

Date of Sermon: October 18, 2020

Topic of Sermon: Making Good Decisions

Main Passage: Proverbs 3:5-8

BEFORE your group meeting:

- **Participate in Worship** in-person or online to hear the sermon you will be discussing.
 - You can also catch-up on YouTube or at https://www.foresthill.org/en/on_demand
- **Encourage your group members** to watch the sermon and take a closer look at the Scripture that is used.
- **Look over the questions** provided below and think through your own responses.
- **Plan your meeting.** The Dig Deeper section is great to use in your group discussion (if there's time) or you can send it out to your group members after the meeting for their personal devotion time.
- **Pray for the Spirit** to use your group discussion to encourage dynamic life in Christ in each of you.

What's the Big Idea?

The key to making good decisions is making informed decisions.

Get Started

What kind of decision maker are you? Are you someone who goes with your gut or someone who slowly weighs all the options and even then has a hard time making a choice?

Dive into the Sermon

- Read Proverbs 3:5-6. According to this passage, making wise decisions begins by trusting in the Lord and knowing Him. This word for knowing means “experiential and relational knowledge of God” like how you know someone in your family or a close friend. How does knowing someone relate to how much you trust them? What are some truths about who God is that help you trust Him more? What are some ways that you can grow to know Him more so you will trust Him more?
- What does “He will make your paths straight” mean to you? How have you seen God make your paths straight in the past? Was it Him giving you a specific plan or direction or was it being guided by God in a general direction?
- Do you have a process you use for decision making? If so, what is it? In the sermon, there were 5 steps given for decision-making:
 - **Get Guidance from God (Proverbs 13:13, 18:15, Psalm 119:103-105).**
 - **Get Essential Information (Proverbs 21:5, 14:15).**
 - **Get Wise Counsel (Proverbs 13:20, 15:22).**
 - **Slow Down, Stop and Consider (Proverbs 14:16, 19:2).**
 - **Make your Decision and Trust God.**

Read the passages above and consider the 5 suggested steps of decision making from Proverbs. What is a decision—big or small—you need to make? How can these steps guide you? Which step is easiest for you? Which one is most challenging?

Dig Deeper into a Scripture Passage

Use the HEAR Bible Reading Method to learn more what the Bible teaches us about joy.



Bible-Reading Tip: Begin by asking God to open your eyes and hearts to His Word. In 1 Corinthians 2:6-16, Paul writes that the Spirit – who lives inside everyone who believes in Jesus – knows the depths of God and reveals Him to those who follow Jesus. So, always begin your time of reading the Bible with a prayer for Him to open your eyes and ears to what He will reveal. This doesn't mean that you will always have an emotional encounter or a special revelation, but you are acknowledging that He is that One through whom all wisdom is revealed.

Proverbs 3:5-8

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own understanding;

⁶ in all your ways know him,
and he will make your paths straight.

⁷ Don't be wise in your own eyes;
fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

⁸ This will be healing for your body
and strengthening for your bones.

HEAR Bible Reading Method

HIGHLIGHT the passage

- Underline any repeated words or key ideas you see.
- Note any questions you have about what you read.
- In 2-3 sentences, summarize what was said or what happened.

EXPLAIN the passage

- What was revealed about God? His character, desires, and/or actions?
- What was revealed about people? What we are/do or what we should be/do?

APPLY the passage

- From this reading, what truth do you need to embrace?
- By God's power, how will you THINK, SPEAK, or ACT differently based on what you read?

RESPOND to the passage

- Talk to God about what you've seen and learned in this passage.
- Ask Him to help you apply the truth to your life.