

WELCOME

Date: _____



A Guide to life

Stop flirting with disaster

Realise that most bad choices began five choices ago

It usually starts with something small: a small lie, a seemingly insignificant decision to go to a friend's house when their parents aren't home, or a click on a website that is known to have inappropriate content. It never feels like a big decision at the time, but with each choice, we take one step closer to temptation.

A small lie works, but a few days later you're questioned about it, and you cover it up with a bigger lie. That lie gives birth to others, and before you know it, you are waist deep in lies and wondering how you got there

✔ **It all started five choices ago with a small lie.**

Your friend texts you and invites you to their house on a Friday night, even though their parents won't be home. No big deal, you tell yourself. When you arrive, your friends are drinking. You don't want to be "uncool" and leave, so you decide to just "chill" and hope they don't offer you anything. Before long, your friend pours you a drink. You don't want to make a scene, so you thank them and just hold the glass. It does not work. Within five minutes your friend notices and asks you point blank, "aren't you gonna try it?" Everyone is staring at you. How do you say no? It's so difficult when you're in that situation!

Was it as difficult five choices ago when you first received the text?

Small choices open doors to bigger decisions. We may think it's no big deal to tell a little lie or go to a friend's house when their parents are gone. But often we are just fooling ourselves and inviting temptation.

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It is impossible to avoid every temptation in life. We can't lock ourselves in an empty room for our entire lives and never go outside. (Don't try it; it's not fun.) Temptation will always surface. But when you come across something tempting, steer clear of it. Don't walk toward it. The closer you get, the more you're playing with fire.

The apostle Paul gives us some good advice:



No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

That's just it, God will always provide a way of escape. But let's be honest: sometimes instead of looking for a way of escape, we try to see how close we can get to the temptation without giving in. Then we give in to temptation we wonder, "Why was that so difficult to resist?"

We should have fixed our eyes on the escape route five choices ago!

✔ Go Ahead, Answer

- In the examples we have discussed what are some of the ways of early escape?
- Why don't people use their escape routes while it's still easy?
- What are some situations where you have seen small decisions lead to bigger choices?
- What escape routes could you have taken?
- Why didn't you?



Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.. (Philippians 4:8)

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