

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.

- Have you ever seen someone caught up with the adrenaline of a game? Have you ever been caught up with a game? What happened? When did it cross the line from fun to an obsession? When have you seen that same process played out with something other than a game? Why can options be so wonderful and yet so dangerous?
- What were your thoughts and/or beliefs regarding gambling before you heard Sunday's message, *Feeling Lucky*? Where did they originate from? What does the Bible actually say about gambling?
- Read through the "Keep your day job!" section in your Message Guide. What are your views on work? Can you think of any other Biblical themes regarding work? What should gambling never become in light of these Biblical principles?
- Read through the "Keep your budget." section in your Message Guide. How seriously do you take the resources God has given you to steward and leverage? What is your response to the 10-10-80 plan? How could you integrate that into your financial life? What would the implications be? (Or if you already are, what have the results been?) What might you have to scale back or give up to genuinely practice tithing and saving? Do you believe God would bless you for it? How would life look with those blessings?

Next Steps: When it comes to gambling, gaming, etc., how are you interacting with the concepts of Wisdom, Witness, Weakness, and Woe? Describe what you really would need to do to integrate these 4 W's into the way you live as a Christ follower?

Changing Your Mind: Choose one of the verses listed in the Message Guide and commit it to heart.

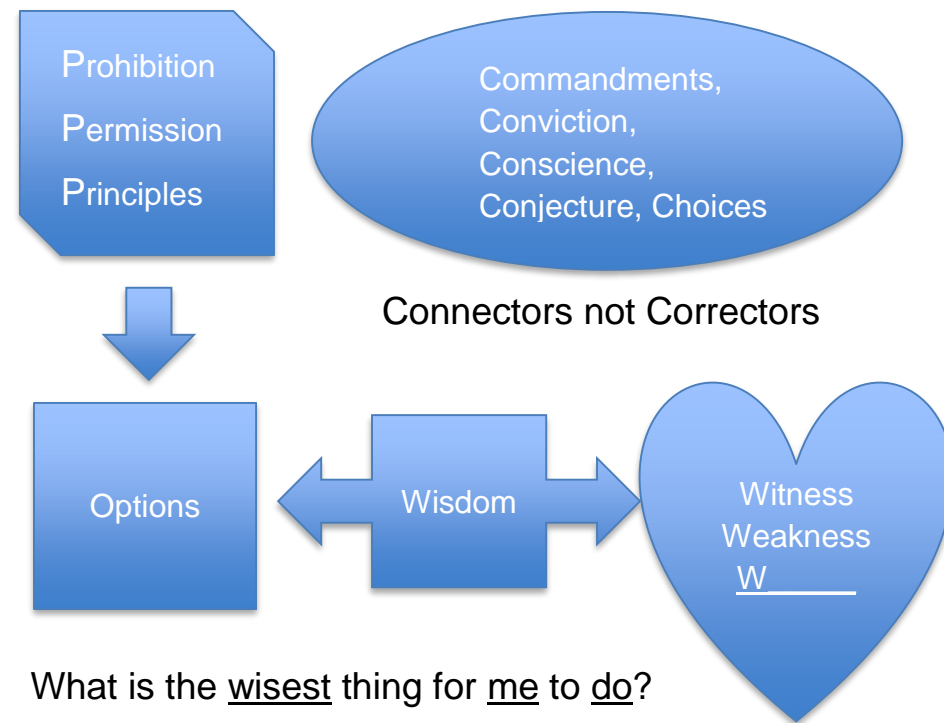


If you missed a message, visit www.scc.website or request a CD at Guest Services.



➤ What are my options in the area of _____?

The Option Matrix



➤ The Bible and Gambling

○ What does it say? Nothing

³⁵When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots.
Matthew 27:35 NIV page 697

➤ The Principles and Gambling

○ Keep your day job!

⁴Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth.
Proverbs 10:4 NIV page 443

²³Hard work always pays off; mere talk puts no bread on the table.
Proverbs 14:23 MSG

¹¹The one who stays on the job has food on the table; but the one who chase fantasies have no sense.
Proverbs 12:11 MSG, NIV

○ Keep your budget.

10-10-80 plan

²³The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives...
Deuteronomy 14:23 TLB

⁹Honor GOD with everything you own; give him the first and the best.
¹⁰Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over.
Proverbs 3:9–10 MSG

90% with God goes farther
than 100% without God.

²⁰Be sensible and store up precious treasures - don't waste them like a fool.
Proverbs 21:20 CEV

➤ The Wisdom and Gambling

Is it wise for you?

➤ The Weakness and Gambling

¹³...live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall. ²⁰Don't tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble. ²¹It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble.

Romans 14:13, 20-21 NLT

➤ The Witness and Gambling

⁴⁶Jesus replied, "And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them."
Luke 11:46 NIV page 726

➤ The Woe and Gambling

¹³"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.

Matthew 23:13 NIV page 692



²⁸"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. ²⁹Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. ³⁰Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Matthew 11:28–30 MSG

Bottom Line:

Gambling is a gamble
so don't bank on it.

Resources for this message include a message by James Emery White at Mecklenburg Community Church and devotional thoughts from Time of Grace.

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