

Patterning Good Decision Making

In a chaotic world hobbled by a coarsened culture it is more important than ever to teach our children godly decision-making skills. And because our children are surrounded with the evidence of poor choices, it becomes crucial for parents to model good decision-making. Little eyes are watching you and so to help as you become that role model for your children, let me first offer six-guideposts based upon Scripture from my *book Direction: Discernment for the Decisions of Your Life*.

Six Guideposts for Modeling Good Decision Making:

1. Know Your Standard Bearer

In ancient days the standard or flag was carried into battle by one sworn to uphold all that the emblem signified, even to the point of wrapping his or her body in the banner before the fatal blow. Christ was God's standard-bearer to the world. Let your child know by your words and actions who your Standard Bearer is.

2. Don't Let a Detour Determine Your Direction

Life is full of detours. One minute we are zooming down the highway and then, right in the middle of the road, there is a detour sign sending us off in another direction, or so we think. Show your children that sometimes detours are not dead-ends but are instead a test of our perseverance.

3. Success Occurs Outside the Comfort Zone

Most of us like to operate within our own comfort zones where we know the landscape and can control the outcome. Are you showing your child that you don't know all the answers and are often outside your comfort zone, but that we can rely on a God who does have all the answers?

4. Giant Strides Begin With a Single Step

Most of us want to do something BIG for God. We want to leave our mark on this world. We also like overnight successes. Little do we know that each overnight success was preceded by many nights of little successes—and failures—till one day the overnight success happened. Do you begin each day taking the next little step you know to take?

5. Choose the Road Less Traveled

Instead of the road less traveled, most prefer the path of relative ease. Crowded and filled with familiarity, this road appears to go where we want to go, after-all "everyone" is on it. Be sure you and your children are not fooled by the flashy billboards.

6. Your Goal May Not Be Your True Destination

You've heard it said: Joy is found in the journey, not the destination. Are you enjoying the journey? They'll be grown before you know it, so enjoy the best you can even the most difficult days. Show your children that you trust a God who has the destination in His hands.

Cheri Cowell is the author of the Bible study, *Parables and Word Pictures from the New Testament*, in the Following God series by AMG Publishers. She is an author, speaker, and sidewalk theologian with a passion to help others connect God's Word to their daily lives. To learn more about Cheri visit her website <http://www.CheriCowell.com>