer? Where do you go for answers?
5. How do you decide if someone is a good advice-giver or not?
6. When can trusting your gut be a good thing? When can it be bad?
7. Where are one or two places you can go for wisdom when you need it?