



How to Help Your Child Make Wise Decisions



Use a stoplight as a tool to help your child learn to make wise decisions.

- **Red** – Stop and Think
- **Yellow** – Caution, Consider the Choices and Consequences
- **Green** – Go God's Way

As you are driving, think of different situations and go through the steps with your kids. For example: You want to go to a friend's house, but you're supposed to walk the dog.

- **Stop and Think (Red)** – Instead of running out the door and doing what you want, stop and think about what you are doing.
- **Consider the Choices and Consequences (Yellow)**
 - If you forget about the dog, then your dog might have an accident and your parents would be upset because you didn't do your chore.
 - If you walk the dog and then go to a friend's house, everyone will be happier – you, the dog, and your parents.
- **Go God's Way (Green)** – What do you think God would want? He would want you to obey your parents and so you choose to do what's right.

Additional questions to use as reminders consequences actually help us:

- ***Why is it good to have those bumps at the edge of the road (as you drive on the bumps)?*** Answer: They help us know when we are getting too close to the edge; they warn us; etc.)
- ***How do consequences help us do the right thing?*** Answer: They remind us of the trouble that sin causes; they show us the bad that can happen when we do wrong things; etc.
- ***What are some consequences for wrong behavior?*** Answer: Get in trouble; have to apologize; you lose people's trust; bad things happen; etc.

Thinking about consequences that might happen when we do wrong things can help us do what's right. Knowing that you will be punished for disobeying can motivate you to obey. Knowing that you will get a bad grade for not doing your homework can motivate you to do the homework. Just as the bumps on the side of the road remind us that we are veering off the road, thinking about consequences can remind us to do what is right.