

Lesson 7 / April 26, 2020

Making Difficult Choices

By Caroline Ferdinandsen

for use as

STEP 1



Lesson 7

Focus:

When making personal choices, consider the effect on others.

Lesson 7

Bible Basis:

Transmission of the Scriptures (Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:18; John 14:25-26; 17:7-8, 20; 2 Timothy 2:2)

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1 Corinthians 8:4-11; 10:23-31

Lesson 7

Memory Verse:

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble.
—1 Corinthians 10:31-32a

Students will watch a video about social media and discuss the effect it can have as they consider the significance of personal choices.

Materials:

Internet access

More than ever before, American teenagers live within an interconnected network of family members, friends, acquaintances, and online communities. The recent pandemic has changed the way we connect with others, both positively and negatively.

This video shares some interesting information about social media's effect on mental health [2:33]:

Social Media Can Impact Mental Health During Quarantine

https://www.westernmassnews.com/news/social-media-can-impact-mental-health-during-quarantine/article_d3790464-738b-11ea-8bd2-4f01a887ec6a.html

➤ **How has your family's social media use changed in the past month or two?** (Answers will vary. Some families have become more intentional about reaching out in creative ways to the community, but others may feel isolated and lonely in a digital world.)

➤ **What suggestions from the Mental Health Association seem wise?** (Answers might include the TGK acronym: 1. Turn it off, 2. Go beyond the headline, and 3. Know your source.)

➤ **Has another Christian's online behavior ever made you question your own family's rules or guidelines? Do all Christian families have the same specific rules of behavior?** (We don't always know the context behind a photograph or comment. What we post—and say—can have a ripple effect, especially for new Christians who might be confused by contradictions or hypocrisy.)

How we interact—whether it is through social media or in a face-to-face encounter—can have a big effect on others. But even our personal choices can impact others. Let’s find out how.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher’s guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

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Lesson 7**Focus:**

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Lesson 7**Bible Basis:**

1 Corinthians 8:4-11;
10:23-31

Lesson 7**Memory Verse:**

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—1 Corinthians 10:31-32a

Materials:

- Internet access
- Optional: Set of dominoes

If students have access to a set of dominoes, they might want to participate in setting up a line (or series of lines) that will topple over with one push. If everyone is connected through a video conferencing platform, let those who wish to participate wait for your countdown from ten (suspense!) before knocking over the first domino and watching the result.

Watch this hypnotic video that illustrates cause-and-effect in a visual way [2:27]:
THE AMAZING TRIPLE SPIRAL (15,000 DOMINOES)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lo6x4eulY9g>

This video illustrates the impact that one action can have on others. Many times we imagine ourselves to be like a single domino: independent and isolated. But God has designed us to encourage each other, knowing that we are created for relationships within the Body of Christ.

➤ **What is one change you can make in your behavior that might encourage a fellow Christian?**

➤ **How does this principle play out at home with multiple siblings?** (Younger siblings may not admit it, but they are carefully watching their older brothers and sisters. This is a unique opportunity to model what maturity in faith looks like.)

➤ **What is a good principle to use as we consider how our action (or non-action) might affect others?** (The Bible tells us to consider God first, then others, then ourselves. In this way, God helps us keep our focus on Him instead of the ways of the world and reminds us to carry out the mission He has given us to spread the Gospel to others.)

A domino is a great visual reminder of the impact our decisions may have on our friends. If you have access to a set of dominoes, put one in a place where you will see it as a reminder of today's lesson. If you don't, you can print off a copy of a sheet of dominoes as a reminder for your refrigerator or bedroom door, etc. A link to a printable is here.

Printable Dominoes

<https://www.helpingwithmath.com/printables/others/kcc4Dominoes01.htm>

This week think of one friend or sibling you can inspire through your own actions to be more Christlike—then follow through!

Try to connect with each student to pray with them via social media of your choice; pray together for discernment as students and families exercise their freedom in Christ.

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