



Lesson – Choices

Bible: Romans 12:1-2 (MSG)

Say: Ever think about the everyday choices we make?

Like for real!

Why do we dress the way we do?

Why do we talk and act the way we do?

Why do we hang around the people we hang with?

Why are we sitting in this room right now?

Before today is over, I want you to ask yourself three questions...

- Who makes my choices?
- How am I making my choices?
- Why am I making them?

Who Makes Our Choices?

Who or what pressures us to do what we do?

Wear what we wear...

Talk how we talk...

If we are honest with ourselves, we would say that the culture around us has a huge say in what we do, what we wear, how we act, and how we talk.

And when I say culture, I'm talking about social media, movie stars, recording artist, athletes, where we live, the school we go to, and the friends we hang out with.

I'm talking about technology, books, and whatever social class people put us in.

Maybe your parents make all the choices for you. Either because they are afraid that you are going to turn into a heathen, or because they want to “protect you”!

Maybe your friends make your decisions for you. Because they are the closet family you have, and you’re afraid you will lose them too!

Maybe money makes your choices. Because you don’t have any, and you are tired of living broke! Or you have a lot of “stuff” and that’s what drives you.

That’s a few examples of what could be making your choices.

Let’s look at how we are making our choices.

How are we making our choices?

How can music influence the choices you make? How does it influence how we act, talk, and what we wear? (Get responses)

The rapper Drake made a song called “Motto”. I don’t suggest you guys go and Google the song, but most of you probably have it on your phones. Drake’s main message is “YOLO”, you only live once. A lot of people adopted this “motto” and starting to live life like there was no tomorrow.

Now what happens when you live like there is no tomorrow? Then all of a sudden, tomorrow comes.

You’ve been spending all you money.

Telling people what’s on your mind, because you know they deserve it.

Maybe you started gravitating towards drugs and alcohol.

Skipping school and sleeping in.

What happens then?

What happens when someone disrespects you and you’re like “YOLO”!

What happens when you are tempted to steal from the mall, knowing the police is in there, knowing they have people watching you, knowing they have cameras...but you’re like “YOLO”!

What happens when your boyfriend or girlfriend is pressuring you to have sex, and you’re like “YOLO”. Then a month later someone is pregnant!

That's just one example of the culture around us can influence our choices.

The idea is to be aware of what is influencing you and how you make the choices you do.

What is the “why” behind our choices?

Again, if we are honest – music, money, friends, movies, sports shape the choices we make for two reasons:

Acceptance and fear!

Pretty much any choice we make hinges on those two things.

We dress like our friends because we FEAR that we will look different, and we want to be ACCEPTED by our friends. We want to fit in!

We chase money or “stuff” because we FEAR that we won't live a good life and have good things. We fear that we won't be ACCEPTED if we don't have a lot of money or “stuff”.

We flirt and sleep around because we FEAR that we are not good enough for someone to love us, and we want to be ACCEPTED by our boyfriends and girlfriends.

We get drunk at parties and do drugs because we FEAR that people will label us “goody goodies”, and goody goodies are not ACCEPTED by the circles we run in.

Listen to what Romans 12:1-2 has to say about choices.

Read Romans 12:1-2 (MSG):

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you

(Note to leader – Talk a little about the meaning of this passage in your own words)

Let me give you a choice to make.

Live free following Jesus!

Or..

Be enslaved to FEAR and ACCEPTANCE

Who's going to make that choice for you?

How are you going to make that choice?

Why will you make that choice?

I hope this message has challenged you to think about the choices you make.

I hope you're inspired to ask God to show you the source of your choices, how you make them, and why you make them.

(Note to leader: End the message with a time of reflection for students. Have the worship band (if you have one) come up and play a song. If you don't have a worship band, play a worship video or song. During the worship song, encourage students to reflect on the message, bringing their choices before God. Allowing Him to speak to them about the choices they make.)

Small Group Discussion Questions:

- Say your name, grade, and if you prefer Apple or Android.
- How easy is it to cruise through a day and not even think about the choices we make? Why is it so easy?
- How do things like music, media, celebrities sports, etc. influence the choices we make?
- How/why do we allow our friends to influence the choices we make?
- What does "the renewing of you mind" in Romans 12:2 mean to you and how can your mind be renewed?