

**Think It Over:** This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- Where do you find yourself in option overload? Has option overload ever caused you just to settle or become paralyzed? How do you let the "outcome" drive your ability to choosing live well with options, really?
- Read Genesis 13:7-12. Describe what was going on. How does Lot use his option to choose? Why do you think Lot didn't anticipate where his option would lead him? How does that kind of situation unfold today? How have you seen the use of options end up taking life rather than giving life?
- Why do you think God gives the option to choose? Do you ever wish the option to choose was out of our hands? Explain your answer. Read Romans 14:5. What is the process to become fully convinced in your own mind that the option you are choosing is wise?
- Read Romans 14:8 MSG. What is the scope of our accountability to God? How does that make you feel? How should that make us live?
- Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-14 NIV with the mind-set of rights. What kind of rights did Paul have? What are some of the good reasons not to give up our rights? How are we to be gracious without becoming a doormat? Explain the balance between the two.
- Read 1 Corinthians 9:15-27. What are some of the reasons Paul is able to give up his rights? How do those reasons translate for us today? Which ones, out of the three given in the Message Guide, inspire you to let go your rights? Which reason might be the hardest to get your mind and heart around?

**Next Steps:** We have the option to choose, so we must be wise. What steps can you take this week to integrate the concept that "freedom of options is not freedom from outcomes." What consequences do you want to avoid and which ones do you want to embrace?

**Changing Your Mind:** <sup>23</sup>"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive. 1 Corinthians 10:23 NIV



If you missed a message, visit [www.scc.website](http://www.scc.website) or request a CD at Guest Services.



There are outcomes we embrace and outcomes that embarrass, outcomes that give life and outcomes that take life.

## Living Well with the Options

<sup>23</sup> Looking at it one way, you could say, "Anything goes. Because of God's immense generosity and grace, we don't have to dissect and scrutinize every action to see if it will pass muster." But the point is not to just get by.

1 Corinthians 10:23 MSG

Genesis 13:7-12 NIV page 8

<sup>12</sup> Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. Genesis 13:12 KJV

➔ Options are yours to decide.

<sup>5</sup> One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Romans 14:5 NIV page 790

<sup>21</sup> Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him..." But the people said nothing. 1 Kings 18:21 NIV page 246

➔ Options are answerable to God.

<sup>8</sup>*It's God we are answerable to—all the way from life to death and everything in between—not each other. Romans 14:8 MSG*

<sup>12</sup>*Therefore, each one must answer for himself and give a personal account of his own life before God. Romans 14:12 TPT*

➔ Options are rights for all.

<sup>1</sup>*Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord? 1 Corinthians 9:1-14 NIV*

➤ Good reasons to hold on to your rights

*1 Corinthians 9:1-6 NIV page 797*

Your spot in line

<sup>1</sup>*And don't tell me that I have no authority to write like this. I'm perfectly free to do this... 1 Corinthians 9:1 MSG*

You earned it

<sup>11</sup>*So if we have planted spiritual seed among you, is it out of line to expect a meal or two from you? 1 Corinthians 9:11 MSG*

*1 Corinthians 9:13-14 NIV page 797*

You name it

➤ Better reasons to let go of your rights

*1 Corinthians 9:15-18 NIV page 797*

Good News

<sup>16</sup>*If I proclaim the Message, it's not to get something out of it for myself. I'm compelled to do it... 1 Corinthians 9:16 MSG*

*1 Corinthians 9:19-23 NIV page 797*

People

<sup>22</sup>*...I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life.*

*1 Corinthians 9:22 MSG*

*1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NIV page 797*

Finish Line

<sup>26</sup>*I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got. No sloppy living for me!*

*1 Corinthians 9:26 MSG*

<sup>9</sup>*A life frittered away disgusts God; he loves those who run straight for the finish line.*

*Proverbs 15:9 MSG*

Bottom Line:

Choose wisely: The freedom of options  
is not freedom from outcomes.

Resources for this message include material from Liquid Church, Mecklenburg Community Church, & Summit Church.

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps, consider using the Think It Over section on the back.