

Discipleship Tip: Fellowship, Prayer & Community

"Everyone wants fellowship, whether you're in church or out of church..." So get connected with people and they will get connected with God and church!

Check out Julie Maconachie's chat to Heidi Wysman about her connect groups vision and growth for more ideas:
<http://www.myc3church.net/node/1014>.

Connect Group Notes 1 August 2010 Making Great Decisions – Ps Tim Lowe

Deut 30:11-20 (NKJV).

God wants us to make good decisions

If we are making bad decisions, we need to change the place that we are making them from. It is not hard as God's Word is near to us and accessible. Our decisions affect us and our legacy. It is possible to make good decisions. God was secure enough in Himself that He gave to us freewill and the power of choice to make decisions. Our God-filled destiny awaits, but we have to make good decisions to 'activate' it.

God's plan for us

Indecision robs us of God's plan for us. Decisiveness creates momentum and allows God to work in our lives.

Many of God's greatest servants struggled to make good decisions initially (e.g. **Josh 7:7**) Good decisions come from us knowing God's plan for us and who we are. The greatest life we can live is a life of faith. Faith calls things into being. It moves us into the unseen.

How to make great decisions

1. Take Responsibility

Get moving! God can then guide us (even if our initial decision is not the best one). We need to move our thinking from how we see ourselves to how God sees us. God established our identity in his identity. We have been made in His image.

Heb 11:32. Gideon started doubtfully ('I am the least of my family'), but ended strongly as a man of enormous faith. God does not change – we do. We need to make decisions to move us from our old selves into our new, transformed state. God is with us!

Mark 16:17. The signs of a good decision may be there (and may not), but will follow. We need to make decisions based in faith on the word – not the signs. When we make a decision, we step out in faith. Faith is awakened by the word of God. We must therefore step out in faith and not fear. Faith leads to growth, increase and God. Fear diminishes us and holds us back. God wants to enlarge and transform us.

Prov 20:24. God directs our steps. When we start moving, God starts moving.

2. Get Committed

There will always be a cost or sacrifice from our committing. **Ps 37:5.**

Commitment shows our love for God. It creates something for ourselves and also others. It moves the odds in our favour, gives us authority and enables us to take ground. Commitment creates certainty, purpose, emotional freedom - it transforms us. (2 Chronicles 16:9). Commitment leads to strength.

God is trying to get us to the promised land. We need to make good decisions to move us **Out** of our original unsaved state, **Through** the proving ground of the wilderness and **Into** the promised land of God's plan for us. The Israelites were lost in the wilderness as they could not make good decisions. They ended up remaining in a place that they were only intended to pass through. We too can end up living in our own wilderness, but this is not what God intends for us. As mature believers, He wants us to enter a promised land of abundance, productivity, life and choice – and to achieve this we must make great decisions.

It is not until we DO the word of God that His plan for our lives is activated. We must decide to draw near to Him so that He can draw near to us.

TALK ABOUT

- **What great decisions have you made?**
- **What have been the consequences of deciding to step out in faith?**
- **What physical steps can you take to get more committed?**
- **What decisions are you putting off today?**

PLEASE REPORT! <http://myc3church.net/cgi-bin/exform.pl>

Connect Leader Training

Please remember that Connect Leader Training is coming up at the Oxford Falls Campus on Sunday 22nd August and on Tuesday 24th August. Training starts on Sunday at 11am or Tuesday at 7.30pm, both held in the Glasshouse and only 2 hours long. And don't forget, its free of charge! Please send your assistant leaders and any up and coming leaders to the training for them to be equipped to run a connect group. It's also a great refresher for all connect group leaders. RSVPs can be sent to connect@my3church.net.