

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:

- We don't make great decisions when they're **last minute** decisions.

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** for what we will do **later**.

I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate... I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. Romans 7:15, 18-19 (NLT)

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

Many people find:

- Following Jesus is **hard**.
- Following Jesus requires **sacrifice**.
- Following Jesus exposes just how **selfish** I am.

Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness. For there is a root of sinful self-interest in us that is at odds with a free spirit, just as the free spirit is incompatible with selfishness. These two ways of life are contrary to each other, so that you cannot live at times one way and at times another way according to how you feel on any given day. Why don't you choose (Make up your mind) to be led by the Spirit and so escape the erratic compulsions of a law-dominated existence? Galatians 5:16-18 (MSG)

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

- God's Spirit is producing fruit in the lives of **believers**.
- When fruit is lacking in our life it's not a lack of **will** power but a lack of **God's** power.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts away every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit. But he trims clean every branch that does produce fruit, so that it will produce even more fruit. You are already clean because of what I have said to you. Stay joined to me, and I will stay joined to you. Just as a branch cannot produce fruit unless it stays joined to the vine, you cannot produce fruit unless you stay joined to me. I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit. But you cannot do anything without me. John 15:1-5 (CEV)

Whoever abides in me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5 (ESV)

Staying with Jesus means:

- I receive Jesus as my **source** of life.

Just as a branch cannot produce fruit unless it stays joined to the vine, you cannot produce fruit unless you stay joined to me. John 15:4

I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." John 6:35

Action Step: Be open to **all** Jesus has for you.

- I'm acting on the **words** of Jesus in my life.

Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. John 6:68 (NLT)

But if you **stay in me and obey my commands**, you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted! John 15:7 (TLB)

Action Step: **Look** to Jesus' words for **life**.

- I'm staying **in love** with Jesus.

"I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. John 15:9 (NLT)

Action Step: Spend time **telling** Jesus how much you love Him.

- The fruit in my life is the **purpose** of my life.

By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. John 15:8

Action Step: Take **inventory** of the fruit in your life.

- We put ourselves in a place to experience the **care of God** internally and externally.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. John 15:1-2

Action Step: Be aware of what is God **pruning** in you right now.

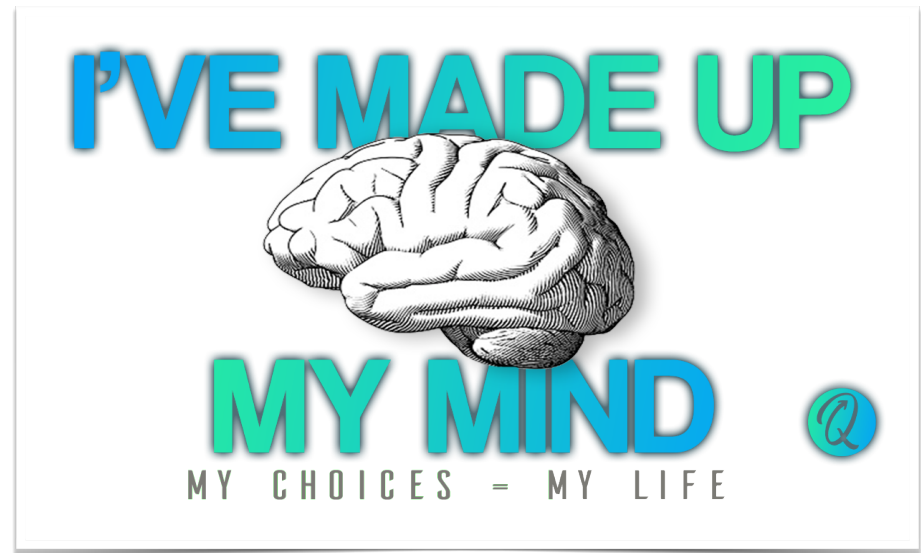
TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

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 to you to make up your mind now for what you will do later? Is there an area in your life that you need to do this?
- Read all of John 15:1-9; What stands out most to you in this scripture?
- Why does God want to produce fruit in our lives?
- In a sentence, what does it mean to you to "Stay with Jesus"?
- How is Jesus your source of life? What does it mean to be open to all Jesus has for us?
- How does Jesus' words give us life? Do you allow His words to give you life? Explain.
- How do we stay in love with Jesus? What does that mean?
- Why is "Fruit" in our life the purpose of our life? What does it mean for God to receive the glory of our life? How are you doing with God's fruit being developed in your life?
- Is there anything God is pruning in your life? (Anything being cut away so that more fruit can develop)

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**“To Stay with
Jesus”**