

# Lifeline Bible Church Bible Study Outline



## MAKING WISE CHOICES PART I - 1Cor.10: 11

### INTRODUCTION:

1. We all make choices in life and those choices could either make or mar our lives.
2. The Bible provides us with valuable examples & lessons from other people's lives on the importance of "**Making Wise Choices**" in our lives - **1Cor.10:11** e.g. Lot & David:
  - a. **Lot** made a choice of where to live, and as a result he experienced:
    - 1) War and kidnapping – **Gen.14**
    - 2) Oppression and torment by the ungodly men of Sodom - **2Pet.2:7-8**
    - 3) Loss of all his possessions, death of his wife, and incest with his daughters – **Gen.19**
  - b. **David** chose to commit adultery with Bathsheba, and so he suffered:
    - 1) Death of his infant son - **2Sam.12**
    - 2) Rape of his daughter by her half-brother - **2Sam.13**
    - 3) Murder of his son by Tamar's vengeful brother - **2Sam.13**
    - 4) Rebellion led by a son, who also shamed him publicly, and whose death brought him even more grief - **2Sam.15-18**
3. With Lot and David as examples of the need for "**Making Wise Choices**", let's consider...
  - a. Some choices that greatly affect our lives
  - b. Suggestions for making wise choices
  - c. What to do when we have made the wrong choice

## **CHOICES WHICH GREATLY AFFECT OUR LIVES:**

### **A. THE CHOICE OF CHRIST...**

1. Will you follow Jesus as disciple or not? – **Matt.11:28-30; 26: 58**
2. This one decision will affect your life more than any other!
  - a. It will determine your place in eternity
  - b. It will have a bearing on every other decision you make because as a disciple, you will be concerned with doing His will and not just "do your own thing" – **Matt.28:18-20**

### **B. THE CHOICE OF CAREER...**

1. Even from a worldly point of view, your career choice is important
  - a. The job market is always changing
  - b. The wrong choice could lead to financial hardship or ruin
2. More importantly, career choice can have a lasting effect on:
  - a. Your marriage and family life
  - b. Your commitment and service to God
3. A Christian must make the choice of putting God first and honour Him. His blessings follow after – **Matt.6: 33; Mk.12: 28-30; Prov.10: 22**
4. Making money the primary factor guiding your decision will only lead to disasters and destruction - **1Tim.6: 6-10**

### **C. THE CHOICE OF LIFE-PARTNER...**

1. This choice will determine to a great extent your degree of happiness – **Prov.12: 4**
2. It will have a permanent bearing on your children and their emotional well-being
  - a. Divorce does not change who is the mother or father of your children!
  - c. Children are affected by the constant quarrels, violence & divorce of parents – **Mal.2: 16**

### **D. THE CHOICE OF FRIENDS...**

1. Having close friends can be a great blessing - **Prov.17: 17** but, wrong choice of friends can be a curse - **Prov.12:26; 1Cor.15: 33** (Jesus chose His disciples)

### **E. THE CHOICE OF WHERE TO LIVE...**

1. The wrong choice of where to live was Lot's mistake. It appeared to be a sound business decision but it was a poor moral and spiritual decision – **Gen.13: 10-13**
2. As Christians, how should we choose where to live? Is it based solely on how much we can afford, location to work, school, etc.? Or whether it will help or hinder our service to God and His church? Don't forget, you will always need God and His church!
3. **Note:** For every action there is a reaction, and for every choice there are consequences. There are some modern-day "Sodoms" and "Gommorahs" to avoid!

## **MAKING WISE CHOICES PART II:**

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR MAKING WISE CHOICES – Lk.14: 28-33**

#### **A. KNOW GOD INTIMATELY**

1. Love God & seek His face continually – Loving God is key to knowing Him – **Jer.29: 13; Matt.22: 35-38**
2. Love His word. Read, study and meditate on it regularly – **Job 23: 12; Ps.119: 105; Matt.4: 4**
3. Be filled with the Holy Ghost – **Eph.5: 18**
4. Be Spiritually Alive, Alert & Sensitive – **Ex.34: 29; Judg.16: 20; Ps.62: 11; 1Pet.5: 8**
5. Be Yielded To The Holy Ghost – **Rom.6: 16; 8: 14; 12: 1; Eph.4: 30; 1Thess.5: 19**

#### **B. KNOW YOURSELF**

1. Your sex, age, race, tribe, etc are important
2. Your temperament – 4 Basic temperamental types
3. Your likes and dislikes
4. Your desires, expectations, aspirations, ambitions, etc
5. Your resources – your strength, education, finances, social status, goodwill, etc.
6. Your limitations & handicaps
7. Your environment

#### **C. KNOW WHAT YOU WANT**

1. Why are you born again?
2. Why do you want to marry?
3. Why do you want that job/school/course?
4. Why do you want to live in that house/
5. Why are you here?

#### **D. KNOW YOUR RESOURCES & LIMITATIONS**

1. What do you have?
2. What do you lack?
3. What do you hope to have?
4. How do you hope to get it/them?
5. Who can you contact for help or assistance (goodwill)?

#### **E. ASK GOD FOR WISDOM...**

1. God gives wisdom if you ask in faith – **Jam.1: 5-8**
2. Pray and ask diligently for wisdom – **Prov.2: 1-9; Jer.29: 13**  
Like Solomon - Pray for wisdom to make wise choices!

**F. ASK OTHERS FOR ADVICE...**

1. There is safety in having many (Godly) counselors – **Prov.11: 14; 12: 15; 24: 6**
2. Three great sources for counsel:
  - a. The Bible itself, especially a book like Proverbs
  - b. Older and spiritually mature Christians.
  - c. Christ's Example: Be like Christ! Ask what Christ would do if in your shoes!

**G. COMMIT YOUR CHOICES TO THE LORD... Prov.3: 5-8; 21: 31**

1. Even if you think that you have made right choices, still commit them into God's hands – **Ps.37: 5-6, 23-26**
2. Let your choices be subject to the term & condition: ***"if the Lord wills or tarries"*** – **Jam.4: 13-15**

- Always include God in your decision making, if you wish to make wise choices!

## **MAKING WISE CHOICES PART III:**

### **WHAT TO DO WITH WRONG CHOICES**

There will be times when it becomes apparent that we made poor or even wrong choices. What can we do at such times to avoid making matters worse...?

#### **A. LEARN FROM THE MISTAKES OF OTHERS...**

1. Do what **Lot** did: **Heed and flee!**
  - a. Heed the Word of God and be obedient
  - b. Avoid making more mistakes and do what you now know to be right without reservation (remember Lot's wife!)
2. Do what **Peter** did: **Repent and serve!**
  - a. Repent, if sin is involved (as when Peter denied Christ)
  - b. Serve the Lord with the remaining time you have left in this life
3. Do what **Paul** did: **Accept and live!**
  - a. Accept the forgiveness Jesus provides - **1Tim.1: 12-16**
  - b. Forgive yourself and be ready to move beyond your mistake
  - c. Determine to live for the Lord to the best of your ability – **Phil.3: 13-14**

#### **B. THE WRONG THING TO DO...**

1. **Continue** – Don't remain in the wrong choice you've made because of pride, or some other reason (Except where permanent e.g. Marriage)!
2. **Wallow** – Don't just feel sorry for yourself over your guilt or loss!
3. **Punish** – Don't punish yourself for your mistake
4. **Force** – Don't force your way through trying to correct your mistake
5. **Run** – Don't run away from God and His church because of your mistake

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. May the examples of such men like Lot and David teach us the importance of "**Making Wise Choices**" and serve as a warning not to make our decisions lightly.
2. May we ever be open to the wisdom from God and the counsel of other mature Christians as we make such choices as: Our Careers, Our Spouses, Our Friends, and Where to live?
3. Have you made the most important decision you will ever face in this life; the decision which will determine your eternal destiny; the decision to follow Jesus as your Lord and Saviour?

Decide today to follow Jesus and become His disciple! – **Matt.28: 19-20; Acts 2:36-41**