

For the GET STARTED activity:

Physical

- Would you rather be really hairy or completely bald?
- Would you rather be tall and fat or short and well built?
- Would you rather be blind or deaf?
- Would you rather be 4'5" or 7'7"?
- Would you rather eat healthy or exercise regularly?
- Would you rather super strong or super fast?
- Would you rather lose half your hair or lose half your hearing?
- Would you rather look weak and actually be strong or look strong and actually be weak?

Money/Job Related

- Would you rather be poor and work at a job you love or be rich and work at a job you hate?
- Would you rather be rich and ugly or poor and good looking?
- Would you rather be rich or be poor and find true love?
- Would you rather work really hard at an interesting job or slack off at a boring job?
- Would you rather take a guaranteed \$100,000 or a 50/50 chance at \$1,000,000?

Hard

- Would you rather be in constant pain or have a constant itch?
- Would you rather go through life unable to answer any questions or unable to ask any questions?
- Would you rather never touch another human again or never touch a computer powered device again?
- Would you rather be homeless or live without family and friends?

Sacrifice

- Would you rather go without the internet or a car for a month?
- Would you rather have to sit all day or stand all day?
- Would you rather go to jail for a year or live in your car for a year?
- Would you rather not be able to use your hands or not be able to walk?

Relationships

- Would you rather be a parent or a child?
- Would you rather dump someone else or be the person getting dumped?
- Would you rather be stuck in a house with someone you hate or be stuck in a house alone?



Lesson 1: Our Choices, Our Destiny

GET STARTED

Have each member answer the sets of “would you rather” questions (found at the back) one after another. Encourage everyone to answer very quick. After the activity, ask them how they felt during the activity.

REFLECT

Many of life’s blessings and problems can be traced to one word: CHOICES. We are the product of the decisions other people made for us and we make for ourselves. Specifically, one’s life is profoundly shaped by career decisions. For example, some choose jobs, where they work regular hours from Monday to Friday, while others enter industries that require them to toil on night shifts, weekends and holidays. There are jobs that lead to dead ends and jobs wherein sky is the limit. One can even embark on a profession, that many years down the road, will make it difficult for him to shift careers.

Our choices lead us to our destiny. This is especially crucial when we are young, naive and flexible. Therefore, we must heed the following principles:

- 1. We are free to make choices, but we are not free from the consequences of those choices.**

Life operates on a cause and effect patterns. The Bible says, “Man reaps what he sows...Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:7,9).

envious over the accomplishment of a doctor, athlete, or musician, let's keep in mind the hidden years of preparation and hardship before he became an "overnight success". True, there are people who dropped out of college and became billionaires. But they are exceptions rather than the rule. They had other factors working for them; street smarts, industriousness, perseverance, and being at the right place at the right time.

So if we suppose we can bum around and be the next Steve Jobs, we better be sure we have the same qualities and opportunities Steve Jobs had.

2. Therefore, learn how to make wise decisions.

Universities train students in making technical choices. For example, finance people are taught to evaluate and choose from investment alternatives. A medical student learns how to spot symptoms and arrive at a correct diagnosis. Engineers know how to select designs for optimum efficiency.

Wouldn't it be more helpful to see more courses on how one can order his life so he can be all that he can be? Wisdom is not limited to college and career. One can be a successful manager and yet have his personal relationships in shambles. One can earn a ton of money and yet remain mired in debt. One can be so driven to succeed that he suffers from heart disease.

Today's workplace desperately needs wisdom, and yet wisdom is not easy to come by. One can start, however, by being humble and teachable. Being teachable necessitates having advisers-wise ones, whose counsel is tempered by years of hard earned experience and unquestionable integrity. These are the guys who made mistakes so that we don't have to. One piece of advice can make or break a career. Therefore, choose your source of wisdom.

3. Lastly, we can still make the best of bad decisions.

Unless we have done something incredibly stupid such as embezzling company funds or sexually harassing a co-worker,

If we have the time and resources to correct an ill-advised career move, well and good. If it is too late- for example, we are stuck in what we consider a "second best" career-the challenge is to be faithful to the task, even if it doesn't fit our training or aspirations. One must learn how to make peace with his past or better yet, make peace with himself. Bad decisions also impart an unexpected but precious gift; One becomes more understanding and emphatic toward people who have committed their own blunders. He becomes the wise adviser that other people seek. God's specialty is in picking up the broken pieces and rebuilding them into something beautiful.

We must deal with our bad decisions not by wallowing in self-pity or bitterness, but by getting up on our feet, finding ways to be productive, and entrusting our destinies to God. God can use our misspent past to prepare us for a significant future.

OPEN UP

1. Tell the group about your job/career background.
2. Share your dream career and how do you (for starters) or did you (for experienced) plan to reach it.
3. What were the decisions you've made at the earlier stage of your career or possibly during your student life, that made significant contributions to you presently? Good or bad, you may share it.
4. Cite an experience when you found an advice very helpful in relation to your career.
5. Do you know of someone who is in need of guidance today? How would you like to help him/her? What specific lesson from today's module would you share?

WORK OUT

Evaluate the choice you've made, and learn from them. Be a wise adviser to someone and make the best out of the bad decisions