



DECISIONS, DECISIONS (Leader's Guide)

Opening Prayer:

Gracious heavenly Father, You alone hold the key to all wisdom. You know what is best for Your children. Direct our thoughts and our hearts to what You would have us learn. Help us to grow in understanding of You and Your will for our lives. Enable us to live by Your Word. In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Introduction:

Decisions, decisions. In LWML there seem to be many of them to make. Many of them are not easy to make. Business meetings and the decisions that come as a result of them are necessary to further the work and mission of this organization. How can we be sure we are making the right decision? How do we know we are following God's will in the LWML and in our lives? Let's go straight to the source, the Bible, and find some answers.

Read Philippians 1:9-11

"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God."

The apostle Paul wrote these words to urge the Philippians to grow in their knowledge and wisdom according to the Word of God. He encouraged this in order to lead them to the ability to make wise decisions. We too, need encouragement to grow in our own understanding of the Scriptures. We too, need to grow in knowledge and wisdom.

- **What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom?** (*Knowledge is acquired information. Wisdom is the ability to use knowledge for the benefit of oneself and others.*)
- **How do we acquire knowledge of God's Word?** (*The Holy Spirit works in our hearts as we read and study the Bible, attend worship services, Bible classes, read daily devotions, etc.*)
- **How do we acquire wisdom?**

Psalm 111:10a (*Fear the Lord and follow His guidance.*)

Proverbs 2:6 (*God gives wisdom, provides knowledge and understanding in His Word.*)

- **How might godly wisdom guide us in decision making?** (*We use God's standards, not our own, to determine right from wrong. We make decisions based on prayerful consideration and trust in God to accomplish His purposes through us.*)
- **How does wisdom aid knowledge?** (*When we study God's Word we grow in knowledge and trust Him to lead us in understanding. We wisely accept God's authority in our lives.*)

- **What happens when we ask God for wisdom and guidance?**
2 Chronicles 1:10 (*Prayer of Solomon*)

James 1:5 (*God will give it generously.*)

- **On what should we base our decisions? Where should we put our trust?**
Our natural tendency is to trust in ourselves. We want to be in control. But by trusting in God we need not rely on our best intentions for our decisions.

Proverbs 3:7 (*Not with our own eyes, but by fear of the Lord.*)

Proverbs 28:26 (*Trusting in oneself is foolish, walk with God's wisdom.*)

Proverbs 3:13 (*Be blessed by the wisdom and understanding which comes from God.*)

- **Give some examples of times when it is difficult to discern God's will for us.**
(*Choosing a spouse, deciding to have children, job changes, moving, etc.*)
- **What is God's will?**
(See third petition of the Lord's Prayer and explanation in Luther's Small Catechism.)

Deuteronomy 4:2 (*God wants us to keep God's Word – do not add or subtract from it – learn and teach it correctly.*)

John 6:40 (*God's will is that all would believe in Christ and live eternally.*)

1 Timothy 2:4 (*God's will is that all would be saved.*)

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (*God's will is for us to live holy lives.*)

- **If we make decisions based solely on our own resources what can we expect?**
Romans 7:18-20 (*We are by nature sinful and alone cannot do any good thing.*)
- **How does God guide our lives and our decisions?**

Psalm 119:105 (*His Word is a light to follow.*)

Proverbs 3:5, 6 (*Trust and acknowledge the Lord and He will guide you.*)

Psalm 25: 4, 5 (*Shows us the way, teaches us and gives us hope.*)

Proverbs 3:21 (*Hang on to the good judgment and discernment God provides.*)

Conclusion

We should not become stagnant Christians. The Holy Spirit kindles our faith and helps us to grow as we read and study God's Word. As our faith is nourished Christ works in us to discern what is right and guides us to make decisions that bring Him glory. Through the work of the LWML we can encourage one another to stay in God's Word, honor His Name, and share His Good News with others that they may be brought to faith in Him through the Holy Spirit.

Close with Lord's Prayer.

DECISIONS, DECISIONS (Participant's worksheet)

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