

HIGH SCHOOL

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Sept., Oct., Nov.
Lesson 3

IN THIS ISSUE:

Today's Bible

Study:

Highest Honors
(Luke 9:28-31;
John 1:17; 5:45-
46; Heb. 3:5-6)

Discussion

Features:

How to Make
Decisions
You Can Feel
Good About
Tomorrow

Quiet Time:

1 Corinthians
15:58

Famous Last
Words



Grand PLANS

How to Make ●●●●●●●●

DECISIONS

You Can Feel Good About

TOMORROW



Ryan is punching buttons on the remote over and over again. There doesn't seem to be anything interesting on television tonight—a Friday night at that. Usually he's allowed to hang out with his friends. But no! Ryan has to stay home while his parents are on a date—and they made it clear that he was not supposed to go anywhere. The sound of a

horn outside pulls Ryan from the depths of despair. It's Matt! He's driving his parents' car while they are out of town. Ryan knows that Matt is not supposed to do that. "Come on!" Matt yells. "Let's go!" What should Ryan do?

Lauren is searching the Internet. She's looking for stories about encounters with angels—a topic she was asked to write about for her English term paper. But there are thousands of sources to choose from! She begins reading through the list: Angels/Demons/Psychic Friends/Spirit Guides. Lauren wasn't expecting to sort through so many experiences and opinions. How will she know if the stories she reads truly reflect how God's angels interact with people?

Joshua's friend offers him a cigarette. Josh has never smoked before, and he's heard lots of stories connecting cigarette smoking with cancer and, well, not being able to breathe. But maybe that's all they were—just stories. He's never actually known anyone who died from smoking cigarettes. And if he refuses the offer, how will his friend react?

The average person makes over 200 decisions a day! Of course, many of those decisions

(like what to wear or what to have for breakfast) only take a few seconds and little thought. Other decisions, however, can have a big effect on what happens in our lives. Decision making can be fun if we approach the choices we face in a way that honors God.

GUIDELINES FOR GODLY DECISIONS

Ryan, Lauren, and Josh each have a different kind of decision to make.

Ryan has a moral dilemma—he can go along with Matt's disobedience by joining him, or he can just say no and risk having his friend mad at him. Contrary to popular thought, moral decisions are often the easiest types of choices to make because the Bible is often so clear about what's right and wrong. Ryan knows, beyond any reasonable doubt, what God wants him to do in this case . . . "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord" (Col. 3:20). No-

brainer here. Knowing the right thing to do is often easy—actually doing it, however, is sometimes a lot more difficult!

Lauren's search for accurate information on angels is a little more complex as it doesn't involve a moral issue—however, she does have to decide between good and bad information. Her quest for the truth



**LESSON
SCRIPTURE**

Luke 9:28-31

²⁸About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray.

²⁹As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰Two men, Moses and Elijah, ³¹appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

Cindy Miller

an 80-year-old fugitive, came over two million people out of slavery. A Down through the centuries Moses has been deliverer. What kind of person was Moses fame? Check out these New Testamen

VIEW

1. Read John 5:45-46. What does this passage tell you about Israel's King?
2. Why did Jesus tell the Pharisees...

HIGH HONOR

VIEW

3. Read Luke 9:28-31. Describe...

4. What does this passage tell you about...

VIEW

5. Read Hebrews 3:5-6. What does this passage tell you about Christ with God?

6. As great as Moses was, Christ is better. Write a short story about Christ and...

CHRIST

Summary: From your viewpoint, write a short story about him outstanding...

Moses,
out of hiding, ready to lead
and, with the help of his God, he did it.
He is honored as Israel's greatest leader and
prophet. Why did he receive so much honor and
glory? Read the passages for three views of Moses.

W 1
Which passage tell you about Moses' importance in
Israel's history?

Which passage says that Moses was their accuser?

THE BEST PROPHETS

W 2
Describe the scene in these verses.

What do you learn about Moses' part in God's plans?

W 3
Which passage tell you about Moses' relationship
with God?

What are some of the differences between
Moses and Jesus?

MOSES

What do you think is it about Moses that made
him so important in history?

John 1:17;
1:9-10

¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ⁴⁵But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. ⁴⁶If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me.

Hebrews 3:5-6

⁵Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future. ⁶But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.

requires wisdom that comes from God, given freely to those who seek it (Prov. 2:6; 8:17). In Lauren's case, the goal is to learn about angelic encounters and how to accurately interpret them. Lauren can determine which web sites have truthful information by comparing what they have to offer with what God says in the Bible.

Joshua cannot find any references in the Bible that explicitly tell him that smoking is wrong. However, wisdom would tell him that the reports are true—that smoking is bad for his health and can damage the temple (body) that God has given him. Wisdom would also tell him that he does not have to fear rejection because Jesus promises to stick with him, no matter who might abandon him as a friend.

Sometimes the decisions we face seem like “all-or-nothing” propositions but, in reality, there's often less at stake than we think. Worst-case scenarios seldom happen, so don't allow yourself to be paralyzed by what *could* happen. Give yourself enough time to make the really, really big decisions (like, where to go to college, or who to marry, etc.), but keep the everyday decisions in perspective. Some decisions you'll make many times in your life—the goal is to get better at it each time.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

FOLLOW this road map to making wise decisions:

1. Pray for wisdom.
2. Find out what the Bible says about the factors that will affect your decision.
3. Evaluate the circumstances that will shape your decision. Can you see God's “fingerprints” anywhere? Do you sense that He's arranged things so that you will go in a particular direction?
4. Share your thoughts with a mature believer, preferably one who has made a decision similar to the one that you're facing.
5. Put your personal desires in perspective and use your common sense.
6. Make a decision, then make it happen.
7. Evaluate how things went; what did you learn that can help you with future decision making?





Famous

Have you ever walked through an old graveyard and read the epitaphs, or inscriptions, on the tombstones? In short poems, these people's lives have been etched in stone for future generations to read and wonder about.

Some are flowery, some are simple; but all of them tell you something about the person who once lived and now is dead.

Like this one from the early 1800s:

Mr. Nathan Chadwick
A husband kind and good, a parent dear.
To all obliging and to all sincere
True to his God the orphans' friend and guide
he lived beloved and lamented died.

Or this one:

*Adieu! my friends my work is done
And to the dust I must return
Far hence, away, my spirit flies
To find a home beyond the skies.*

And one last epitaph:

Here lies the body of William Jay.
He died maintaining the right of way.
He was right—dead right—as he sped along,
But he's just as dead as if he were wrong.

Without sounding too morbid, what would your family inscribe on your tombstone? Would people remember your fine mind? Your sense of humor? Or your love for God and hope of heaven?

How do you want people to remember you? If you could record your last words for all to see, what would you say? Read the three epitaphs again; then follow the rhythm and beat and write your own epitaph.

Here's the first line to get you started:
Here lies the body of . . .

LAST WORDS

Therefore,
*my dear
 brothers,
 stand firm.
 Let nothing
 move you.
 Always give
 yourselves
 fully to the
 work of the
 Lord, because
 you know that
 your labor in
 the Lord is
 not in vain.*
 1 Corinthians
 15:58

Monday Read 1 Corinthians 15:58.
 Make a sketch of the first phrase,
 “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand
 firm. Let nothing move you.”

Tuesday Read Psalm 27:1-3. What
 threatens to shake your faith in God? The next
 time your faith feels a bit shaky, repeat Psalm
 27:1-3 as a prayer to God.

Wednesday Look at the phrase “Always
 give yourselves fully . . .” in 1 Corinthians 15:58.
 Next, read Matthew 22:37 and fill in this
 sentence: “I can love God with all my heart by
 _____ and with all my soul by
 _____ and with all my mind by
 _____.”

Thursday Go to work for Christ this
 weekend. For example, you could visit a
 nursing home, bake cookies for a neighbor,
 offer to rake leaves for free, or do any other
 “job” you can think of.

Friday Christ not only knows what you’re
 doing for Him, but also will reward even the
 simplest tasks you do in His name. Thank God
 that your labor in Him is never wasted.

Saturday Write an encouraging
 note to a Christian friend or adult who
 works hard for the Lord. Include
 1 Corinthians 15:58 in your note.
 Remember to pray for that person too.

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