

PRACTICAL APPLICATION FOR THE MENTOR:

We make hundreds of decisions every day; for something we do so often, it would be wise if we all started doing it well. The dry-erase board should be posted on the refrigerator or somewhere central to the home so when one of life's lessons presents itself, the board is easy to access.

Making positive decisions takes practice, and I am of the opinion that we should practice on the easy decisions so that when the time comes to make difficult ones ... everyone knows what to expect.

CASE STUDY: I was paying for my gas and buying a bottle of water at a convenience store one day when I noticed a young person, about 12 years old, putting candy in his pocket. The youth was not alone in the store, but his friend was not in the immediate area either. So I took the opportunity to run down a few of the questions from the decision-making board.

I walked right up to him and asked if he had enough money to pay for the candy. Startled and confused, he acted like I did not know what he was doing. So I told him not to worry about it. "I'm not going to get you in trouble," I said. "I'll buy the candy for you if you allow me to ask you a few questions." Slightly convinced that I was not going to tell the store owner and get him in trouble, the youth relaxed a bit and decided to answer my questions.

I asked him:

1. Is stealing that candy a legal activity? He said, no.
2. Is what you are about to do the honest thing to do? He said, no.
3. What long-term goal are you trying to accomplish by stealing the candy? He did not have an answer for that one ... he just shrugged his shoulders.

I skipped the Post-D questions and got straight to the Golden Rule as I asked him, "if you owned this store, would you want people to steal from you?" And he answered, no.

Finally, I asked him if stealing from the store was a good decision and he said, no.

By then his friend noticed that we were talking and decided to come join in on the conversation. His friend asked, "What's up?" I just said that we were talking about our favorite type of candy and that I was buying if he wanted some. His friend did not like candy and did not want any, but the young man that was about to steal from the store already had some in his hands so I told him I would get it for him.

To my surprise, he said not to worry about it ... "I have money."

It will be up to you, the mentor, to practice making positive decisions with your VIP on small decisions; then, when the time comes, and you are not there, they will know how to make the right decision.

Living Life with Vision is the art of making positive decisions one day at a time, every day, every time.