

I'VE MADE UP



MY MIND

MY CHOICES - MY LIFE



- The decisions we make today **shape** the lives we have in the future.

The challenge we face is:

- Our decisions are **inconsistent**.
- Our decisions are **emotional** responses.

Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. Proverbs 16:3

- Make up your mind **now** what you will do **later**.

But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine... Daniel 1:8 (NASB)

- Our decisions reflect our **values**.

Here's why this matters:

- When our values are clear, our decisions will come **easier**.

Jesus made up his mind before the cross, that He would **endure** the cross.

"Right now I am shaken. And what am I going to say? 'Father, get me out of this'? No, this is why I came in the first place. I'll say, 'Father, put your glory on display.'" John 12:27-28 (MSG)

- I have made up my mind to **follow Jesus**.
- If we're going to follow Jesus we have to **value** Jesus.

Jesus and his disciples headed out for the villages around Caesarea Philippi. As they walked, he asked, "Who do the people say I am?" "Some say 'John the Baptizer,'" they said. "Others say 'Elijah.' Still others say 'one of the prophets.'" Mark 8:27-28 (MSG)

He then asked, "And you—what are you saying about me? Who am I?" Peter gave the answer: "You are the Christ, the Messiah." Mark 8:29 (MSG)

That decision means: Jesus is not a religion. He is the **only one** that makes relationship with God possible.

"...I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. John 14:6 (NLT)

"If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. Luke 9:23-24 (NLT)

"Anyone who wants to follow me must put aside his own desires and conveniences and carry his cross with him every day and keep close to me! Whoever loses his life for my sake will save it, but whoever insists on keeping his life will lose it... Luke 9:23-24 (TLB)

A few really important things:

- Salvation is accepting **who** Jesus is and **what** He has done for us.

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9 (NIV)

- Lordship recognizes His **authority** in our lives.

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- Jesus want us all to become **fully devoted followers**.

...And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (MSG)

- All of us are at **different places** in becoming fully devoted followers, but we're all on the same path.

Following Jesus means:

- I've made up my mind to **identify** with Jesus.

Anyone who wants to follow me must put aside his own desires and conveniences and carry his cross with him every day and keep close to me! Luke 9:23 (TLB)

- I've made up my mind to live with Jesus' **purpose**.

For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible...everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. Colossians 1:16 (Msg)

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- I've made up my mind to live out Jesus' **lifestyle**.

I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. John 13:15 (NLT)

Someone may say, "I am a Christian; I am on my way to heaven; I belong to Christ." But if he doesn't do what Christ tells him to, he is a liar. But those who do what Christ tells them to will learn to love God more and more. That is the way to know whether or not you are a Christian. Anyone who says he is a Christian should live as Christ did. 1 John 2:4-6 (TLB)

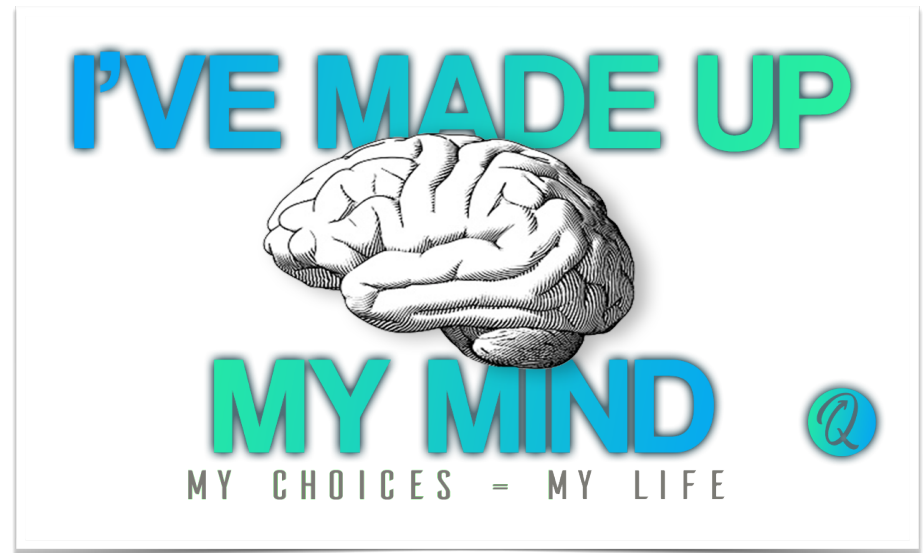
TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- What does it mean that when our values are clear our decisions come easier?
- Read Mark 8:27-28 and Mark 8:29; What is the difference between what people said about Jesus and what the disciples said about Jesus?
- Talk through the 4 points under the heading "A few really important things". Why are these important?
- What does it mean to you to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus? What does it mean that we are all at different places in becoming fully devoted?
- How do we make up our mind to identify with Jesus? How does this make us a follower of Jesus?
- How do make up our mind to live with Jesus' purpose? How does this make us a follower of Jesus?
- How do we make up our mind to live out Jesus' lifestyle? How does this make us a follower of Jesus?

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**“To Follow
Jesus”**