

Discernment: Making Decisions

Discernment is big word for **making decisions** in a way that you think about the choices you have and keep God involved in helping you make good decisions.

Think about it... How do you make decisions?

What kind of things do you have to make decisions about? Check the ones that you make decisions about, either alone or with your parents or family.

- ☐ school projects
- ☐ meals
- ☐ spending your allowance
- ☐ sports, music, or other activities
- ☐ family trips
- ☐ family vacation
- ☐ clothing you wear
- ☐ what to watch on TV
- ☐ which friends to hang out with

When you make decisions, who do you usually talk to? Read the list and check who you talk to before making decisions.

- ☐ friends
- ☐ parents
- ☐ brothers or sisters
- ☐ grand parents
- ☐ teachers
- ☐ pastor
- ☐ friends
- ☐ God
- ☐ Jesus
- ☐ Holy Spirit



Jesus Makes Good Decisions

One example we see of Jesus practicing discernment, is during his 40 day retreat into the desert. Read the story below and see how Jesus' experience (Luke 4:1-13) can help us to see how good decisions might take place especially when we're facing temptations.

Jesus returned from the Jordan full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit into the desert, where he was tempted by the Devil for forty days. In all that time he ate nothing, so that he was hungry when it was over.

The Devil said to him, "If you are God's Son, order these stones to turn into bread." But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, 'Human beings cannot live on bread alone.'"

Do you ever make choices just to feel good or to find the easiest and quickest way out?



Then the Devil took him up and showed him in a second all the kingdoms of the world. "I will give you all this power and all this wealth," the Devil told him. "It has all been handed over to me, and I can give it anyone I choose. All this will be yours, then, if you worship me." Jesus answered, "The scripture says, Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!"

Do you ever make choices to get as much stuff for yourself as possible?



Then the Devil took him to Jerusalem and set him on the highest point of the Temple, and said to him, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down from here. For the scripture says, 'God will order his angels to take good care of you.' It also says, 'They will hold you up with their hands, so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.'" But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Do you ever make choices just to attract attention to yourself, to look good to others, or to be the most popular?



When the Devil finished tempting Jesus in every way, he left him for a while.

Try It! — Discernment

Think of a decision that you just made, or need to make, and practice the process of “discerning” a decision by walking through the steps below.

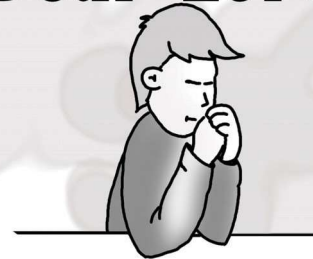
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What's the decision you need to make?

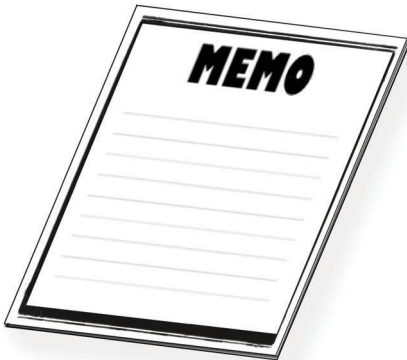
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Dear Lord...



Ask for God's help in making your decision.

2



What choices do you have? Make a list of your options, good or bad.

5



Imagine what it's like to live your decision for a few days and see how it feels.

3



How will you make a good choice? Put a “heart” in front of good and loving choices and a “U” in front of bad or unloving choices.

6



Make the decision!

Discernment Word Search



When **DISCERNING** something, we...

- **listen** to God by praying
- **listen** to your family and friends you trust
- **find** the best choices you can make
- **think** about the consequences of each choice
- **let** your heart and mind tell you about the best choice for you
- **make** a decision that honors God

Find the words listed below in the word search, and then write out the phrase with the remaining letters. (instead of circling, cross-out the words as you find them)

S	E	C	N	E	U	Q	E	S	N	O	C	P	D	A
T	I	E	N	G	L	C	S	E	D	I	E	E	S	I
M	P	O	R	O	T	I	A	N	N	N	T	F	Y	T
I	N	D	I	O	E	S	S	C	O	S	E	L	I	E
R	N	M	E	D	N	M	T	T	U	I	I	I	K	L
U	M	A	V	A	B	K	I	R	E	M	T	N	R	O
E	L	Q	N	D	L	B	T	T	A	N	Q	P	N	F
A	C	P	R	V	Q	I	B	F	C	J	I	M	O	Q
J	P	P	C	I	F	A	I	T	H	U	B	N	M	S
F	G	T	P	C	R	U	C	S	P	O	U	T	G	G
K	A	A	C	E	H	G	B	F	Q	L	A	W	D	X
A	Q	O	Y	N	Q	R	D	A	T	D	X	P	O	A
J	A	A	C	F	O	N	R	P	E	H	R	W	B	E
S	R	W	W	M	Y	A	B	D	Q	J	C	B	Y	D
P	V	Y	D	M	K	X	T	N	W	U	G	Q	T	O

CONSEQUENCES
FAITH
FAMILY
FRIENDS
GOODADVICE
LIFE
LISTENING
OPTIONS
PRAYER
TIME
TRUSTED

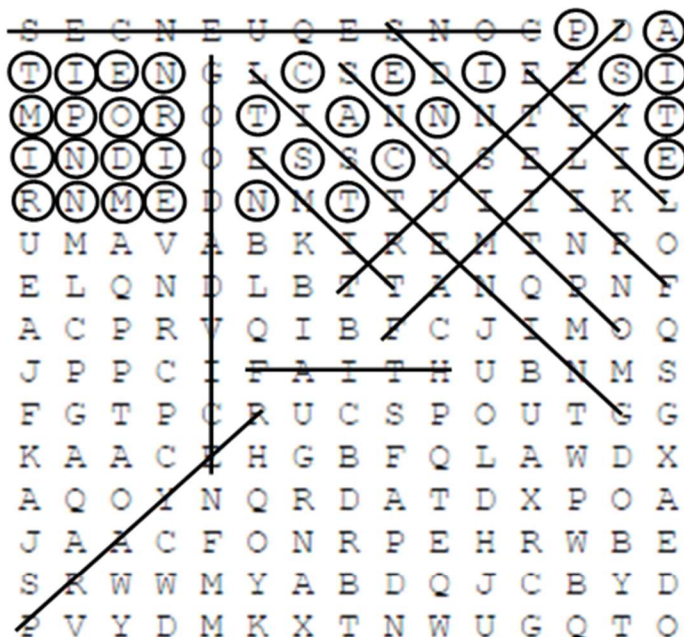
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P A T I E N C E I S I M P O R T A N T
I N D I S C E R N M E N T .