

## Choosing wisely

Dear Parent,

What exactly constitutes a wise choice? Is it a choice that ultimately puts you in a good light? Is it a decision that affects others positively? Is it subjective to the situation you happen to be in at the moment? I don't know about you, but this is a really tough question for me. I would like to think I make wise choices consistently, but the truth of the matter is I don't. Many times I have smacked myself in the forehead and said "if only I hadn't..." or "I wish I had...".

So if it is hard for us as adults to make wise choices, how much harder is it for our teenagers to do the same? So much of who they are at this point is governed by emotions. And we know emotions are not very helpful in making wise choices, at all!

Choices are and will always be a part of most aspects of our daily lives. How do we help our teens learn how to make those choices count? I would like to encourage you to watch the following video that deals with our teens and their choices. Maybe it will give you a different perspective. And different perspectives often lead to different choices!

<https://vimeo.com/parentministry/review/70722282/2ad3767c4c>

Okay, seriously, does God care about what your teenager wears to school or what sport he or she goes out for? Let me ask you this. Does it affect the tone of your home when your teenager flies off the handle because they are struggling with a choice no matter how small? Do you care that your teen is in turmoil no matter the reason? Yes, to every question I have just asked! If it is important to you, it means that even the smallest decision your teenager makes is of utmost importance to God.

In II Samuel 22, David writes a song to the Lord about His deliverance. Verse 7 says, "In my distress I called to the Lord; I called out to my God. From His temple He heard my voice; my cry came to His ears!" Let's teach our teens that in every matter we can go to Him. Let's show them that when they are in distress, He cares. When they have a choice to make, He wants to hear about it. Your teen is that important.

But do they know that we care? Do they know that their choices, no matter how insignificant, matter to us? They learn of God's heart for them, by watching us. What are they learning?

***Youth Pastor***