



# KINGDOM QUEST

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

**AGES 11-13** A STRATEGY GUIDE FOR TWEENS  
AND THEIR PARENTS/MENTORS

# TONY EVANS

author of *Raising Kingdom Kids*

**FOCUS<sup>®</sup>**  
ON THE  
**FAMILY**



Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.  
Carol Stream, Illinois



*You will have complete and free access to God's kingdom,  
keys to open any and every door: no more barriers  
between heaven and earth, earth and heaven.*

**Matthew 16:19**

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

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## ***A Note from Dr. Tony Evans***

Are you ready for a quest to discover more about you? You'll find out how God made you, what gifts He gave you, and what you have been created to do.

First things first:

You are unique.

You have a purpose.

You have a path to take.

However, as in any sport or conquest, you will find enemies along the way—things, people, or thoughts that try to get you off target.

This *Kingdom Quest* strategy guide will help you be the strongest, smartest, wisest, and best *you* that you can be, so that you can maneuver, jump over, or beat out those enemies altogether. God has a plan for you in His kingdom and a role for you to play. In order for you to play that role to the fullest, you need some tips, truths, and tools to plan your life.

That's what this *Kingdom Quest* strategy guide is all about. 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.

Whether you're going through this *Kingdom Quest* strategy guide alone or with a parent, a coach, youth worker, mentor, or friends, it's been designed with you in mind.

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"—download the *Kingdom Quest Leader's Guide* at <http://raisingkingdomkids.org/parenting-tools/>.)

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



## ***An Introduction to Kings and Kingdoms***

When Jesus' friends asked Him who was the greatest in His kingdom, He grabbed a kid and said, "He is."

That's my shortened version of what happened, but you get the point. Jesus said the person who is the greatest is like a kid: humble, trusting, full of faith. If you're young (and you are!), Jesus says you're great in His kingdom. You already have a head start on the rest of us. His kingdom is made up of people just like *you*!

What 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. In His kingdom, hope comes through helping others.

Power goes to the weak in Jesus' kingdom—that's opposite of the way it is on earth. Those who know they don't have any power on their own have greater power because they depend on God and His strength; that's when He gives it.

In this kingdom, like in all kingdoms, there is a vile enemy lurking and seeking to dethrone the King. Satan, the enemy leader of this rebellion, now desires to lay claim to us. Satan is attempting to pull as many people away from the true King's rule as possible. The enemy will use charm, deception, distraction, temptation, pride, apathy, and evil. He wants to establish a rival kingdom whose subjects aim to defeat the objectives of the true King.

So in a sense, 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, push back, and defeat the enemy. You need to grow in wisdom and strength. You also need to use God's power to spread His rule and reign over every area of life.

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

## ***Weapons of Warfare***

As we mentioned earlier, you and other Christians in Jesus' kingdom are in a battle. Ephesians 6:11–17 shows you how you can succeed. To be ready for battle, you have to know how to use the weapons God has entrusted to His soldiers:

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 stand firm. 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. (NIRV)

Each of the six pieces of armor described in Ephesians can be put in one of two categories. The first category includes the first three pieces of the armor that you should wear all of the time. You should never take them off. Think of this as 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.

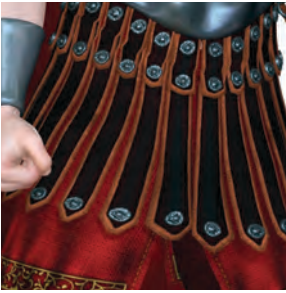
The last three pieces of the armor are for you to pick up as the situation demands. We are told to "put on" these pieces. This is like that same baseball player grabbing his glove or his bat, depending upon where he is in the game.

***If your goal is to [attack] some form of stronghold, conflict, or trial in your visible, physical world, you [must first deal with] its invisible, spiritual [root]. –Dr. Tony Evans***

## Category 1: Pieces to wear all the time

In Jesus' kingdom, the subjects are expected to wear and use the armor given to them.

Three pieces are to be worn at all times during battle. They are a belt, armor on your chest, and shoes.



### THE BELT OF TRUTH

A Roman soldier's belt held his weapons. He would hang his sword, a dagger, or any needed items on it.

A belt also kept a soldier from falling. How? Well, part of a soldier's uniform was a long tunic. During battle, the tunic might trip him, so he needed to keep it away from his feet. A soldier would pick up the bottom part of the tunic and tuck it into his belt so that he would not trip. The belt kept him from stumbling.

A physical belt kept a Roman soldier prepared and standing. A spiritual belt of truth keeps a Christian mentally prepared and standing on God's Word. So when Satan comes along and tries to twist the truth, Jesus' soldiers will be able to remain steady and loyal.



### THE ARMOR OF GODLINESS

A godly person does what is right. The belt of truth comes first because truth is the standard for godly actions. We first must *know* what is right (truth) before we can *do* what is right. The armor of godliness is also called the "breastplate of righteousness." A *breastplate* protects a person's heart, lungs, and other vital organs. *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 spikes in track shoes or 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 so that Satan can't knock you off of your feet. *Peace* means "complete, whole, and an inner resting of the soul that does not zigzag based on outside influences." A peaceful person is stable, calm, orderly, and at rest within. Inner chaos, anxiety, and worry are the results of not being at peace.

## Category 2: Pieces to pick up and use as needed

In Jesus' kingdom, the subjects are expected to wear and use the armor given to them. The following pieces are to be used when needed.



## 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. After a space capsule accomplishes its mission and 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 negative 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. A football player wears a padded helmet to help absorb the shock when his head gets hit. 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 with a severe head injury can no longer play at the level he once could. In fact, he may not even be able to play at all.

The brain is the control center of the body. Likewise the mind is the control center of the soul, which is your emotions and will. 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. The first sword—called a *spatha*—had a three-foot-long blade. It was used to fight an enemy at arm's length. The shorter sword, called the *gladius*, 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 defensive player will often put his hands in the shooter's face. The shooter will not be able to see the basket. Satan doesn't want you 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***

Here are some of the heroes found in Jesus' kingdom.

1. **Rahab**—her faith saved her and her family in the battle of Jericho (Hebrews 11:31).
2. **Sarah**—her faith brought her a child in her old age (Hebrews 11:11).
3. **Joseph**—his faith saved nations from starvation (Genesis 41:54).
4. **Moses**—his faith parted the Red Sea (Hebrews 11:28–29).
5. **Gideon**—his faith won a battle against thousands with only 300 men (Judges 7:22).
6. **David**—his faith took down the giant (1 Samuel 17:49).
7. **Daniel**—his faith shut the mouths of lions (Daniel 6:21–22).

## ***Decoder***

Below is a table to help you understand the titles in the Kingdom Key lessons.

<b>Q2P</b>	=	Questions 2 Ponder
<b>J4F</b>	=	Just 4 Fun
<b>H2H</b>	=	Here 2 Help
<b>IU2U</b>	=	It's Up 2 You





***Level I***



***My Form***



# KINGDOM KEY 1



## IDENTITY

### OBJECTIVES



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



You will discover the strengths of your own personality.



You will begin to develop your personal form and tagline.

### WORD SKETCH

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

## IDENTITY

**UNIQUE**—very special; being without a duplicate

**RARE**—marked by quality or appeal; very few

**VALUABLE**—of great use and importance

### ANCIENT TEXT

[God] creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing. —*Ephesians 2:10*

You are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him. —*1 Peter 2:9*

**DEFINE**

What does “identity” mean to you?

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**RENDERING**

**YOU KNOW THAT GOD  
VIEWS YOU AS A ONE-  
OF-A-KIND MASTERPIECE.  
MASTERPIECES ARE RARE  
AND VALUABLE.**

**Q2P**

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

Create your own logo and tagline using the following guide.

1. Spend some time drawing your personal logo. Make sure it reflects who you are as a person. For example, are you strong? Quiet? Solid? Prone to daydreaming?
2. After your logo is finished, develop a tagline—a simple yet creative statement that lets others know who you are. Some sample taglines are Nike: *Just Do It!*; Apple: *Think Different*; and The Urban Alternative: *Teaching Truth. Transforming Lives.*

**DRAW YOUR LOGO HERE**



**H2H**

Have you ever licked out a bowl that was used for cookie batter? I think you have! But have you ever wanted to grab the baking soda and dump a spoonful into your mouth?

I doubt it. Bitter baking soda by itself would not tempt your taste buds.

Yet after someone adds sugar, mixes all the ingredients together, and bakes the cookies, they are really good. Those cookies are just like you.

You are a unique mixture of your background, skills, talent, personality, and more. Sure, some of the “ingredients” of your life have been bitter. 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, or sports. Be sure to include your strengths on your identity form.

**IU2U**

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.

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**

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**

**IU2U CONTINUED**

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. Before I get a new hairstyle, I get my friends' approval first.
- A. ALWAYS**
  - B. YES, UNLESS I'M SURE THEY WOULD APPROVE.**
  - C. ONLY IF IT IS SOMETHING WEIRD.**
  - D. WHY? MY FRIENDS LET ME BE ME.**
8. I can comfortably discuss my strengths and weaknesses.
- 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 the real me.
- A. ALWAYS**
  - B. MOST OF THE TIME**
  - C. SELDOM**
  - D. NEVER**

10. I 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:	<b>A-5</b>	<b>B-4</b>	<b>C-3</b>	<b>D-2</b>	<b>POINTS:</b>
2. Answer:	<b>A-5</b>	<b>B-4</b>	<b>C-3</b>	<b>D-2</b>	<b>POINTS:</b>
3. Answer:	<b>A-2</b>	<b>B-3</b>	<b>C-4</b>	<b>D-5</b>	<b>POINTS:</b>
4. Answer:	<b>A-2</b>	<b>B-3</b>	<b>C-4</b>	<b>D-5</b>	<b>POINTS:</b>
5. Answer:	<b>A-5</b>	<b>B-4</b>	<b>C-3</b>	<b>D-2</b>	<b>POINTS:</b>
6. Answer:	<b>A-5</b>	<b>B-4</b>	<b>C-3</b>	<b>D-2</b>	<b>POINTS:</b>
7. Answer:	<b>A-2</b>	<b>B-3</b>	<b>C-4</b>	<b>D-5</b>	<b>POINTS:</b>
8. Answer:	<b>A-5</b>	<b>B-4</b>	<b>C-3</b>	<b>D-2</b>	<b>POINTS:</b>
9. Answer:	<b>A-2</b>	<b>B-3</b>	<b>C-4</b>	<b>D-5</b>	<b>POINTS:</b>
10. Answer:	<b>A-2</b>	<b>B-3</b>	<b>C-4</b>	<b>D-5</b>	<b>POINTS:</b>

**TOTAL POINTS:**

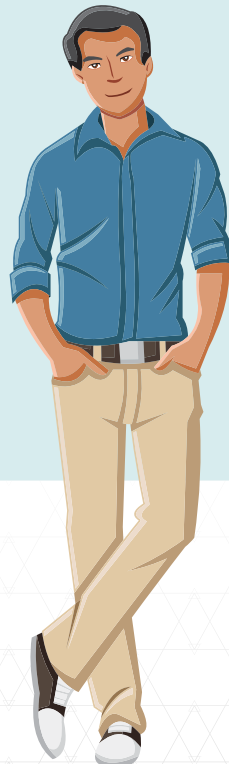
## IDENTITY PROFILE

If your total points score was . . .

**40–50:** You know that you were created by God on purpose and 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 can be shaken. It can crumble if we perform poorly. The Bible tells us in Matthew 7:15–20 that we are known by our “fruit”—not only by what we do with our lives but also by how we represent God’s love and nature.

**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. He invites all people to come to Him just as they are. 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.





## INTEGRITY

### OBJECTIVES

1

You will discover how integrity relates to different areas of life.

2

You will see how you rate yourself on integrity.

3

You will read about what can happen if integrity is lacking.

### WORD SKETCH

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

### ANCIENT TEXT

May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you. —*Psalm 25:21, ESV*

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, NIRV*

**DEFINE**

What does “integrity” mean to you?

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**RENDERING**

**YOU HAVE A COMMITMENT TO BIBLICAL TRUTH AND HONESTY. YOU HAVE A CHARACTER THAT IS NOT CORRUPTED OR COMPROMISED. YOU CHOOSE THOUGHTS, WORDS, AND ACTIONS THAT REFLECT WHAT IS RIGHT AND HONEST.**

**Q2P**

1. How do your friends impact your integrity? Do they make it easier or more difficult for you to do what is right? Do they help you or hinder you?
2. In what ways have another person's poor choices (lack of integrity) affected you?
3. How do you want others to fill in the blanks about you: [Your name] is a person who is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Find a set of Jenga blocks, dominoes, or anything else you can stack. Build a vertical structure. See if you can get it at least nine or ten levels high. With your Guide or fellow “soldiers,” take turns removing one block/ domino from the middle of the stack. Keep removing the pieces one at a time until the stack falls.



*Structural integrity* keeps a building standing—it holds up the *structure*. It describes the internal strength of a structure. *Personal structural integrity* keeps your character strong. It describes your thoughts, words, and actions that combine to make your life steady.

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

Have you ever seen a building implode on TV or YouTube? One second you are looking at a high-rise, and within seconds the entire thing turns into a pile of ash, dust, and debris.

Engineers place a number of small explosives throughout the structure that is to fall. The explosives are then quickly detonated one after the other. All at once, the structure's integrity is removed, and it collapses on itself.

Maintaining the structural integrity of your life is important—you don't want your reputation to collapse. A lifetime of good things 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 choice to take illegal drugs can lead to an addiction and sometimes even death. One lie can collapse a friendship.

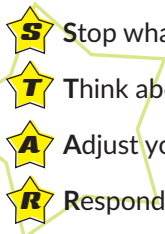
By reading the daily news, you can usually find an example of an adult whose integrity has collapsed. Has someone stolen money? Lied? Taken a bribe? Hurt a child? That unwise adult usually loses his or her job, reputation, and sometimes even family ties. He or she could end up in prison.

When a building falls down, it doesn't just affect that building. It affects everything around it as well, leaving a mess in the air and on the ground. When a person's integrity falls, a mess is left in the community as well.

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 sincerity and consistency, seeking and doing what is right.

**H2H 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 rather than react emotionally.

**IU2U**

Read each statement. Then select the answer that best describes your response to the following statements. Follow the directions on tallying your score at the end of the quiz.

1. If I had a chance to steal something small 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 do it anyway.  
**A. DEFINITELY    B. MAYBE    C. NO, I DON'T DO THAT.**
3. I go to illegal websites where I can download videos and/or music without paying.  
**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 doing something illegal, 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**

***Whoever walks in integrity  
will be delivered, but he who  
is crooked in his ways will  
suddenly fall.***

***PROVERBS 28:18, ESV***

**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:**

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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:**

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

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

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

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

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**TOTAL POINTS:**

## INTEGRITY PROFILE

*If your total points score was . . .*

**46–58:** You are walking in a high degree of 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 the right thing when making decisions. 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 H2H section) as you make decisions. Ask your Guide to go through this key with you again.





## WISDOM

### OBJECTIVES

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.

### WORD SKETCH

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

**WISDOM**

**REASONABLE**—having sound judgment and good thinking; making sense

**DISCERNMENT**—the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure; the art of perceiving

**APPLY**—to put to use, especially for some practical purpose

### ANCIENT TEXT

But 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*

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*

**DEFINE**

What does “wisdom” mean to you?

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**RENDERING**

**YOU HAVE THE ABILITY  
TO MAKE POSITIVE AND  
PRODUCTIVE DECISIONS;  
YOU CAN COMMUNICATE  
WITH OTHERS IN A  
REASONABLE WAY.**

**Q2P**

1. In your own words, define the words *smart* and *wise*. What are three differences between being smart and being wise?
2. *Wisdom* is the ability not only to understand the best ways to approach something or someone but also to act on that understanding. Evaluate your life experiences and list three ways in which you have grown in wisdom.
3. Consider those who you think are very wise people. Pick the wisest one. List and explain three reasons why you selected that individual.

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 an e-cigarette to a church overnight event. He/she is planning on smoking in the restrooms. 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 a life scenario and think about how you might handle it. Discuss with your Guide or fellow soldiers how to wisely deal with each scenario.

***The beginning of wisdom is this:  
Get wisdom, and whatever you get,  
get insight. Prize her highly, and she  
will exalt you; she will honor you if  
you embrace her. She will place on  
your head a graceful garland; she will  
bestow on you a beautiful crown.***

**PROVERBS 4:7-9, ESV**

Life is full of decisions, and I imagine that you—like everyone else—have made some wrong ones. If you were given the opportunity 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? Finish your homework? (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 it, act on it, and make choices in light of it.

Life is not like a video game (thankfully). We don't get zapped or destroyed when we make unwise choices. 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;
- involve you in a car accident; or
- get you discipline from your parents or school.

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;
- scholarships;
- buying your own cell phone;
- 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!

**IU2U**

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.

- 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 other people who have "been there" 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 because they know what I'm going through.  
**A. YES      B. NO      C. SOMETIMES**
- If 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 peaceful, calm, or 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

Fill in the Wisdom Meter (which is on the following page) according to your answers.

1. Answer: **A-2** **B-0** **C-1** **POINTS:**

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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:**

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7. Answer: **A-2** **B-0** **C-1** **POINTS:**

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8. Answer: **A-2** **B-0** **C-1** **POINTS:**

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9. Answer: **A-2** **B-0** **C-1** **POINTS:**

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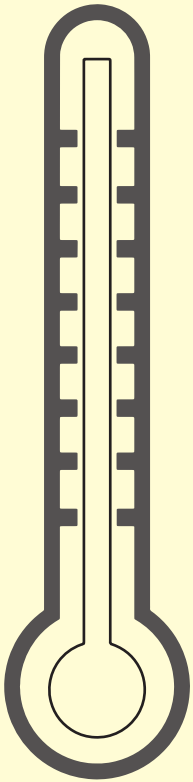
10. Answer: **A-2** **B-1** **C-0** **POINTS:**

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**TOTAL POINTS:**

## WISDOM METER

If your total points score was . . .



**14–19 points:** Proverbs teaches us that wisdom should be desired more than any earthly treasure. You've already learned that wisdom can be found through others who have more life experience and have applied biblical truth to those experiences. Wisdom is a lifelong pursuit, so keep up the good work. Being able to share wisdom is a treasure in itself.

**8–13 points:** You're on your way to walking in wisdom. The Bible teaches that fear (respect and awe) of the Lord is 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:** Wisdom can come with experience, but it isn't guaranteed. 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 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.) Equally important, 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.