

# FAMILY FAITH BUILDER

## Character Lessons for Practical Application of Faith

### Decisiveness v.



### Procrastination

### Processing information and finalizing difficult decisions

WWJD What would Jesus Do?

So what would Jesus do? He would look to his Father for guidance and the courage to love all those around him. He would make sure that all of his decisions reflected his Father's compassion and mercy. He would do the right thing, even when it is hard or unpopular. He would follow his Father's will, even when it meant dying on the cross for us. That's what Jesus would do.

This month, think WWJD in your daily decisions.

#### To Practice Decisiveness I Will:

- Not look back
- Do what I say
- Make the right decision and stick to it
- Look at things from more than one point of view before making up my mind
- Not give in to peer pressure

Any others appropriate to your family?

#### God's Word on Decisiveness

*"If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*

*Joshua 24:15-16*

*"But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank: so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself."*

*Daniel 1:8*

*"But test everything; hold fast what is good."*

*1 Thessalonians 5:21*

*Jesus said, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."*

*Matthew 7:12*

#### Matthew Teaches Us about Decisiveness

Jesus' disciple, Matthew, practiced decisiveness in following Jesus. Before Jesus called him to be a disciple, Matthew was a tax collector. The Jews hated the tax collectors, most of whom were Jewish themselves. Many felt the tax collectors had betrayed their nation by siding with the Roman government. In addition, tax collectors typically charged three to four times the actual tax, taking in their own profit and gain. They were shrewd, wealthy people.

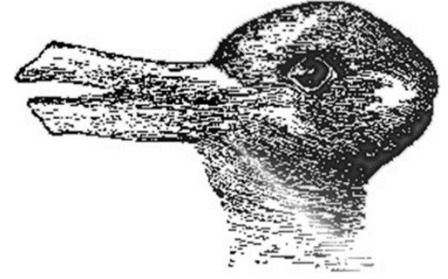


Matthew was one of the hated.

After healing a paralytic, Jesus came by Matthew and simply spoke, "Follow me." Time screamed to a halt as the Jews watched what would happen. Matthew, sitting at his tax collector booth probably thought about all the money he was making and all he would lose by following Jesus. Nevertheless, he did not hesitate. His decision was quick and assertive. The text records that Matthew simply "got up and followed him." No questions asked. No second guessing. Matthew decisively followed Jesus...leaving everything else behind.

## Now You See It

Reproduce the picture to the right or find a similar picture and let everyone look at it. Some will see the rabbit. (He is looking to the right and his ears are pointing left.) Some will see the duck. (He is facing left and his beak is facing left.) After all students have recorded their answer, poll the family to see how many saw the duck and how many saw the rabbit. Pass the picture around again and see if everyone can see both animals. Use this example of how you can look at a situation and not see the danger in it. Sometimes parents or trusted adults can look at a situation and see the harm it can do. Advice that comes from trusted adults should be followed because they could be seeing a situation differently. Making good decisions requires collecting data from trusted sources and processing that data into a decision. Discussing why a parent feels a certain way can lead to discovering information that helps one to make better decisions.



### POSTER IDEA:

## Decisiveness

Processing information and finalizing  
difficult decisions



“For the wages of sin is death,  
but the gift of God is eternal life  
in Christ Jesus our Lord”

Romans 6:23

**Do you seek God  
in making  
decisions?**

Dear Jesus,

We praise you for your goodness and mercy and thank you for the example of decisiveness in your life. You always centered your decision on the will of the Father. Help us to not look back when we've made a good decision and follow through on doing what I decide. Teach us to make the right decision and to look at things from more than one point of view before making up my mind. Guide us to stay strong against peer pressure. Help us to act in all things in harmony with the will of the Father.

Amen.

### Other ways to teach character in the home:

- Display the character quality and definition in a prominent place such as on the refrigerator or let each child decorate it for their bedroom door.
- At the dinner table ask if anyone noticed anyone (not just family members) demonstrating the character quality (or not demonstrating it).
- Point out news stories where character was or was not involved.
- During car trips, challenge the kids by describing scenarios and having them identify if it describes being the quality or being the opposite.
- Praise with character by recognizing the character quality involved rather than the achievement.
- For more ideas visit [www.charactercincinnati.org/faith.php](http://www.charactercincinnati.org/faith.php)

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For more activities that can be adapted for family use, visit

[www.charactercincinnati.org/quality\\_resource.php?q=decisiveness](http://www.charactercincinnati.org/quality_resource.php?q=decisiveness)