

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“I think we all have a little voice inside us that will guide us . . . if we shut out all the noise and clutter from our lives and listen to that voice, it will tell us the right thing to do.”

—Christopher Reeve

Resources Required

- Handout of decision-making questions (see appendix page 167)

Teacher Self-Reflection

How do you make decisions?
What factors influence your decision-making process?

**Week 20**

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**Focus of the Day:
Making the Best Decisions****Background Knowledge**

Making decisions, big and small, is an integral part of our lives. And our decisions either positively or negatively affect not only us but also the people around us and the earth itself. It is important, then, to learn how to make good decisions. To do this, first think about the rules or laws that govern your life. Then consider (1) what would be best for you personally, (2) how your decision will affect others, and (3) how it will impact the earth.

Activity for the Day

1. **The focus of our lesson today is making decisions.**
2. **Can you share a few of the decisions you've had to make?** (Pause for responses.)
3. **How do you make a big decision? What kinds of things do you think about?** (Pause for responses.)
4. **When you have a decision to make, ask yourself these questions:**
 - a. **Does my decision follow the rules of my family, classroom, school, or community?**
 - b. **How will this decision affect me? Will it be good or bad for me?**
 - c. **How will it affect other people?**
 - d. **How will it affect our planet or environment?**
5. Ask the students for an example of a big decision they can imagine having to make. Discuss it by asking the four questions.
6. **If a decision is good for you but not for other people or for the earth, what do you do? Is it still okay to carry through with it?** (If time permits, ask students to discuss and grapple with this question in small groups.)
7. **Let's bring our focus back to the whole class. Is anyone willing to share a few comments from your group discussion?**
8. **Remember, when you must make a decision, answer these four questions first.** (Think about providing students with a handout of these questions for future use. Here is an alternative set of questions to consider:)
 - a. **What are the benefits of doing this?**
 - b. **What are the drawbacks of doing this?**
 - c. **What are the benefits of not doing this?**
 - d. **What are the drawbacks of not doing this?**
 - e. **Am I willing to deal with the consequences of my decision?**