



CREW

WONDER
DISCOVERY
PASSION

Our friends have the potential to influence our lives in a big way. In this three-week series we'll discover what the Bible has to say about how we choose and treat our friends.

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THE PEOPLE THAT MAKE XP3 HIGH SCHOOL

Chief Executive Officer
Reggie Joiner

Chief Operating Officer
Reggie Goodin

Content Director
Crystal Chiang

Author
Doug Fields

Graphics & Video
Ben Grant
Ron Rabideau

Orange Specialists
Matt Ivy
Ben Nunes
Brett Talley
Jeremy Zach

Executive Director, Messaging
Kristen Ivy

Creative Director
Ben Crawshaw

XP3 HS Team
Sarah Anderson
CJ Palmer
Steve Underwood

Contributing Writer
Rodney Anderson

Branding
Josh Lamm

Technical & Web Support
Ben Swilley

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TEACHING OUTLINE

CREW | WEEK 2

BOTTOM LINE

PAY ATTENTION TO WHO YOU LISTEN TO.

SCRIPTURE

The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice (Proverbs 12:15 NIV).

To learn, you must love discipline; it is stupid to hate correction (Proverbs 12:1 NLT).

Solomon's insight helps us see how important it is to find the kind of people who can lead and mentor us through the big and small choices in life with wisdom.

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to humble themselves and allow older people to speak wisdom into their lives.

TEACHING SCRIPT SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

You probably have a similar story when a friend talked you into something.

TENSION

But I think there's a better question: *Who should I listen to instead?*

If you had a major life decision that you needed to make, and I mean a *big* one, who would you go to for advice?

Your friends probably do want what's best for you, but they aren't always going to be the best people to help you make life decisions.

TRUTH

If we're wise, we understand that we don't know it all—we need people to speak into our lives.

Pay attention when multiple people who care about you are all saying the same thing.

Pay attention to who you're listening to.

People get a mentor when they realize this: Decisions become our destinations.

APPLICATION

Here are two reasons to have a mentor to go to for advice: 1) They know what you don't know. 2) They'll tell you what others won't.

LANDING

As you head out today, I want you to ask yourself two questions: 1) Who have I been listening to? 2) Who should I be listening to?



TEACHING SCRIPT

CREW | WEEK 2

BOTTOM LINE

PAY ATTENTION TO WHO YOU LISTEN TO.

INTRODUCTION

2 Minutes

One of the best things about elementary school is field trips. There's nothing like the feeling of pulling away from the school in a bus at the start of the day when you know everyone else is sitting in the classroom counting the minutes to recess.

I specifically remember one field trip I took to a museum. When it was almost time to go back to school, my friend dared me to do something. This was back in the day when people made phone calls on payphones.

And here's what he said: "Pick up the payphone and call 911."

This didn't seem like much of a dare. I didn't have a quarter, so I figured it wouldn't work anyway. So I dialed it, not

realizing that 911 is the ONLY number you can call for free (because who has time to look for a quarter in an emergency situation). So I called, and they picked up. And I hung up. Quickly. But since they're required to respond to every call, they showed up—much to the surprise of my teacher, other chaperones, and me.

My friends thought it was hilarious. My mom did not.

I'm guessing you probably have a similar story when a friend talked you into something. Or, you talked them into something! And it wasn't exactly a wise choice. And it wasn't because they were a bad person, or because they were looking to hurt you or make you look stupid. It was just, for whatever reason, a moment when bad advice led to a bad outcome.

TENSION

2 Minutes

Sometimes this happens and it makes for a great story. But other times this can happen, and more is on the line than a field trip gone wrong. And you end up asking yourself, "What was I thinking? Why did I listen to them?" And that's not a bad question.

But I think there's a better question: **Who should I listen to instead?**

It's a great question. Not just when it comes to the fun stuff, but with the big stuff. Have you ever asked yourself that before? If you had a major life decision that you needed to make, and I mean a *big* one, who would you go to for advice?

- If you were trying to decide whether or not to break up with the person you had been dating for the last three months, who would you talk to?



- If you needed to confront a friend about their behavior and actions, and you knew the conversation had the potential to go badly, who would you seek guidance from first?
- If you were trying to decide which college to go to, or whether or not college was a good next step, who would you lean into for insight?

My guess is that a lot of us would probably ask a friend—somebody from our crew. We'd text someone we hang out with regularly. And while that isn't necessarily a bad thing, it also isn't necessarily the *best* thing. **Your friends probably do want what's best for you, but they aren't always going to be the best people to help you make life decisions.**

Why? **Because being a great friend doesn't mean you always give great advice.**

Look, you're trying to figure out life. So are your friends. They're trying to figure out dating, school, parents, and friend drama, just like you are.

And when it comes to the big questions and decisions in life, just because someone laughs at our jokes or likes the same kind of music we do doesn't necessarily make them the best candidate to help us find answers.

So if we can't get important advice from our friends—the people we trust more than anyone—who *should* we talk to?

TRUTH

5 Minutes

In this series we've been talking about some great advice the Bible offers when it comes to your friends. In fact, last week we said that even if you aren't a Jesus follower, this series can still be really helpful for you. Because we all want great friends—a great crew. And believe it or not, the Bible has a lot to say about making that a reality.

About halfway through the Bible is a book called Proverbs. It's a book filled with principles that can turn your life into a *better* life. They are written from an older person to a younger person, and they have a lot to say about friendships. And included with all of this wisdom is direction on how to get the very best advice we can.

Check out what this verse says:

The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice (Proverbs 12:15 NIV).

Now you probably know that there are a lot of confusing things in the Bible. But one of the things I love about Proverbs is how straightforward it is. Proverbs just tells you like it is. In this verse, the writer is making a point that if we're wise, we understand that we need to listen to others. Even if those people disagree with us.

The writer doesn't say, "If you're wise, you don't need advice." No, that's foolish. **If we're wise, we understand that we don't know it all—we need people to speak into our lives.**

And this is a big deal for some of you right now because there are people who are already TRYING to give you advice—people who actually see your situation more clearly than you do. They've been saying,

- "Don't hang with that crowd."
- "Don't date him or her."
- "Come back to church."
- "Apologize."
- "Get some help."

And some of you have been so sure that your own way is right—and that you understand the situation better than others—that you have missed the fact that multiple people are all saying the same thing.

But listen, I'm not telling you that all of those people are right. I'm just asking you to pay attention. **Pay attention when multiple people who care about you are all saying the same thing.** Pay attention when people who care about you are saying something *different* than people who simply laugh at your jokes and like your Instagram posts.

You don't have to agree with them. You don't have to do what they say. But at least hear those people out when they give you advice.

In fact, you can take it one step further...

Pay attention to who you're listening to.



Take notice of who's influencing your decisions. Look at who you ask for advice for major decisions. **Because not all advice is created equal.**

Advice from your crew is great, but it may not be the best advice you can get. Why? Because friends are good for encouraging us, being there for us, listening to us, and having our backs, but they haven't seen enough or lived long enough to see the bigger picture in life. And because of that, they're not able to give solid and helpful advice.

Besides, we all know someone in our crew who will tell us exactly what we want to hear. We all know which friend we can go to when we want to get an instant "yes." We all know which friend will give us the kind of advice we want. They mean well. They're nice to us. But ultimately, only hearing what we want to hear is not helpful. In fact, some of their advice can get us into dangerous, complicated, and painful situations.

That's why, when it comes to advice, we need someone who is standing outside of the situation to help us see what we can't see. We need someone who is further down the road in life, who has been there and will tell us the truth.

We need a mentor.

Now, a mentor is a fancy-sounding word that just means a wise, trusted friend who gives you wisdom. A mentor is someone—usually older—who you have invited into your life because you know you can't go it alone.

People get a mentor when they realize this: **Decisions become our destinations.** When you know that the destination could be good or bad, and that the good destination takes work and intention, you look for the voice of someone older and wiser that will lead you to a full life that Jesus talked about.

APPLICATION

4 Minutes

There are a ton of reasons to have a mentor that you go to for advice. But here are two that I think make the whole idea worth considering.

1. **They know what you don't.** That's not meant to be offensive, it's just true. Think about it. You know some things that a 4th grader doesn't. And because of that, you could tell them some things that would be helpful. If you're about to start a Calculus class, and someone you know has already taken it, it would help you to ask them about it. What's the teacher like? What should I not do to make her mad? What should I be prepared for?

We all see the value in knowledge that comes from *someone who has been there*. Well, the same is true for YOU in high school. **You should have someone in your life who is older and has been there, done that.** That's the power of a mentor.

A mentor can challenge us to think in ways that have never occurred to us, simply because they've lived longer and experienced more life than we have. They have already faced most of the difficult situations we're facing. They've been through breakups, gotten dumped, made some mistakes, had conflict with parents, or lost a friendship. And even if they haven't experienced *exactly* what you're going

through, they've seen enough of life to be able to offer some wisdom. A mentor certainly doesn't have *all* the answers. But their wisdom—based on their experiences—will help you have more confidence as you approach difficult decisions you're facing. And that's a huge win.

2. **They'll tell you what others won't.** A single piece of wise advice from a mentor can change your life forever. That sounds dramatic, but it's true. Because someone older and wiser knows that our decisions become our destinations. And they want to take us away from pain and regret. But we have to be willing to listen to their words.

The right kind of mentor—a helpful, older, wiser person—will tell you things that are hard to hear. They will tell you things that your crew won't. Not because they don't like you. Not because they want to make your life miserable. But because they love you, and they have experience and knowledge that you and your crew don't have yet.

And look, here's the truth. If you're a human—which basically means everyone here—you're not going to like being told that your plans aren't right, your decisions are foolish, or the person you're dating isn't good for you. Personally, I hate it when someone tells me I'm wrong. But I can't tell you



how often I need it. And hearing truth, even when it's an uncomfortable truth, has always been, well, uncomfortable. Maybe that's why this chapter of Proverbs began this way.

To learn, you must love discipline; it is stupid to hate correction (Proverbs 12:1 NLT).

It is easy to hate correction. It's easy to ignore. It's easy to go find a friend who will tell us what we want to hear...but it's not smart. Why? Because, while you're making decisions for yourself in the absence of your parents, you have to come to terms with the fact that you don't know everything at 16

years old. Listen, I'm way older than you and I definitely don't know everything. Because no matter where we are in life, we can't possibly get it right every single time on our own.

Part of becoming an adult *isn't* saying, "Now I don't need anyone else." Being an adult means you look for the right people to help you make the right decisions. It means you find someone who has been there, done that.

So pay attention to who you're listening to.

Then, listen to what they're saying!

LANDING

1 Minute

As you head out today, I want you to ask yourself two questions:

- **Who have I been listening to?**
- **Who should I be listening to?**

As we said last week, friendships are some of the most important relationships in your life. Everybody needs a great crew! But if you're going to make wise decisions for your

future, you need to pay attention to who you're listening to. And you need someone who has already been there.

You need a mentor: someone who can fill in the gaps and help you make the decisions that your crew isn't ready to help you make. And when you do this, when you reach out to people who are wise, I promise that your decisions will take you to a better destination.



TRANSITION INTO SMALL GROUPS