

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 26, 2014

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. We have all learned that decisions have consequences. Often we think of consequences as the negative results of a decision, but decisions can have positive consequences as well. Can you think of any decisions you've made in your life that have resulted in positive consequences?

2. Is there a time in your life when someone failed to keep a commitment to you? How did you handle that failure?

What are some possible reasons people don't keep their commitments?

For you personally, what is it that motivates you to keep your commitments?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend we heard about three keys to making good decisions – stop, look, and listen. In what ways could the following verses help us in the decision making process?

John 16:12-14

Proverbs 16:2

Galatians 6:7-8

Looking at these verses and the three keys Larry mentioned, which one is easiest for you to leave out of your decision making process?

Which is the one you most naturally include?

2. Seeking out wise counsel is an important step when we're making decisions. In addition,

becoming a wise person is also an important part of learning to make good decisions over a life time. Which of the benefits of working hard to become wise in Proverbs 3:13-18 jumps out at you?

Proverbs 2:1-5 talks about what it takes to gain wisdom and the benefits that come with it. What are some practical ways you could carry out the pursuit of wisdom in your life?

3. King Solomon was the wisest man of his day, yet even he made some really bad decisions. A summary of some of those decisions can be found in 1 Kings 11:1-13. In what ways do you see Solomon failing to use the principles of good decision making that Larry mentioned this weekend?

As you look at Solomon's progression from wise (see 1 Kings 4:29-30) to foolish, in what ways can we also make the same mistakes today?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Looking at a current decision you're facing, how could the three keys Larry talked about for making good decisions and the three additional verses used in Digging Deeper #1 affect that decision?

2. Is there a decision you are currently faced with for which you'd like prayer?

Prayer Requests:

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DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend we heard about three keys to making good decisions – stop, look, and listen. In what ways could the following verses help us in the decision making process?

John 16:12-14

12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. [NIV]

Proverbs 16:2

2 All a person's ways seem pure to them,
but motives are weighed by the Lord. [NIV]

Galatians 6:7-8

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. [NIV]

Looking at these verses and the three keys Larry mentioned, which one is easiest for you to leave out of your decision making process?

Which is the one you most naturally include?

2. Seeking out wise counsel is an important step when we're making decisions. In addition, becoming a wise person is also an important part of learning to make good decisions over a life time. Which of the benefits of working hard to become wise in Proverbs 3:13-18 jumps out at you?

Proverbs 3:13-18

- 13 Blessed are those who find wisdom,
those who gain understanding,
- 14 for she is more profitable than silver
and yields better returns than gold.
- 15 She is more precious than rubies;
nothing you desire can compare with her.
- 16 Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.
- 17 Her ways are pleasant ways,
and all her paths are peace.
- 18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her;
those who hold her fast will be blessed. [NIV]

Proverbs 2:1-5 talks about what it takes to gain wisdom and the benefits that come with it. What are some practical ways you could carry out the pursuit of wisdom in your life?

Proverbs 2:1-5

Moral Benefits of Wisdom

- 2:1 My son, if you accept my words
and store up my commands within you,
- 2 turning your ear to wisdom
and applying your heart to understanding—
- 3 indeed, if you call out for insight
and cry aloud for understanding,
- 4 and if you look for it as for silver
and search for it as for hidden treasure,
- 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God. [NIV]

3. King Solomon was the wisest man of his day, yet even he made some really bad decisions. A summary of some of those decisions can be found in 1 Kings 11:1-13. In what ways do you see Solomon failing to use the principles of good decision making that Larry mentioned this weekend?

1 Kings 11:1-13

Solomon's Wives

1 King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter— Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. 2 They were from nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. 3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. 4 As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. 5 He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. 6 So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord; he did not follow the Lord completely, as David his father had done.

7 On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. 8 He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods.

9 The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. 10 Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the Lord's command. 11 So the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates. 12 Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son. 13 Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen." [NIV]

As you look at Solomon's progression from wise (see 1 Kings 4:29-30) to foolish, in what ways can we also make the same mistakes today?

1 Kings 4:29-30

Solomon's Wisdom

29 God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. 30 Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. [NIV]

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