

PARENT/STUDENT WISE CHOICES GUIDE

6th Grade Conversation

OBJECTIVE

Have a meaningful conversation with your son or daughter about how to make wise choices.

THE 411

It is no surprise that our children live in a “me” centered world. We can tell this by the way they treat us, their siblings, their friends, and even the family dog! A typical 12-year-old's world completely revolves around self. They are currently developing habits and thinking patterns they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. This lesson will help them think outside of themselves and learn to make wise choices. Hopefully they can develop a habit of recognizing how their decisions affect their community.

SUGGESTION

Give your son or daughter the task of planning an upcoming family day. Allow them to choose where you will be going, where you will eat and what you will be doing. You will provide a budget, so things don't get crazy with this task! The point of this exercise is to let your child make the decisions for the whole family. Be sure to give your student enough guidance to set them up to succeed. You may want to suggest that they interview other family members for opinions. Remind them that they need to plan a day that is fun for the family, not just for them. Then during, or after your family day, use the discussion suggestions below to help with processing the decisions he or she made. Was the day based on selfish desires or the family's desires? Were everyone's ideas taken into consideration or just the ones your student wanted? How was Christ represented in the decisions?

DISCUSSION

SAY SOMETHING LIKE:

Today was a great day for our family to hang out together, thanks so much for planning it. I wanted you to realize that you are a big part of this family and a big part of our family's decisions. Not only did the decisions you made today affect our family, but also the decisions you make every day affect our family.

ASK:

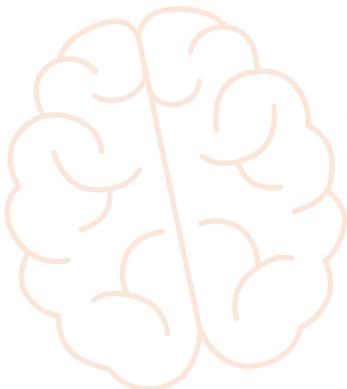
When you planned our day today, why did you choose to do the things you did?

Did you take into consideration the thoughts and feelings of the rest of the family or just choose to do what you wanted to do?

Was there anything that didn't go the way you thought it would?

Was everyone always happy with the choices you made?

Was it easy to make decisions that affected the whole family?



Did you consider God's desires for our family in any of your decision making? If not, what would have been something that we could have done differently?

What are some things we could have done today that would have helped our family show God's love to others?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: Every decision we make affects others and also reveals something about our personal motives. It's so important that you make wise choices in your life, because your choices show others who you are and also affect those around you. I want you to be a leader and make choices for yourself. However, I also want you to learn to make choices based on your relationship with Jesus Christ.

READ: **Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)**
"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: These verses tell us that we shouldn't do anything that is selfish, but we should be like Christ who was a servant of others. This doesn't mean we can't make choices that are good for us. You obviously need to make wise choices that are for your own good and don't cause you harm. But this verse does tell us that we shouldn't take advantage of others. We need to have purpose in the decisions we make.

ASK: Can you think of a time when someone made a decision that was selfish, and by doing so, you felt hurt or left out?
What is a choice you can make this week that will show God's love to your family?
What is a choice you can make this week that will show God's love to your friends?

PRAY

We must be sure and pray with our sons and daughters, that they would make wise choices on their own. Ask God to give them wisdom in all areas of life.

