

## DECISIONS, DECISIONS MAKING WISE CHOICES



*Matthew 6:33-34 (NIV) - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

*Matthew 7:13-23 (NIV) - "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

*Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.*

*Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"*

*Matthew 7:24-27 (NIV) - "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."*

### **Open Up**

- Share a story about the worst decision you've ever made.
- Share a story about the best decision you've ever made.
- What's the hardest decision you've ever had to make?

### **Read and discuss** Matthew 6:33-34; Matthew 7:13-23; Matthew 7:24-27

- What do you think it means to “seek first his kingdom”? How does Matthew 6:33 relate to the way we should make decisions?
- Do you think it's possible to not worry about the future? How?
- Have you been recently frustrated by a parent or other authority figure who wouldn't let you make a decision on your own? What sorts of things could you do to convince them that you can make good decisions?
- Respond to the statement, “Our decisions affect our destiny.” Share an example of a decision you could make right now that would affect your future.
- Do you think it's possible that you could be someone Jesus is referring to in Matthew 7:21-23 who calls Him “Lord” but doesn't enter His kingdom? Why or why not?
- What does the wise builder base his decisions on, that the foolish builder doesn't?
- Share an example of an older guy you know (personally or from a distance) who has built his life on solid rock by making decisions based on Jesus' words.



## **CLOSE OUT**

- What is one of the biggest decisions you are stressed out about right now? How might focusing on who you should be (building your identity in Jesus) instead of what you should do (the stress of the decision) change your perspective?
- What sorts of things are you doing to seek first God's kingdom in your life?
- God doesn't care nearly as much about the college you pick as He does the character you develop. How does that thought affect the way you approach big decisions?
- Do you have any older Christ-followers in your life who have wisely built their lives on solid rock and are helping you do the same in the big decisions you are making? If not, who could you ask to play that role?

