

## MAKING DISCIPLES - LESSON 9 APPLICATION



**CHECK UP:** Because you have been learning to implement many biblical principles, it may be encouraging for you to examine the changes that are occurring in your life.



**WRITE:** Use the following questions to identify areas of personal spiritual growth, and then take time to thank the Lord Jesus for the transforming work He is doing in your life.

- What methods are you consistently using to study the Bible for application?
- Are you consistently identifying God's amazing works **around** you? List the most recently recognized works:
- In what ways have you recently identified God specifically at work **within** you?
- Are you consistently distinguishing truth from speculative thought?
- What is one specific way you are practicing living by faith rather than sight?
- As you grow in your abiding relationship with Jesus, are you also recognizing a greater reliance on His Spirit's power?
- In what specific ways are you identifying with your true nature in Christ?
- Provide one example of testing a recent conversation or life situation for truth.


### Applying Truth in Choices and Consequences




**READ:** Acts 17:26

This verse serves as evidence that God leaves nothing to chance. He has great purpose in even the details of our day. For this reason, as we increasingly become proactive in pursuing righteousness, we should include God in our decision-making process.

## Jeremiah 6:16

 **ACTION:** Develop a habit of pausing to involve the Lord in the choices throughout your day. Because this discipline requires training, remain focused on its benefits rather than becoming frustrated with the initial process.

 What specific benefits will you choose to focus on?

 Ask the Holy Spirit to prompt you to recognize individual opportunities to make decisions and to enable you to pause momentarily.


Although you may not initially recognize a choice until you have already made it, as you consistently give Christ control over your decisions, you will begin to identify more and more occasions to involve Him in the process. Consequently, you will reap the benefits of relying more on Him.

As you develop the habit of involving the Lord in your decision-making process, it is important to recognize the significance of standing or pausing.

**TRUE | FALSE:** A person can be physically stopped while their thoughts and feelings are in motion.

To pause, or be in a momentary position of neutral, is to be without motion in any direction. Because it is difficult to gain God's input while we are entertaining our own thoughts, it's not enough to merely pause physically. We should also discipline ourselves to put our thoughts and emotions in neutral.

## Reread Jeremiah 6:16


 Develop the habit of asking questions to help in determining God's best in each situation.

- Does God's Word have anything to say about this choice?
- Would the results of this decision honor the Lord?
- Which choice represents God's best?
- Can I ask God to bless this decision?

 What difference would it make to consider these questions from a neutral position? (Be specific.)

## Psalm 32:8, 119:35-37; Isaiah 48:17

**TRUE | FALSE:** Continually dealing with the consequences and correcting of poor choices is better than being proactive in choosing God's best. (Explain your answer.)

 **REMEMBER:** It's not enough to put ourselves in neutral and to consider God's best. In order to be obedient, we must receive God's best by walking according to God's will.



**FISHING FOR MEN:** Train those you disciple to recognize opportunities to include the Lord in their personal choices. Teach them to recognize God's best in each choice and to rely on the Holy Spirit to walk in obedience to truth.

### Learn from Experience



#### **Proverbs 3:11-12**

It is not natural for a person to embrace discipline. For this reason, train those you disciple to understand God's love and to appreciate His discipline. Even though the person you are mentoring may be sincere in implementing the training received, it may be difficult for them to initially recognize spiritual hazards and pitfalls.

When they solicit your help to work through a personal error, remind them that they are in training and encourage them to learn from the experience, noting that learning from mistakes promotes spiritual growth. Then, use the following questions to help them identify the potential source of error.

- Did they recognize individual choices that were available during the decision-making process?
- Can they identify any points of temptation?
- What was their spiritual condition when they made their choices?
- Did they consider potential consequences?
- On what source did they base their decisions?

A person makes choices that reflect God's will when they invest in sources that reflect God's truth.

1. Help the person you are mentoring to identify any sources that fail to reflect God's Word or His character.
2. Engage them in conversation to consider what consequences might have resulted had they made different choices.
3. Then, encourage them to learn from their mistakes by asking God to forgive them and to enable them to make godly decisions in the future.



**TO ENCOURAGE:** For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. (**1 Corinthians 1:25**)