

I'VE MADE UP



MY MIND

MY CHOICES = MY LIFE



- If we want our lives to be fully devoted to Jesus it doesn't happen **accidentally**.

Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him to help you do it, and he will. Psalm 37:5 (TLB)

- We have to make up our mind **now** what we will do **later**.

Joshua spoke to the people, saying, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve" Joshua 24:15

- When our decisions for Jesus are not predetermined, we will always give Jesus less than He asks of us and less than He **deserves**.

- We learn to follow Jesus one step of **faith** at a time.

- I've made up my mind that my meaning in life, and my source of life come only from **Jesus**.

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

If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. Then you'll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment's notice. The Father will honor and reward anyone who serves me. John 12:26 (MSG)

Serving Jesus means:

- Jesus' mission in life becomes **my mission** in life.

God's kingdom isn't a matter of what you put in your stomach, for goodness' sake. It's what God does with your life as he sets it right, puts it together, and completes it with joy. Your task is to single-mindedly serve Christ. Do that and you'll kill two birds with one stone: pleasing the God above you and proving your worth to the people around you. Romans 14:17-18 (MSG)

- We serve Jesus when we **serve others**.

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. John 13:14-15 (NIV)

- Those who follow Jesus will be **servants** of Jesus.

- If we don't learn to serve in **insignificant** ways, ways that nobody else wants to, we'll never learn how to serve with the right **heart**.

...Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for the many who are held hostage." Matthew 20:26-28 (MSG)

Jesus defines why we serve...

- A servant serves not for **self-recognition** but for the pleasure of the one they serve.

- We serve God in serving **others**.

For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you

visited me.' "Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ...'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!' Matthew 25:35-40 (NLT)

- The heart of a servant sees Jesus in **everyone** they serve.

The Priorities of a servant's heart:

- A servant is focused on the **needs** of others.

- A servant puts service over **status**.

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. Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

- A servant puts **caring** over convenience.

Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?" That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out....Romans 15:1-3 (MSG)

A Servant's Heart:

- Willing to do what seems **insignificant**.

- Willing to see people through a lens of **grace** and **mercy**.

This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. John 15:12 (NLT)

- You're never more like Jesus than when you **serve** others.



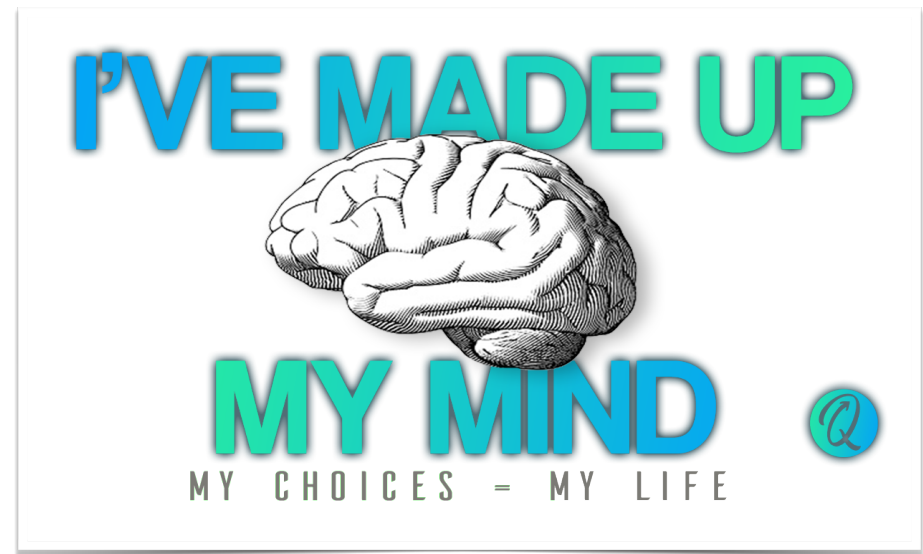
TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

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?
- In your own words, what does it mean to serve Jesus? How can we make up our mind now that our life will be about serving Jesus?
- How do we make Jesus' mission our personal mission?
- Why does serving require the right heart? What are some attitudes that prevent the right heart? How would you describe the right heart? How do we allow self-recognition to sideline our service towards others?
- Read Matthew 25:35-40; Are you learning to see Jesus in everyone you serve? How can we do that better?
- What are some ways that we can make the needs of others our focus?
- What are some ways that our desire for "status" prevents us from serving?
- How do we put caring over convenience?
- Are you willing to do what seems insignificant in caring for others? Are you willing to do what others are not willing to do?
- What are some ways we can see people through the lens of grace and mercy? Why is this important?

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“To Serve Jesus”