

SESSION 5: ALIGN FUTURE DECISION MAKING AROUND GOD & VALUES

Welcome, Review Study/LIFE Starter Journaling: 20 minutes

Discuss your 4-Quadrant Goals. Be very specific.

Session #5 Teaching: Alignment: 10 minutes

I hope you intentionally focused on your 4-quadrant goals over the last week, because this week it's time to continue to connect the dots over the last several weeks. I also hope you're doing the LIFE starter journaling that helps you dig deeper into God's Word so He can inform what and how you should live in those 4 quadrants. It's time to align future decision making around your core values, passions and the goals/improvement areas that God put on your heart. Sadly, we often make decisions in a vacuum without having the full picture that God wants us to have. Over the last few weeks, I hope that God has firmed up some foundational aspects that you can build a purposeful life on. But it is all for not if it doesn't impact your decision making and day to day. It will simply end up as a piece of paper in a file drawer or a distant memory.

Consider what James says about doing what we know God wants us to do:

"For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."

James 1:23-25

So, today, it's time to talk about decision making moving forward. Think back to session 2 and your core values exercise and make sure they are posted in front of you and you are using them on a daily basis to make better decisions. Remember, your best decisions reflect your core values. Think of every decision as a BIG decision. Every decision should be a Biblical one, because every decision will either glorify God (or not). Second, your decisions should start with prayer. We have a saying around here: pray first. Many of us skip this step and run ahead of God. Sometimes taking a minute before acting is all it takes to make you realize that the decision was NOT a good one! If you trust that God is your guide in decision making, you should go to Him in prayer before moving forward with any decision. Prayer is our lifeline to finding and fulfilling God's perfect will for our lives. Third, your best decisions should include wisdom from others. I find that if I commit to vetting decisions through my wife and the leaders that God has placed in my life, it will slow me down just enough to allow God to speak to and lead ME! Lastly, remember your best decisions take time. Don't rush and make decisions out of fear. Make a rule for yourself that, if you can, you will always SLEEP on a decision. After taking the first three steps, give it at least 24-hours and you will save yourself a lot of trouble. Nothing will happen overnight and if it does, God didn't will it to be!

Today, we are going to discuss some decisions you've made that don't match your values. What was the outcome? How can you use your values in the future for ALL decisions? There are MANY Scriptures that focus on decision making. Today, I want you to start with prayer as a group (out loud) right now for some upcoming decisions you need to make and then review Proverbs 11:14, 12:15, 15:22, 19:20, 24:6, 14:15 & 13:16 as a group and discuss. Divide up those verses and read them aloud as a group. Then discuss what implications this all has on your personal decision making going forward.

For homework this week, I want you to start connecting the dots of this study. Look back through this study and see how everything starts to pave a road to God's purpose for your life. Make some radical commitments to those closest to you in order to put all these lessons into practice in a practical way in YOUR life! Remember to focus on the LIFE Starters Journaling Method and it will give you more insight into Biblical decision making!

Small Group Discussion: 15 minutes

Your Best Decisions Reflect Your Values

- Discuss some decisions you've made that don't match your values.
- What was the outcome?
- How can you use your values in the future for ALL decisions?

Your Decisions Should Start with Prayer

- Pray with your group (out loud) right now for some upcoming decisions you need to make.

Your Best Decisions Should Include Wisdom from Others

- Read Proverbs 11:14, 12:15, 15:22, 19:20 & 24:6 aloud as a group and discuss.

Your Best Decisions Take Time

- Read Proverbs 14:15 & 13:16 aloud as a group and discuss.

Small Group Wrap-Up: 10 minutes

What did you cover in your small group time? What were the biggest take-aways and action items?

Discuss This Week's Homework: 5 minutes

Connect the dots of this study. Look back through this study and see how everything starts to pave a road to God's purpose for your life. Make some radical commitments to those closest to you in order to put all these lessons into practice in a practical way in YOUR life!

Focus on the **LIFE Starters Journaling Method** and it will give you more insight into **Biblical decision making!**

SESSION #5

WK. 5 DEVO 1

Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-33

What biblical principles should inform my decisions? Who can help me better understand what God's Word says about this decision? Make sure you are not the only one who holds to your interpretation.

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

F=Focus: to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #5

WK. 5 DEVO 2

Read Proverbs 18

Ask a lot of questions. Don't fall prey to "wishful thinking" or let your emotions get the best of you. Remember that there are two sides to every story.

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SESSION #5

WK. 5 DEVO 3

Read Proverbs 19

Beware of the "once in a lifetime" deal and the lure of instant gratification. Don't let the fear of missing out drive your decision (FOMO). When in doubt, leave it out.

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I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

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SESSION #5

WK. 5 DEVO 4

Read Proverbs 26

How should past experiences inform my decisions? Look for patterns of behavior – “triggers.” Understand how your family background might affect your thinking. Learn from your mistakes!

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I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

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