Discussion Ideas

Choose strategies from the list below to facilitate group discussion.

Connecting Activity

Divide the larger group into groups of three to four people. Ask each group to take turns sharing about their answers to this question: What do you do when you need to make a difficult decision?

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Bahati decide to stay home rather than go on the safari? How did he feel after he made that decision?
   - *He asks himself questions and takes responsibility for the possible outcomes of the trip; he feels sad.*

2. Grandma says that "Not every bad decision will let you go home the same person you were before". How might a bad decision have changed Bahati's life?
   - *He could have been hurt or killed like Michael.*

3. ▶Grandma and her childhood friend made very different choices in life. How did their choices as young people affect their adult lives?
   - *Grandma realized her dream of having a family; her friend was abandoned with a child and no money.*

4. How does Bahati show patience in this story?
   - *He takes time to think through the possible consequences of his decision; he endures sadness, mocking from friends.*

5. How does Bahati show compassion to his friend?
   - *He visits him in the hospital; shows acceptance, doesn't judge his actions.*

6. ▶Ask for group members to volunteer an example of a typical decision an adolescent needs to make. Pick one decision, and ask the group to name all the possible decision options they can think of. Then, for each option, ask them to name possible consequences. Discuss as a group which option appears to be best. Repeat the process as time allows.

Personal Growth Activity

Write your answer to this question: How can the decisions you make today help you reach your dreams for the future?

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Spiritual Application

Read Psalm 37:1-8. Then ask: What does God promise to do if you trust in Him and do good? What will happen to those who choose to do evil? How, according to this verse, do you trust in the Lord?

Prayer Point

Lead the group in a prayer asking God for wisdom in making decisions and for the courage to choose what is right. Pray that they would wait patiently on God and seek Him in all things.

Encouragement

Remind participants that, if they are willing to make the tough decisions, they will become people of strong character able to realize their dreams.

Grandma's Wisdom

Child, there are things in life you can control and things you can't. You can't control who your relatives are. But you can control who your friends will be. You can't control people like Uncle Max. But you can control whether to get into a car with them. We can't control the weather. But we can get out of the rain. I don't jump much anymore, but I jumped as high as I could when I heard what Bahati had done to help his friend. I was so proud. He not only learnt how to make good decisions, but he also started to learn how to show his friends what he believes. He's been to visit Michael several times now, even missed a few football games to do it. He's learning the value of putting other people's needs before his own. Child, it takes courage, not only to avoid the bad things, but to choose the good things to do!