



## Dgroup Discussion Guide for February 11, 2018 CHOICES HAVE CONSEQUENCES

**Scripture: Galatians 6:7**

***Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.***

One of the landmines in the battlefield destroying Christians is the lie that choices have no consequences. These are 5 truths about choices:

1. Choices have consequences.
2. Small choices can have drastic, long term consequences.
3. We do not reap what we didn't sow.
4. Reaping is not always immediate.
5. Our choices eventually make up our character.

*One of Satan's most deceptive and powerful ways of defeating us is to get us to believe in a lie. And the biggest lie is that there are no consequences to our own doing. – Charles Stanley*

The enemy will make us believe that our choices have no consequences or maybe that the consequences are not immediate. We then start to believe that lie not thinking that eventually the consequences will catch up with us. Whatever we sow, we reap. We are free to choose our actions but we are not free to choose the consequences of our decisions. Galatians 6:8 reminds us ***For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*** This simply that if we sow/ plant to the Spirit then we will reap eternal life and spiritual blessing, but if we sow to our sinful nature then we will reap a corrupted life and eternal death.

*Sow a thought and you reap an action; sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny. - Ralph Waldo Emerson*

One thought, one choice can determine your destiny. Our choice to believe in the Lord Jesus determines our destiny. We had a choice – to believe or not. . . and that choice has an eternal outcome. Some of the consequences of the choices that we make are instantaneous but there are also some consequences that we do not immediately see. But let us not deceive ourselves because the consequences will still come.

### ESAU AND JACOB (Genesis 25-26)

The story of these brothers teaches us that choices have consequences. When Esau came in famished from hunting and starving, he traded his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of soup. As a consequences of Esau's choice for instant gratification, he completely lost his birthright, the blessing of his father and eventually the blessing delegated to the first born. Hebrews 12:16 - 17 says of him ***that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that even afterwards when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.*** Esau could not get his blessing back even though he regretted it. He lost the privilege to be identified with the God of his fathers and he lost his place to be in the genealogy of Jesus. It could have been him instead of Jacob, but he lost his place as a consequence of disregarding his birthright.

Jacob on the other hand, had also made wrong choices when he was younger. He manipulated people and circumstances but in Genesis 32, we see that Jacob repented and he wrestled with God. And because he realized his mistakes and repented, Jacob found favor in God's eyes and he was the one named in the genealogy of Jesus.

### DIRECTION DETERMINES DESTINATION, NOR INTENTION.

If our destination is north, but keep on heading south. . . we will never get to our destination. Remember these:

1. You first make your choices, and eventually your choices will make you.
2. Your life is the sum of all your choices.
3. Present choices impact the future.
4. The future should impact present choices.

In all of this. . . we have to be INTENTIONAL. It is intentionality that turns hopes and dreams into a reality. We have to remember that in life, you don't get what you hope and dream for, you get what you work for. If we lack intentionality in our life and family, then no matter how grand and beautiful our plans are they will really not matter. None of this will matter if we choose to live outside the center of God's will. 2 Corinthians 5:9-10 says ***Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.***

Life is about choices. Even not making a choice is still a choice. What we sow, we will reap. In making our choices, we either reap a blessing or a curse. By not making godly and wise choices, we will not know the blessings God has in store for us. Let us learn from Esau and Jacob. If we have already made a wrong choice, it is never too late to turn to Jesus and avoid further decisions that can destroy us. Like Jacob, let us choose to follow Jesus with a repentant heart and let Jesus restore us with a new identity in Him.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Share how past decisions adversely affected your family. What could you have done instead?
2. what can you do to make sure you make the best decisions for you and your family?
3. what steps can you take today to ensure a positive future for you and your family?
4. what role does the bible have in making those decisions?

### PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.