

Choosing Well

Everyday Decisions for Teens

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Introduction

When was the last time you made an important decision? Last year? A few months back? How about last night?

Sometimes, we just don't think about making decisions unless we're talking about the BIG long-term decisions we make, like, "What should I do after high school?" or, "Should I get married?" But the truth is, we make decisions all the time. Every day.

Now here's the scary part: We make a lot of important decisions every day, and most of the time we don't stop to think about what we're doing. We may be making the wrong decisions simply because we're not taking the time to think through the possible consequences of our decisions. Consider these two situations:

You need to decide where you are going to go to college. What do you do?

You talk to your parents, your teachers, and your counselors. You visit the websites of many different colleges and universities. You visit some of them. You check out social media and see what others are saying. You may sit down with a pencil and paper and list the pros and cons of each, including your family's financial needs. You narrow down your choices, talk to some more people you trust, and finally arrive at a decision. Well done.

You're at a party, and the person who drove you is now drunk. It's getting late. Your curfew is approaching rapidly. You need a ride home. What do you do?

You shrug your shoulders and figure it's worth the chance. You don't want to make the driver mad at you. You get in the car.

You arrive home...or not. Not so well done.



See the difference? Generally you can figure out how to make the big decisions, especially if you're choosing between a few good options. But it's the seemingly little decisions that you don't think through that can drastically change your life. The truth is, the choices you make and the decisions you face as a teenager can be life-changing. Whether you realize it or not, you make choices every day that deeply affect your life and the lives of those around you.

Choosing Faith

Consistently choosing the way of faith in your daily decisions and choosing the way you make and keep friends will change your life for the better and present you with more blessings than you ever imagined possible.

The Power and Impact of Social Media

As teenagers in the twenty-first century, you have at your fingertips and in the palms of your hands a powerful and potentially dangerous tool that your parents and grandparents could have never imagined when they were your age—social media. Although the kinds and names of social media sites and apps may change over time, certainly their presence and power are here to stay. There are obvious benefits to certain types of social media that help you stay in touch with friends, keep up on news events and global trends, and keep yourself entertained and sometimes educated!

But there are obvious and certain dangers at work in social media, too, and you must be mindful of the power you wield when you post about yourself and other people.