

Session 2: Door #1 or Door #2?

Opening:

Once everyone has gathered, set a timer for 1 minute of silence.

After 1 minute, read this verse out loud, slowly and clearly.

“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. . . .

Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, Isaac, and to Jacob.” (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

Enjoy one more minute of silence.

Ask the group to listen to the verse again, and choose one word or phrase that resonates with them, no explanation necessary.

Read the verse again:

“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. . . .

Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, Isaac, and to Jacob.” (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

Invite the group members to say their word or verse (can go around in a circle).

Read this prayer:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we are presented with choices every day: what time to wake up, what to wear, what to eat, how to spend our time, how to spend our money. Help us in these small choices to choose the life-giving things, so that you may be honored and glorified. Amen.

Read aloud this quote from the book:

“Choosing comes from the core of who we are. When we truly choose, we have no one to blame and nowhere to hide. Choosing thrills us. Choosing scares us. Choosing is central to personhood. . . . God wants us to learn to choose well.” (p. 107-108)

And this one:

“I did not realize for many years that what I was looking for wasn’t so much ‘God’s will for my life.’ What I was really looking for was a way to be relieved of the anxiety that comes with taking responsibility for making a difficult decision.” (p. 88)

Discussion:

How do you make choices? Do you do research, weigh your options, consult people and then choose? Or do you choose more quickly based on intuition? Or does it depend on what’s at stake?

Ortberg suggests these steps for making a choice:

- Recognize opportunity
- Identify options

- Evaluate
- Choose
- Learn

Which one of those steps do you spend a lot of time on? Which one are you tempted to skip?

Ortberg suggests “practicing” our decision making skills on the minor choices of life so we’ll be ready to make the big decisions wisely. Does this make sense to you? Have you tried it? Is there a specific small decision that has taught you something about making larger decisions? How?

Often we make our decisions independently, but Ortberg advocates for inviting wise people to help you. Who do you know whom you consider to be wise? What about them communicates wisdom?

James reminds us that wisdom is something we can ask for!

“If any of you is lacking wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.” (James 1:5)

Do you have a decision or a choice for which you would like the others in the group to pray?

Enjoy this quote from the book again:

“Choosing comes from the core of who we are. When we truly choose, we have no one to blame and nowhere to hide. Choosing thrills us. Choosing scares us. Choosing is central to personhood. . . . God wants us to learn to choose well.” (From chapter 5).

Because of this lesson, what will change in your life with God and others this week?