

Helping Women Make Godly Choices
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Case Study: Sophia

I. Ponder your path

Prov 4:10-27 ¹⁰Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many. ¹¹I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness. ¹²When you walk, your step will not be hampered, and if you run, you will not stumble. ¹³Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life. ¹⁴Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. ¹⁵Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on. ¹⁶For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong; they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble. ¹⁷For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. ¹⁸But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. ¹⁹The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble. ²⁰My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. ²¹Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. ²²For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh. ²³Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. ²⁴Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you. ²⁵Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. ²⁶Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. ²⁷Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.

A. Pay _____ to your path (vs 26).

B. _____ your path wisely (vs 14-15; Deut 30:15-20).

C. Understand _____ of the paths Make sure you want the consequences of the path you are on before you continue walking on it. (Prov 4:10; Deut 30:15-20)

i. Righteousness

- Many years of life (vs. 10)
- Steps not hampered (vs. 12)
- Will not stumble if you run (vs. 12)
- Life (vs. 13)
- Bright, clear path (vs. 18)
- Healing for your body (vs. 22)
- Ways will be sure (vs. 26)
- Straight walk even though the path is unknown to you (vs. 27)

ii. Unrighteousness

- Wickedness and evil (vs. 14)
- Sleeplessness cured only by doing wrong (vs. 16)
- Eat wickedness and drink violence (vs. 17)
- Deep darkness (vs. 19)
- Full of stumbling, but they can't even figure out what they're stumbling over (vs. 19)
- Crooked speech, devious talk (vs. 24)

D. Maintain the path of righteousness _____ (vs. 27).

II. Understand the basics

A. Know the plan and purpose

i. The Creator's _____ for life (2 Tim 3:15-17; Heb 4:12; Prov 19:3)

ii. The Creator's explicit _____ for human life in "The Creation Mandate" (Gen 1:26-28)

a. God's design with a _____ in mind (Gen 1:26)

b. God's plan outlined what human lives should look like within that purposeful design (Gen 1:27-28). Bring God's blessing into the world through your involvement with it:

1. Be _____ and multiply
 2. _____ and have dominion
 3. _____ chaos and disorder
- } according to God-ordained gender roles

B. Embrace your _____ and _____ in Christ (2 Cor 5:17; Eph 1:4; Eph 2:4,5; Gal 2:20; Col 1:27; Eph 4:22-24; 2 Peter 3:18)

C. _____ the Lord and his representatives (I John 2:4-6; 2:15-17; 3:4-6; Matt 28:18; Rom 13:1-7; Col 2:10; Heb 13:17) Respect his position as Lord & master of your life; understand the concept of authority & its blessings

D. Consider motivations, desires, and beliefs

i. Beliefs (2 Cor 1:3-6; Prov 3:5-7; Eph 2:8-10; Gospel Indicatives/Imperatives)

ii. Motivations (II Cor 2:14-17,4:7-5:21; II Cor 5:14-15)

iii. Desires (Ps 37:4; Jer 29:13; Prov 2:3-5; Matt 5:6; Psalm 145:19; Luke 12:34)

E. Pursue _____

i. Provides _____ (Prov 2:1-11)

ii. Provides valuable _____

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| a. Length of days and years of life (Prov 3:2, 16) | g. Happiness (Prov 3:18) |
| b. Peaceful life (Prov 3:2, 17) | h. Security (Prov 3:23) |
| c. Favor with God and man (Prov 3:4) | i. Stability (Prov 3:23) |
| d. Straight paths (Prov 3:6) | j. Unafraid (Prov 3:24) |
| e. Healing to your body (Prov 3:8) | k. Rested (Prov 3:24) |
| f. Refreshment to your bones (Prov 3:9) | l. Confident (Prov 3:26) |
| g. Deeply blessed and profited (Prov 3:14) | m. Blessed (Prov 3:33) |
| h. Pleasant existence (Prov 3:17) | n. Honored (Prov 3:35) |

F. Remember _____ (II Cor 5:9-10)

i. Immediate returns on our investments (Gal 6:7-9; Heb 11:6; Jn 13:17) +10/20/50 principle pro/con

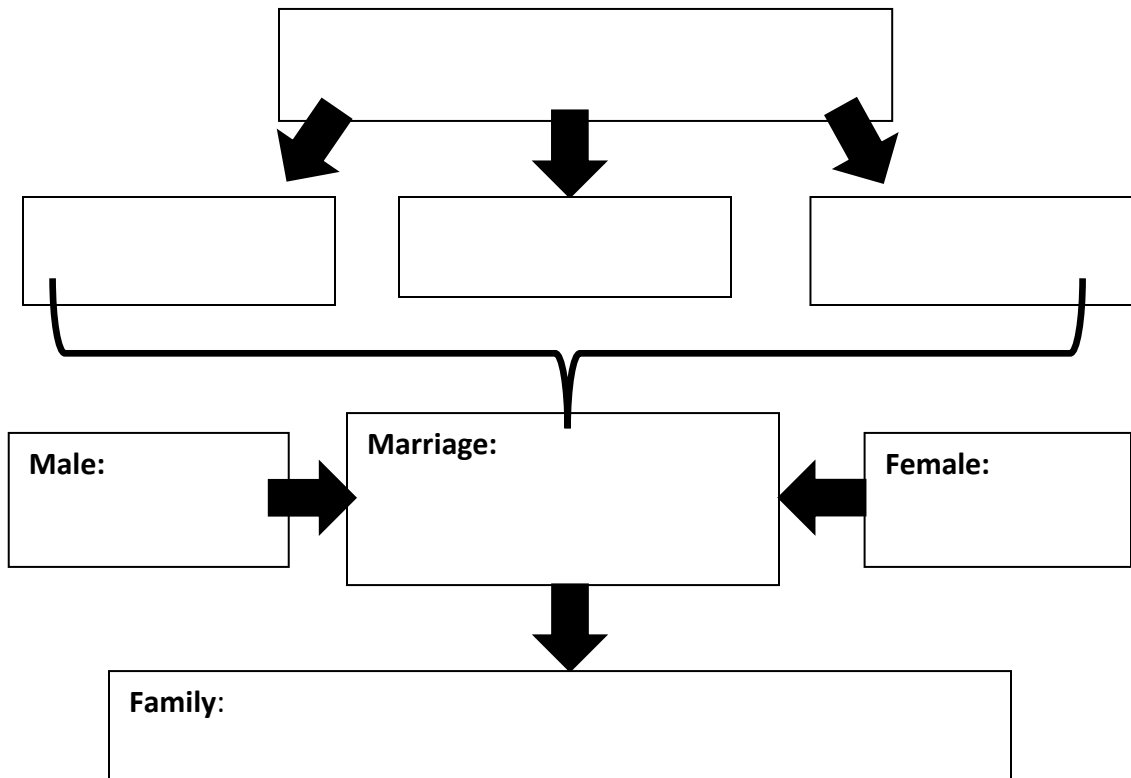
ii. Long-term returns on our investments (Col 3:23-24; Eph 6:8)

a. _____ rewards for the future (Matthew 6:1-4; I Tim 6:17-19; Rev 22:12)

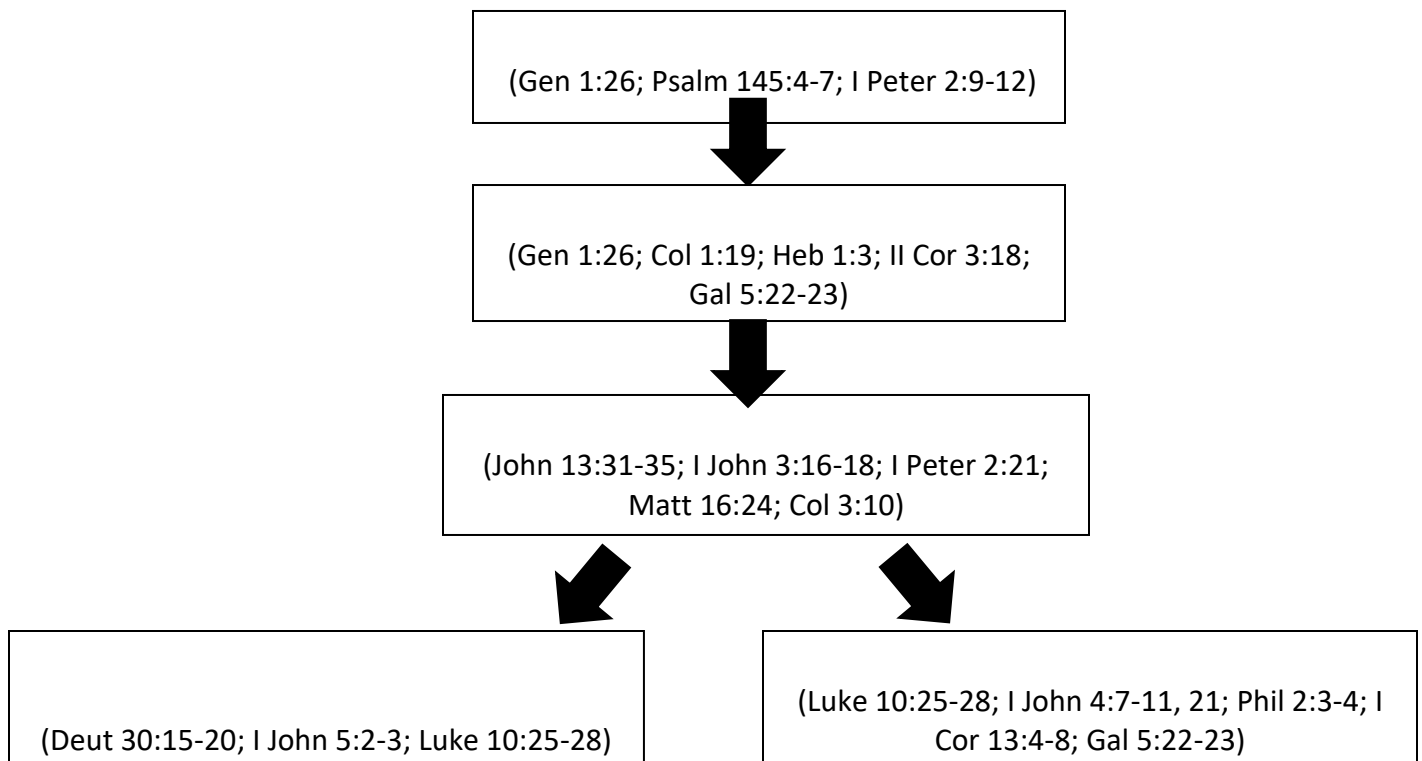
b. _____ time using God's timetable (Eph 5:15-17; Psalm 39:4-5; John 9:4; Ps 90:12; Col 4:5)

III. Learn how to decide

A. Creation Mandate model from Gen 1:26-18:



B. Greatest Commandment Model:



IV. Practice reviewing decisions

This is the decision I made:



Why did I made that decision?



Why did I made that decision?



Why did I made that decision?

Bottom Line:

I did this: _____, because I was trying to accomplish this: _____

✓ Glorify God
and make
Him famous

✓ Bear His
image/likeness
accurately

✓ Live and
love the way
Christ did;
to bring blessing



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Recommended Resources:

Decisions, Decisions by Dave Swavely

The Christian's Guide to Guidance by Jay Adams

A Woman's Guide to Making Right Choices by E. George (young ladies' books as well)