



“Making Choices”

Purpose: Thinking through the choices we make and why are we making those choices.

Total Time: 45-60 minutes

ACTIVITY

Crowd breaker: Minute to Win It, Trivia, Etc

ACTIVITY

Would You Rather (10-15 minutes)

Select a few of the scenarios or as many as time allows.

- ☐ Live in a world where everyone is like you?
- ☐ Or have the most annoying person you know sleep over at your house?

- ☐ Spend your money on an MP3 player?
- ☐ Or spend it on candy?

- ☐ Die in a war?
- ☐ Or get locked up in a closet alone to rot?

- ☐ Eat a rotten apple?
- ☐ Or eat moldy bread?

- ☐ Have a party at the mall with your friends and get everything you want in the mall for free?
- ☐ Or have a night out with your dream celebrity?

- ☐ Pull an all nighter with a few of your closest friends with tons of food?
- ☐ Or be given a thousand dollars?

- ☐ Watch TV all day?
- ☐ Or talk on the phone all day?
- ☐ Eat a cow eye?
- ☐ Or drink a bug smoothie?
- ☐ Have a mutated pet dog?
- ☐ Or have a cat that will destroy everything in sight?
- ☐ Eat really greasy fries?
- ☐ Or eat a hamburger so huge, it can't even fit in your mouth?

As if that wasn't a hard enough choice...

Would you rather

- ☐ be mechanically induced to scream at the top of your lungs for an hour, *or*
- ☐ have your eyes glued shut for a day?

Would you rather

- ☐ be forced to preface everything you say with the phrase "**Tuck it in**" under threat of being slapped, *or*
- ☐ have a magnetic head?

Would you rather

- ☐ be born with a refrigerator on your back, *or*
- ☐ have an elephant as a close, personal friend?

Would you rather

- ☐ have 15 nails hammered into your tongue, *or*
- ☐ have your saliva permanently transmuted to urine?

Would you rather

- ☐ have needles for leg hair, *or*
- ☐ have flares shoot out of your nose every time you say the word "**the**" (ouch).

Would you rather

- ☐ have eyes that always smile, *or*
- ☐ or a voice that makes people calm?

Would you rather

- ☐ be able to fly, *or*
- ☐ have the ability to read people's minds?

Would you rather

- ☐ have the power of invisibility, *or*
- ☐ be able to produce sparks from your fingertips?

Would you rather

- ☐ be able to foretell the future, *or*
- ☐ have all the money you will ever need?

Would you rather

- ☐ be able to stop time while you slept, *or*
- ☐ never need to do laundry?

Would you rather

- ☐ be able to bring about a lasting world peace, *or*
- ☐ eliminate all hunger and disease?

Would you rather

- ☐ have a foot long eyelash you can never pluck, *or*
- ☐ an earlobe the size of a basketball?

Would you rather

- ☐ hit every red light for the rest of your life, *or*
- ☐ always be wrong?

ACTIVITY

Video Clip: No Country for Old Men <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqMdQBox15s>

Video Clip: World Trade Center <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoVTupwbQ-s>

Video Clip: Bad Choices in Horror Movies <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6F3ECNOzc4>

LARGE GROUP

(15-20 minutes)

1. **Was there ever a time in your life when you were the only one willing to do what was right? Tell us about it.** *Allow time for sharing.*
2. **What do you do when you need to make a tough choice??** *Allow sharing*
3. **What was the result of your decision? Did people laugh at you or follow you? Did you stand out?** *Again, just listen to responses.*
4. **Why is it that it is so difficult sometimes to do what's right? Why are we so easily influenced by the people around us?** *Let them talk.*
5. **What's your measure for right and wrong? Where do you/teens get your truth for life?** *Allow time for them to share. Listen to what they are saying.*

SMALL GROUP

(15 minutes)

1. **Why do we make the choices we do?** Because in the end we want to do one thing, PLEASE SOMETHING. Whether it's to please myself, girlfriend, boyfriend, parent, friend or God. Sometimes those things make us feel good.
2. **What's the hardest choice you ever had to make?**

4. How do you know if your choice on a tough decision is right or wrong?

WRAP UP

Tips on Making Decisions:

1. **Perform a Situation Analysis:** What is motivating the need for a decision? What would happen if no decision is made? Who will the decision impact (both directly and indirectly)?
2. **Subject your Decision to Public Scrutiny:** If your decision were printed on the front page of the newspaper how would you feel? What would your family think of your decision? Have you sought counsel and/or feedback before making your decision?
3. **Conduct a Cost/Benefit Analysis:** Does the benefit outweigh the cost? Is it REALLY worth it?
4. **Assess the Risk/Reward Ratio:** What are all the possible rewards, and when contrasted with all the potential risks are the odds in your favor, or are they stacked against you?
5. **Make The Decision:** Don't fall prey to analysis paralysis, but rather make the best decision possible with the information at hand using some of the methods mentioned above.
6. **Bonus - Always have a back-up plan:**

Optional Content

Read 2 Corinthians 5:9 **What is this verse saying?** Please God whether we are dead or alive!

Purpose to life is choosing to bring a smile to God's face by making decision that show other people that God is number one!

CHALLENGE

Read the true story of Joseph in Genesis 37-42. While reading this, think about all the choice Joseph had to make. In the midst of decision making, he chose God's way!

SALVATION VERSES

2 Timothy 1:9 New International Version (NIV)

⁹ He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

Be available for those who may want to talk, pray, etc.