



Sunday
June 15

Lesson:

This week, we reviewed our lessons on judgement and talked about how people's judgement of us can affect the choices we make.

We said that from the very beginning, with Adam and Eve, God gave us all "Free Will" to make our own choices. He did this because he seeks to have a relationship with us in which we freely choose to love him and freely choose to do his will.

We talked about choices we make every day like how to dress, how to talk, who to hang with and even the choice to come to Youth service and listen to this lesson. We want to ask ourselves three important questions about the choices we make.

1 - Who makes my choices?

2 - How am I making my choices?

3 - Why am I making the choices I make?

We took a look at WHO makes our choices for us and said that the culture around us plays a huge role in shaping the choices we make. We also noted that parents make choices for us because they want to protect us. When we are very young, they make all of our choices for us and gradually, as we get older, we start making more of our own choices until we finally get to make all of our own choices. Sometimes friends or people we hang out with can make choices for us. Sometimes we allow things, such as money, to make choices for us.

Next, we looked at HOW our choices are being made. Like we mentioned, our culture around us; movies, media, TV, music, etc. can influence the choices that we make. We are being constantly bombarded by and exposed to all kinds of un-Godly behavior and are told that "it's okay". These things can be used by Satan and have the ability to lead us to make wrong choices that draw us further away from God. We said that we can't possibly avoid all these things because they are just part of the world in which we live in so, even though, in Christ, we do not live OF this world, we still live IN this world and will be exposed to these things. The idea is to NOT try to avoid these things but to always **be aware** of exactly what is influencing the choices that we make.

Finally, we looked at WHY we make the choices that we make. We said there are two main reasons we make the choices we make.

FEAR & ACCEPTANCE.

We dress like our friends because we FEAR we will look different and not be ACCEPTED. We chase after money because we FEAR we won't have enough stuff to be ACCEPTED by others. We get drunk at parties or do drugs because we FEAR people will label us "goody goodies" and we won't be ACCEPTED by the people we hang with. We have sex before marriage because we FEAR that we are not "good enough" to be loved by somebody and we want to be ACCEPTED by our boyfriend or girlfriend.

We discussed the phrase, "What Would Jesus Do?" or WWJD and said that as Christians we are committed to have a Christ-like character, to follow the teachings of Jesus and to do our best to live as Jesus lived. So, what better way to ensure we make the right choice then if we take a moment to think about what Jesus would do and then do the same? We also said that the very first thing that Jesus always did was to pray. We said we should start by praying, seeking advice from close friends, parents, or Church leaders and always remember to ask ourselves and be aware of WHO, HOW and WHY we are making the choice we are making and make sure your choices align with God's word..

We said that no choice should be considered to small or insignificant to ask the Holy Spirit for guidance. When we get in the habit of asking the Holy Spirit about the small things we will have no problem asking when the bigger and more significant choices arise.

Remember, God gave each of us "Free Will" which means that the choice to do right or wrong is ALWAYS ours to make. Don't let others make your choices for you.

Isaiah 30:21, Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Romans 12:2, Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1 Corinthians 2:11-12, 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

Have a blessed week!

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