## Icebreaker

Have you ever decided to eat something off the menu saying, “Well there’s got to be a first time for everything” and then regretted it? Or do you always have the same thing? How do you decide what to eat?

## Scriptures

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| **Proverbs** | **Discussion Questions** |
| 1:22-31 | How long will you who are simple love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? Repent at my rebuke! Then I will pour out my thoughts to you, I will make known to you my teachings. But since you refuse to listen when I call and no one pays attention when I stretch out my hand, since you disregard all my advice and do not accept my rebuke, I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes you;  I will mock when calamity overtakes you – when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you. Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me, since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord. Since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes. |

This passage reveals a God who is (1) interested in our decisions and (2) enthusiastic to help. What’s interesting is the description of what is going on when we don’t take up his offer to “pour out His heart to us”. It is something that is worthy of rebuke and which requires repentance.

There is a sense of choices and consequences. Even more than that, God is saying that because you chose to face the other way, and not repent, there is a consequence to that decision when times get tough.

The invitation is to live our lives facing Him, putting everything before Him and listening out for His advice and thoughts. It is called a life of prayer. But rather than think of decisions and prayer as a sort of celestial slot machine – I’ll put in the decision-prayer-request here and out pops the solution over here – the decisions and prayer make up the conversation we have with God in relationship with Him.

He makes the ultimate step forward into our lives in sending Jesus as a man to live among us, die for us and give us new life by His resurrection from the dead. Let us live our lives in relationship with Him so that our decisions are more and more influenced by His thoughts and His advice.

## Application

Invite people to share about any big decisions they have coming up. Don’t offer any advice, simply ask them, “What do you think the Lord is saying?” And then invite them to come back next week and tell you how they have got on with deciding!

## Prayer

Offer to pray for anyone struggling with a decision they need to make or one they have made in the past which they regret. Again, no advice (unless they specifically ask for it!) just ask the Holy Spirit to come and for the Lord to speak to them. Share any specific words of knowledge or scriptures which may help them.