



KINGDOM QUEST

***TAKING FAITH AND CHARACTER
TO THE NEXT LEVEL***

AGES 7-10 A STRATEGY GUIDE FOR KIDS
AND THEIR PARENTS/MENTORS

TONY EVANS

author of *Raising Kingdom Kids*

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keys to open any and every door: no more barriers between
heaven and earth, earth and heaven.

Matthew 16:19, MSG

Kingdom Quest: A Strategy Guide for Kids and Their Parents/Mentors

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A NOTE FROM DR. TONY EVANS

Are you ready for a quest to discover more about yourself? The first things you'll find out are these:

- You are unique.
- You have a purpose.
- You have a path to take.

This *Kingdom Quest* strategy guide will help you be the strongest, smartest, wisest, and best *you* that you can be. Inside you'll find some tips, truths, and tools to plan your life. It will help you discover more about who you are, who God is, and how you can go further in life than you ever thought possible.

I encourage you to open your heart to what God may reveal through these pages. Make a commitment to finish the guide, and have fun in the process! (Make sure your parents and/or mentors—we call them *Guides* throughout this book—download the *Kingdom Quest Parent/Mentor Guide* at RaisingKingdomKids.org/parenting-tools.)

You have potential for a promising future, and I want to help you get there!



Tony Evans

AN INTRODUCTION TO KINGS AND KINGDOMS

One day Jesus' friends asked Him who was the greatest in His kingdom. Jesus answered in an amazing way. He pointed out a nearby kid and said, "He is."

Jesus said the person who is the greatest is like a kid: trusting and full of faith.

If you're young, Jesus says you're great in His kingdom. You already have a head start on the rest of us. In fact, His kingdom is made up of people, called *subjects*, just like *you*!

What else is Jesus' kingdom like? Well, it's an unusual kingdom. It's one without borders and time. The rules of this earth don't apply there. It has its own rules, weapons, wisdom, and purpose. For example, in Jesus' kingdom it doesn't matter what color your skin is or if you're a boy or a girl.

Power goes to the weak in Jesus' kingdom—that's opposite of the way it is on earth. The weak subjects depend on God and His strength, and He gives them power.

In this kingdom, like in all kingdoms, there is a vile enemy. Satan, the enemy leader, seeks to dethrone the King. Satan also seeks to destroy *you*. He is attempting to pull as many subjects away from the King's rule as possible.

How does Satan do this? He will use a lot of tricks. Some of them are charm, deception, temptation, and pride. He also wants to establish a rival kingdom where evil is practiced instead of the good principles of the King.

So it's all about *you*. Jesus wants *you* to stop Satan's plans. Your mission is to advance the King's rule on earth. You need to use the weapons of warfare to resist and defeat the enemy.

Your task won't be easy, but it will be worth it. Go.

WEAPONS OF WARFARE

In God's kingdom, every subject is a soldier. You must know how to use the weapons God has entrusted to you as His soldier. Ephesians 6:11–17 shows you how to be ready for battle:

Put on all of God's armor. Then you can stand firm against the devil's evil plans. Our fight is not against human beings. It is against the rulers, the authorities and the powers of this dark world. It is against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly world.

So put on all of God's armor. Evil days will come. But you will be able to stand up to anything. And after you have done everything you can, you will still be standing.

So remain strong in the faith. Put the belt of truth around your waist. Put the armor of godliness on your chest. Wear on your feet what will prepare you to tell the good news of peace. Also, pick up the shield of faith. With it you can put out all of the flaming arrows of the evil one. Put on the helmet of salvation. And take the sword of the Holy Spirit. The sword is God's word.

There are six pieces of armor described in Ephesians. They can be divided into two groups. The first group contains three pieces of the armor. You should wear these pieces all of the time. You should never take them off. Think of them like a uniform a baseball player puts on when he goes out to play. The player wears the uniform the entire time he is in the game.

The three pieces in the second group are weapons to pick up as you need them. Ephesians tells you to "put on" these pieces. This is like that same baseball player grabbing his glove or his bat, depending upon where he is in the game.

CATEGORY 1: PIECES TO WEAR ALL THE TIME

In Jesus' kingdom, the subjects are expected to wear and use these pieces of armor given to them. The three pieces to be worn at all times during battle are

- a belt
- armor on your chest
- shoes



THE BELT OF TRUTH

A Roman soldier's belt was used to hold his weapons. The belt held his sword, a dagger, and any other items he needed. He was prepared for battle.

A belt also kept a soldier from falling. How? Well, part of a soldier's uniform was a long tunic. The tunic might trip him during battle, and so the soldier needed to keep it away from his feet.

He would pick up the bottom part of the tunic and tuck it into his belt. That way he would not trip on the tunic.

The leather belt kept the Roman soldier prepared and standing. That's a lot like a spiritual belt of truth. A spiritual belt keeps a Christian mentally prepared for battle. It also keeps him or her standing on God's Word. Jesus' soldiers will be able to remain steady and loyal when Satan comes to attack.



THE ARMOR OF GODLINESS

The belt of truth comes first because truth is the foundation for our actions. We first must *know* what is right (truth) before we can *do* what is right. A godly person does what is right, and he or she needs the armor of godliness. This piece is also called the "breastplate of righteousness." A *breastplate* protects a person's heart and lungs. *Righteousness* simply means "being or doing what

is right." This piece of armor protects us from Satan's attacks. But it also allows us to push into enemy territory and do good works for the kingdom.



SHOES OF PEACE

A Roman soldier's sandals had short, fat nails called *hobnails*. These hobnails were put through the sole of the shoe. Hobnails were similar to cleats in the shoes worn by football and soccer players. Hobnails gave the sandals traction and kept the soldier from slipping and sliding. It gave him sure footing so he could move quickly in battle. The hobnails made it more difficult

for someone to knock down the soldier.

When you wear your shoes of peace, it creates traction. If you have traction, Satan can't knock you off of your feet. A peaceful person is stable, calm, and at rest within. If a person is not at peace, he or she has inner chaos and worry.

CATEGORY 2: PIECES TO PICK UP AND USE AS NEEDED

The following pieces of armor are to be used when needed:

- **shield of faith**
- **helmet of salvation**
- **sword of the Spirit**



SHIELD OF FAITH

A Roman soldier's shield was four feet long and a little more than two feet wide. A soldier hid underneath the shield when arrows were shot at him.

You can compare this shield to a space capsule's shield. When a space capsule heads home, it needs protection coming into Earth's atmosphere. The heat is so high during reentry that a space capsule—and everyone inside it—would burn up in seconds without a shield. Flames and smoke can engulf the entire capsule, but the shield keeps everything on the inside from being damaged.

Satan seeks to surround you with an atmosphere of chaos and destruction. Taking up your faith shield protects you from those evil forces.



HELMET OF SALVATION

The main purpose of a helmet—in battle, sports, or even in risky situations like construction—is to protect the head from injury to the brain. The brain must be protected because it's made of soft tissue. Once the brain becomes damaged, body functions also become damaged. A football player wears a padded helmet to help absorb the shock when his head gets hit. An athlete with a severe head injury

can no longer play at the level he or she once could. In fact, an athlete with a head injury may not even be able to play at all.

The brain is the control center of the body. The mind must be protected with a helmet that is able to absorb the shocks of being hit by the enemy.



SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

This piece of armor is the only weapon used for attacks. The other pieces are designed to hold you steady or protect you against the enemy's schemes. After God outfits you for battle, He gives you an additional weapon with which you can advance. This weapon is the sword of the Spirit—the Word of God.

A Roman soldier had two different types of swords, a long one and a short one. The longer sword had a three-foot-long blade. (That's about the length of a wrapping-paper tube.) It was used to fight an enemy at arm's length. The shorter sword had an eighteen-inch blade. A soldier would use this in close combat situations.

Let's review part of the Ephesians 6 passage. Verse 17 says, "Take the sword of the Holy Spirit. The sword is God's word." When the Scripture instructs us to "take the sword," it is referring to the short sword. The sword of the Spirit is to save you when personal attacks come close to you.

In the battle of life, sometimes it seems as if the enemy is right in your face. Imagine two basketball players. One is shooting and the opponent is trying to block the shot. The blocker will often put his hands in the shooter's face. The shooter will not be able to see the basket. Satan doesn't want us to shoot the ball into the basket. He brings his battle as close to you as possible. This attack can affect your mind, will, emotions, and body. The sword of the Spirit is designed to ward off attacks that are "in your face."

HEROES IN THE HALL OF FAITH

Grab your Bible. Look up the verses in the left-hand column. Find out which Bible hero the passage describes. Draw a line from the Bible verse to the corresponding hero. The first one is done for you.

Genesis 41:54

Daniel—his faith shut the mouths of lions.

1 Samuel 17:49

David—his faith took down the giant.

Judges 7:7, 22

Gideon—his faith won a battle against thousands with only 300 men.

Daniel 6:21-22

Joseph—his faith saved nations from starvation.

Hebrews 11:11

Moses—his faith parted the Red Sea.

Hebrews 11:28-29

Rahab—her faith saved her and her family in the battle of Jericho.

Hebrews 11:31

Sarah—her faith brought her a child in her old age.



**LEVEL 1
MY FORM**

IDENTITY



GOALS

1

You will learn how to see yourself as God sees you.

2

You will discover the strengths of your own personality.

3

You will begin to develop your logo and tagline.

MEANING

The traits of a person that make him or her rare, unique, and valuable



• **UNIQUE**—very special, being unlike any other

• **RARE**—having great value; very few

• **VALUABLE**—of great use and importance

Application: You know that God views you as a one-of-a-kind masterpiece. Masterpieces are rare and valuable.

FROM THE WORD

We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do.

— **Ephesians 2:10**

But God chose you to be his people. . . . You are God's special treasure. You are all these things so that you can give him praise. — **1 Peter 2:9**

DEFINE

What does “identity” mean to you?

QUESTIONS 2 PONDER

1. What three words would you use to describe yourself?
2. How do you know who your friends really are? Do you choose friends based on what they say about themselves? Or do you choose them by what they do?
3. Imagine you will be stuck in a room alone for a week. (Yes, you have food, water, clothing, and access to a bathroom.) What four items would you take with you? Why did you choose those items?

JUST 4 FUN

Create your identity logo and tagline using the following guide.

1. Draw a personal logo. Make sure it reflects who you are as a person. For example, are you strong? Quiet? Solid? Prone to daydreaming? Here are some ideas:
 - Use colors that reflect your overall personality. For example, yellow could represent someone who is happy and warm.

JUST 4 FUN (CONTINUED)

- The shape and thickness of any letters you use can represent your personality—a thin, fancy letter would show something different than a thick block letter.
 - Consider putting your logo inside a “container” such as a square or an oval border.
2. After your logo is finished, develop a tagline. A tagline is a short, creative statement that lets others know who you are. Some sample taglines are:
- Nike—*Just Do It!*
 - Apple—*Think different*
 - M&M’s—*Melts in your mouth, not in your hand*

DRAW YOUR LOGO HERE



HERE 2 HELP

Have you ever licked out of a bowl that was used for cookie batter? I think you have! But have you ever grabbed the baking soda and put some into your mouth?

I doubt it. Baking soda is bitter.

But after all the ingredients are mixed together, the batter tastes sweet. After the cookies are baked, they are really good.

In a way, those cookies are just like you. You are a wonderful mixture of your background, talents, hobbies, personality, and more. Sure, some of the “ingredients” of your life have been bitter. Your family may have had some hard times. But God has a way of mixing everything together and turning it into a special you.

A healthy identity form recognizes the God-given strengths of the person. Maybe you are good with numbers, people, music, art, or sports. Be sure to include your strengths on your identity form.



IT'S UP 2 YOU

Read each statement. Then select the response that best reflects the way you think and feel. Next circle the letter next to the answer. Follow the directions on tallying your score at the end of the quiz. Ask your Guide for help if you have questions.

1. I remember that God created me *on* purpose.

- A. ALWAYS**
- B. MOST OF THE TIME**
- C. SOMETIMES**
- D. NO, I AM NOT SURE.**

2. I remember that God created me *for* a purpose.

- A. ALWAYS**
- B. MOST OF THE TIME**
- C. SOMETIMES**
- D. NEVER**

IT'S UP 2 YOU (CONTINUED)

3. I feel good about myself only when I do well in school, in sports, in music, or in another activity.
- A. ALWAYS**
 - B. MOST OF THE TIME**
 - C. SELDOM**
 - D. NEVER**
4. I tend to feel worthless because I'm not very good at anything.
- A. ALWAYS**
 - B. MOST OF THE TIME**
 - C. SELDOM**
 - D. NEVER**
5. I feel like I am important to my parents and/or other adults in my life.
- A. ALWAYS**
 - B. MOST OF THE TIME**
 - C. SELDOM**
 - D. NEVER**
6. I am comfortable being myself around people who are different from me.
- A. ALWAYS**
 - B. MOST OF THE TIME**
 - C. SELDOM**
 - D. NEVER**
7. If I got a *really* bad haircut . . .
- A. THE WHOLE SCHOOL COULD MAKE FUN OF ME, AND I WOULDN'T CARE.**
 - B. IF PEOPLE MADE FUN OF ME, I MIGHT FEEL LIKE CRYING.**
 - C. I WOULD WEAR A HAT OR ASK MY FRIENDS TO HELP HIDE ME AT LUNCHTIME.**
 - D. I WOULD TRY TO STAY HOME SO NO ONE WOULD SEE ME, NOT EVEN MY FRIENDS.**
8. I can discuss my strengths and weaknesses with others.
- A. YES, WITH MOST PEOPLE**
 - B. YES, WITH SOME PEOPLE**
 - C. NOT REALLY**
 - D. I DON'T KNOW WHAT MY STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES ARE.**

9. I think most people would reject me if they knew what I am really like.

- A. ALWAYS
- B. MOST OF THE TIME
- C. SELDOM
- D. NEVER

10. I tend to wonder if I will go to heaven when I die.

- A. ALWAYS
- B. MOST OF THE TIME
- C. SELDOM
- D. NEVER

IDENTITY SCORECARD

1. Answer:	A-5	B-4	C-3	D-2	POINTS:
2. Answer:	A-5	B-4	C-3	D-2	POINTS:
3. Answer:	A-2	B-3	C-4	D-5	POINTS:
4. Answer:	A-2	B-3	C-4	D-5	POINTS:
5. Answer:	A-5	B-4	C-3	D-2	POINTS:
6. Answer:	A-5	B-4	C-3	D-2	POINTS:
7. Answer:	A-5	B-4	C-3	D-2	POINTS:
8. Answer:	A-5	B-4	C-3	D-2	POINTS:
9. Answer:	A-2	B-3	C-4	D-5	POINTS:
10. Answer:	A-2	B-3	C-4	D-5	POINTS:

TOTAL POINTS:

IT'S UP 2 YOU (CONTINUED)

IDENTITY PROFILE

If your total points score was . . .

40–50: You know that you were created by God on purpose. You know that you have a purpose in life. You are secure in your identity. You have a good support system of family and friends. You may enjoy hobbies and activities, but you are not defined by what you do or what you are good at. You are aware that if Jesus Christ is your Savior, your eternity is secure in Him.

30–39: You might see yourself as a human *doing*. Instead, try to see yourself as a human *being*. If we identify ourselves by what we do, our identity is shaken. It can crumble if we perform poorly.

20–29: It's never too late to understand that you can have an identity that is secure in Jesus Christ. He is a Rock, who loves you unconditionally, who never changes, and who will never forsake you or leave you alone. God has given each of us gifts and made each of us uniquely and wonderfully. By spending time learning His Word, we can learn what our gifts are and the purpose He has for our lives. Go through this key again with your Guide, and pray that you understand that God made you to follow His purpose for your life.



KINGDOM KEY 2

INTEGRITY



GOALS

1

You will discover what integrity is.

2

You will see how you rate yourself on integrity.

3

You will read about what can happen if you don't have integrity.

MEANING

Seeking to live honestly and right; complete and steadfast



INTEGRITY

- **HONEST**—free from deception; speaking and living the truth
- **DECENT**—well-formed; marked by a right heart and actions
- **COMPLETE**—not limited or lacking in any necessary area

Application: You have a commitment to biblical truth and honesty. You have good character that is consistent and dependable. You choose thoughts, words, and actions that reflect what is right and honest.

FROM THE WORD

People who don't believe might say you are doing wrong. But lead good lives among them. Then they will see your good deeds. And they will give glory to God on the day he comes to judge. — **1 Peter 2:12**

DEFINE

What does “integrity” mean to you?

QUESTIONS 2 PONDER

1. Do your friends make it easier or more difficult for you to do what is right? Do your friends listen to you if you ask them to do what is right?
2. Has another person’s poor choices (lack of integrity) made life more difficult for you? (For example, has someone ever stolen something from you? Bullied you? How did that affect you?)
3. How do you want others to describe you: [Your name] is a person who is _____, _____, and _____.

JUST 4 FUN

Get a bag of knotted or circle pretzels, the ones with the holes in them. (You can also use O-shaped cereal pieces.) Stack them as high as you can in a tower. Then, blow on the tower. It falls easily, doesn't it! Now stack the pretzels again, but this time use a base made from a stick of butter or margarine—a three-tablespoon block should do the trick. Stack the pretzels again, but this time stick five or six pieces of dried spaghetti running up and down the stack like a spine. Make sure the spaghetti is pushed into the butter. Blow on it. The pretzel tower is sturdier when it has the butter base and spaghetti pieces to keep it up.



Another word for a tower or a building is *structure*. *Structural integrity* is a builder's word to describe what keeps a building standing. It describes the internal strength of a high-rise, house, or tower. The pretzel tower with the spaghetti had structural integrity. The tower without spaghetti fell because it lacked integrity.

Personal integrity keeps your character strong. It's like having extra strength—some spaghetti!—in your life. Personal integrity describes your thoughts, words, and actions that combine to make your life steady. It describes the internal strength of a person.

Just as a stack of pretzels alone falls easily, a life without personal integrity can topple in a moment. It's important to build your life in a way that prevents it from falling.

HERE 2 HELP

Maintaining your personal integrity is important. You don't want your reputation to collapse. It can come crumbling down in a moment with one wrong decision. For example, one bad choice to cheat on an exam can put a stain on your school career. One lie can collapse a friendship. One stolen video game can get you in trouble with the police.

For you to advance through the different levels of life, your integrity must be intact. Your legs need to be strong with honesty, your arms powerful with right choices (decency). Your body, mind, and spirit should be strong. You should act with a pure heart and consistency. You should be seeking to do what is right.

HERE 2 HELP (CONTINUED)

One system to make decisions that result in strong choices is called **STAR**. The **STAR** principle tells you to

- S** Stop what you are doing;
- T** Think about how your decisions will impact yourself and others;
- A** Adjust your decisions; and
- R** Respond thoughtfully.

Over the next few days, memorize the **STAR** principle and use it to make choices.

IT'S UP 2 YOU

Read each statement. Then select the response that best describes your reaction to the following statements. Follow the directions on tallying your score at the end of the quiz. Ask your Guide for help if you have questions.

1. If I had a chance to steal something from a store, I would do it.
A. DEFINITELY B. MAYBE C. NO, I WOULDN'T DO THAT.
2. If I want to do something but my mom or dad disapproves of it, I would do it anyway.
A. DEFINITELY B. MAYBE C. NO, I DON'T DO THAT.
3. I go to websites and download videos and/or music without paying. I don't find out if it's legal or not.
A. DEFINITELY B. MAYBE C. NO, I DON'T DO THAT.
4. It is perfectly okay to copy homework as long as the other person doesn't mind.
A. DEFINITELY B. MAYBE C. NO, I DON'T DO THAT.
5. I think about how my decisions and actions affect my family and/or friends.
A. DEFINITELY B. MAYBE C. NO, I DON'T DO THAT.
6. I think about how my decisions and actions affect people I don't know.
A. DEFINITELY B. MAYBE C. NO, I DON'T DO THAT.

7. If I thought a kid at school was cheating on a test, I would tell a teacher.
- A. **DEFINITELY**
 - B. **MAYBE**
 - C. **NO, I WOULDN'T SNITCH.**
 - D. **I'D TALK ABOUT IT WITH A PARENT OR MENTOR BEFORE TELLING THE TEACHER.**
8. Everyone who knows me would say they can count on me to be truthful.
- A. **ALL OF THE TIME**
 - B. **MOST OF THE TIME**
 - C. **SOMETIMES**
 - D. **NEVER**
9. I say and do things so that other people will like me.
- A. **ALL OF THE TIME**
 - B. **MOST OF THE TIME**
 - C. **SOMETIMES**
 - D. **NEVER**

**LET INTEGRITY AND UPRIGHTNESS
PRESERVE ME, FOR I WAIT FOR YOU.**

PSALM 25:21, NASB

IT'S UP 2 YOU (CONTINUED)

INTEGRITY SCORECARD

For each question, assign the following point values for the answer chosen. Then, total the number of points you have on the assessment.

1. Answer: **A-2** **B-4** **C-6** **POINTS:**

2. Answer: **A-2** **B-4** **C-6** **POINTS:**

3. Answer: **A-2** **B-4** **C-6** **POINTS:**

4. Answer: **A-2** **B-4** **C-6** **POINTS:**

5. Answer: **A-6** **B-4** **C-2** **POINTS:**

6. Answer: **A-6** **B-4** **C-2** **POINTS:**

7. Answer: **A-6** **B-4** **C-2** **D-6** **POINTS:**

8. Answer: **A-8** **B-6** **C-4** **D-2** **POINTS:**

9. Answer: **A-2** **B-4** **C-6** **D-8** **POINTS:**

TOTAL POINTS:

INTEGRITY PROFILE

If your total points score was . . .

46–58: You are walking with integrity. You are doing the right thing even when the right thing is difficult to do or might be unpopular. You are putting the welfare of others ahead of your own needs or wants. You are asking for guidance from the right places.

32–44: If you answered in this range, take a moment to thank the people in your life who have taught you that it is important to do the right thing. But from time to time you struggle to do what you know is right. Understand that doing what you know to be right and true will become a habit if you are consistent.

18–30: Sometimes kids (and adults!) have to be awakened to the idea that the community is full of people—some of whom we may never meet—who count on us to do the right thing. Every time you get in a car to go somewhere, you are counting on everyone else to obey the traffic laws so that you can safely arrive at your destination. If your score is in this range, get into the habit of using the **STAR** principle (see the Here 2 Help section) as you make decisions. Ask your Guide to go through this key with you again.



KINGDOM KEY 3 

WISDOM



GOALS

1

You will distinguish between God's wisdom and what the world says.

2

You will explore negative consequences of bad choices.

3

You will understand where to find wisdom and how to get it.

MEANING

Good sense of judgment—the ability to apply understanding to life's choices



- **REASONABLE**—having sound judgment and good thinking; making sense
- **DISCERNMENT**—being able to grasp and comprehend what is difficult to understand or see
- **APPLY**—to put to use, especially for some practical purpose

Application: You have the ability to make positive and productive decisions; you can communicate with others in a reasonable way.

FROM THE WORD

Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced.

—James 3:17, MSG

DEFINE

What does “wisdom” mean to you?

QUESTIONS 2 PONDER

1. What is the difference between being smart and being wise?
2. What are things you can do to grow in understanding God’s wise ways?
3. Can you name one person you consider to be wise and explain why you chose him or her?

JUST 4 FUN

1. Write down daily-life scenarios on index cards or small sheets of paper. These scenarios can be real or could-be-real situations. They can involve friends, family, or strangers. One example: A friend of a friend brought a smartphone to a church overnight event. He/she is planning on showing everyone inappropriate images. Your friend tells you about it, but he or she asks you not to tell. What should you do? Another example: Your friend’s older brother offers you a ride on his new motorcycle. You’re tempted to take the ride because it looks like so much fun, but your parents aren’t available to give permission. What should you do?
2. One at a time, select one of these life scenarios and think about how you might handle it. Discuss with your Guide or fellow soldiers how to wisely deal with each scenario.

HERE 2 HELP



Life is full of decisions, and you have made some wrong ones—just like everyone else. Pretend you were given the chance to redo moments in your life. What would you do differently? Would you make better choices? Would you choose different friends? How would you spend your time? Would you practice harder at whatever sport, gift, or

skill you have? Do your homework on time? Give up electronic games and TV programs for a year? (Okay, maybe that last one is a stretch!) If you answered yes to any of those questions, then you know what it means to apply wisdom to life's situations. By answering yes, it shows you want to go back and make a different choice, this time with the wisdom of hindsight.

Wisdom is the ability to understand the best way to approach something and act on it. However, wisdom won't help if you don't apply that understanding.

Life is not like a video game. We don't get zapped or destroyed when we make unwise choices (thankfully). However, our bad choices set us back in other ways. They could

- wound a friendship;
- damage your lungs or health;
- ruin your reputation;
- block your chances to move to a higher-level sports team;
- get you into trouble at school;
- involve you in a car accident; or
- disappoint your parents or other mentors.

Whatever it is, unwise choices stop you from moving forward.

On the other hand, wisdom is a powerful key to unlocking doors to

- a better future;
- more enjoyable friendships;
- a greater position on the team or choir or orchestra;
- buying your own cell phone;
- opportunities in school;
- peace of mind when it comes to your physical body; and
- greater access to the power of prayer.

Wisdom moves you forward. Use this key to open doors, jump higher, run faster, defeat the enemy's schemes, and more!



**IF ANY OF YOU LACKS
WISDOM, LET HIM ASK
OF GOD, WHO GIVES TO
ALL GENEROUSLY AND
WITHOUT REPROACH, AND
IT WILL BE GIVEN TO HIM.**

JAMES 1:5, NASB

IT'S UP 2 YOU

Read each statement. Then select the response that best represents how you think and feel. Circle the answer that corresponds to that response. Then follow the instructions to fill in your Wisdom Meter on page 22. Ask your Guide for help if you have questions.

- When I'm not sure what to do, I ask a parent or mentor what the Bible says to do. Or I read the Bible myself.
A. YES **B. NO** **C. SOMETIMES**
- When I'm not sure which decision is best, I pray about what to do.
A. YES **B. NO** **C. SOMETIMES**
- I tend to repeat the same mistakes.
A. YES **B. NO** **C. SOMETIMES**
- When I'm faced with a tough decision, I ask people who have experience what to do.
A. YES **B. NO** **C. SOMETIMES**
- The elderly don't understand what my life is like.
A. TRUE **B. FALSE** **C. MAYBE**
- I have at least one adult in my life whom I can trust to give me good advice.
A. YES **B. NO**
- Church friends my age are a good source of advice. I talk to them before I make decisions.
A. YES **B. NO** **C. SOMETIMES**
- When others ask me for advice, I give them my opinion confidently.
A. YES, THAT'S ME!
B. I'M OFTEN HESITANT TO ANSWER. I'M NOT SURE WHAT I BELIEVE. I SUGGEST THAT THEY SHOULD ASK AN ADULT.
C. SOMETIMES, BUT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I'M A LITTLE AFRAID TO TELL PEOPLE WHAT I THINK.
- I wait until I feel sure of something before I act or speak.
A. YES **B. NO** **C. SOMETIMES**

10. I can remember a time when I followed advice that I didn't like, but I knew it was right.

A. YES; IT WORKED WELL FOR ME.

B. NO, BUT I WISH I HAD AND WILL NEXT TIME.

C. NO, I HAVEN'T HAD THAT EXPERIENCE.

WISDOM SCORECARD

Record your answers here.

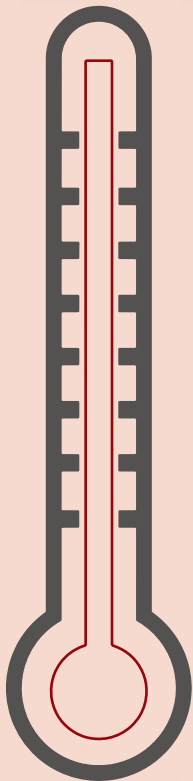
- | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. Answer: | A-2 | B-0 | C-1 | POINTS: |
| 2. Answer: | A-2 | B-0 | C-1 | POINTS: |
| 3. Answer: | A-0 | B-2 | C-1 | POINTS: |
| 4. Answer: | A-2 | B-0 | C-1 | POINTS: |
| 5. Answer: | A-0 | B-2 | C-1 | POINTS: |
| 6. Answer: | A-1 | B-0 | | POINTS: |
| 7. Answer: | A-2 | B-0 | C-1 | POINTS: |
| 8. Answer: | A-2 | B-0 | C-1 | POINTS: |
| 9. Answer: | A-2 | B-0 | C-1 | POINTS: |
| 10. Answer: | A-2 | B-1 | C-0 | POINTS: |

TOTAL POINTS:

IT'S UP 2 YOU (CONTINUED)

WISDOM METER

Color in the Wisdom Meter according to your scorecard. If your total points score was . . .



14–19 points: You've already learned that wisdom can be found through others who have more life experience. You have also applied biblical truth to life experiences. Wisdom is a lifelong pursuit, so keep up the good work.

8–13 points: You're on your way to walking in wisdom. The Bible teaches that respect and awe of the Lord are the beginning of knowledge. Continue seeking His will and learning about His character through Bible study and prayer. Wisdom will save you from many painful experiences in life. When offering advice to others, seek God's wisdom about what to say.

0–7 points: The Bible tells us that if we ask God for wisdom, He will give it to us (James 1:5–6). If you find that you're not learning from experience and are often making unwise choices, be sure to find a reliable adult you can seek out for advice. More important, read God's Word daily. (Hint: Proverbs is a book that is full of practical wisdom.) Also, take time to talk with/listen to God about what you know and what you need to learn. He is listening and desires to teach you.

