

HOW CAN YOUTHS FIND SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS?

Note to the speaker:

Speak to youths in a warm and appealing way. Emphasize the wisdom and practicality of Bible laws and principles. Use Bible and modern-day examples to illustrate the benefits of following God's guidance

HOW TO MAKE WISE DECISIONS (6 min.)

Jehovah God wants you to be happy [**Read Ecclesiastes 11:9**] (1Ti 1:11)

Youth can be an especially joyful time of life, but remember that you are accountable to God for your actions
God is eager to bless you, to reward you for acting wisely (Ps 37:4; Ec 11:9-12:1)

Your decisions today affect your happiness in the future (Ga 6:7)

Some youths engage in self-destructive behavior and suffer the consequences (*yp1* 237-251)

You can act wisely by basing your decisions on your Creator's guidance (Lu 11:28; 2Ti 3:16, 17)

Let us consider three areas in which God's Word, the Bible, provides reliable direction

YOUR CHOICE OF FRIENDS (6 min.)

Your friends have a profound impact on you [**Read Proverbs 13:20**]

Choose friends who have wholesome values and who have qualities worthy of imitation (1Co 15:33; *yp1* 57-60)

Avoid those who are a bad influence on you; do not let them control you (Ro 12:2; *yp1* 61-63)

Look for wholesome friends among people of different ages and backgrounds (1Sa 18:1; *lvs* 33-35)

Cultivate qualities that will make you an appealing friend (Pr 10:19; 18:24; *yp2* 86-91)

YOUR DECISIONS ABOUT SEX (7 min.)

Jehovah has endowed you with the capacity to generate new life (1Th 4:3; Heb 13:4)

He will bless you richly for showing respect for this gift (1Co 6:18; *yp1* 173-175)

Act decisively to reject immoral conduct (Ge 39:7-12; *w17.11* 22 ¶9; *yp1* 184-187; *yp2* 50)

Learn to control your sexual desires [**Read 1 Thessalonians 4:4**] (*yp2* 51-54)

If you are struggling, do not be afraid or ashamed to ask a parent or a spiritually mature friend for help

By making wise decisions about sex, you will maintain your self-respect, safeguard your future, and please God

YOUR GOALS FOR THE FUTURE (6 min.)

Those who strive to gain wealth and prominence are often disappointed and dissatisfied (Ec 5:10)

Why attempt to build a secure future in an unstable, doomed world? [**Read 1 John 2:15-17**] (Mt 6:19-21)

Nothing in today's world can compare with the future blessings you can enjoy (Mr 10:29, 30; 1Ti 6:19)

Experience the joy of focusing your life on unselfish pursuits (Ac 20:35)

True satisfaction comes from putting God's will first in your life (1Ti 6:6, 9; 2Ti 2:22; *w14* 6/15 4 ¶2-5)

There is great joy in helping others come to know Jehovah

TAKE ACTION NOW TO ENSURE A HAPPY FUTURE (5 min.)

Cultivate a close personal relationship with Jehovah as a Person

Prove to yourself that the Bible is his inspired Word (Heb 11:6; *ypq* 27-29)

Your strong love for Jehovah will help you to remain loyal to him (Da 1:6-20; *yp2* 128-135)

Continue learning why applying Bible principles is beneficial (1Ti 4:12, 15; *yp2* 282-288)

[Encourage youths to make use of the books *Young People Ask—Answers That Work*, Volumes 1 and 2; the brochure *Answers to 10 Questions Young People Ask*; the *jw.org* series "Young People Ask"; and the "Teenagers" section of JW Broadcasting]

Make it your goal to progress to dedication and baptism

Jehovah will bless your efforts and help you to find true success and happiness (Pr 3:5, 6)

(Public talk by circuit overseer, starting September 2018. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on)