

PARENT/STUDENT WISE CHOICES GUIDE

9th Grade Conversation

OBJECTIVE

Have a meaningful conversation about making wise choices. As your teen enters high school, they are entering a new world where every day they have to make decisions that matter and that can affect their future. Help them see the importance of making the wise choice.

THE 411

From the moment our teens wake up, they are making choices – hitting the snooze button, showering, brushing their teeth, reading their Bibles, eating breakfast and so on. They can choose to do or not do those things. Then at school they have the choice to listen in class, do their homework, stand strong in their faith – or choose not to. When they go off with their friends, they have the choice to stand up for what is right or follow the crowd. They are learning how to make decisions and are learning that there are consequences to their decisions. This is a time to keep communication open and talk about the importance of making wise decisions.

SUGGESTION

At the kitchen table, go online with your teen and find stories about someone who made a poor choice. Lead into this discussion as follows.

DISCUSSION

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: As your mom/dad, I want you to know that I care about you and especially care about the decisions you make each day. I want you to know I have made some bad decisions and choices in my life.

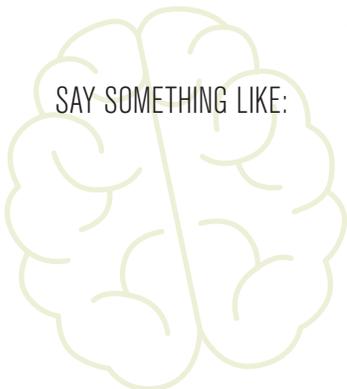
Give an example of a dumb decision you made in high school; lean on a more humorous side here.

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: I share that, because I don't want you to have to go through life with consequences from bad decisions and poor choices. My prayer is that you seek God's guidance when making decisions, especially now in high school and the temptations you will be faced with each and every day. I want to share a verse with you from James 1:5.

READ: **James 1:5 (NIV)**

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, Who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: I think that is a powerful verse, because we all need wisdom in our lives and we need to ask God for it. He has promised to give it to us.



ASK: What are some areas that you need wisdom in (friends, choices, our words, etc.)?
 How do you think it would help if before making a big decision, you ask God for guidance and ask, "What is the wise thing to do?"
 Can you think of someone who probably didn't ask that question and made a poor decision and had to deal with the consequences? Do you think most decisions in private eventually come out in public? (Tiger Woods)

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: That is why it is so important to know that the decisions you make in private will eventually become public. Before making big decisions, ask yourself whether this is the wise thing to do. I just want you to know that I have made a lot of bad choices and stupid decisions in my life. We just do. However, I want you to know that no matter what, I will always love you and be here for you. So, if there is anything you ever need to tell me about a poor choice, please know that I want us to talk about it. I might be disappointed, but I will never stop loving you. What I desire is that you strive to seek God's guidance, my guidance, and the guidance of people around you who care for you and your choice to make the wise decision. You won't regret it. It won't be easy, and in fact it won't be the popular choice, but it will be the right choice.

ASK: What is the hardest thing about making wise choices right now?

READ: **Proverbs 11:14 (KJV)**
 "Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety."

TALK ABOUT Talk about mentors in your teen's life besides you. Remind them that having spiritual mentors is part of God's plan for our lives.

READ: **Ephesians 1:17-18 (NIV)**
 "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people."

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: I will always be here for you.
 Be wise and seek Christ, because knowing Him better is how we gain spiritual wisdom, that our eyes will be open to see the wise choice.

PRAY TOGETHER

