ABIDEROOTED

When the Decision Isn't Clear

A Biblical Discernment Workbook for Decisions with No Obvious Easy Answer

LEADERS · DISCERNMENT WORKBOOK · FREE RESOURCE

Using this guide

Read the full Scripture passage before the reflection. Choose one practical response, then pray in your own words. Work at a sustainable pace; days and sessions may be repeated. People may pass on a group question.

Find your next section

Begin Here

Name the Decision

Search the Scriptures

Examine Your Motives

Seek Wise Counsel

Consider the Consequences

Make a Decision in Faith

Continue Abiding

Scripture quotations use the King James Version (KJV). Short quotations may be excerpts; read the cited passage in context. Prayer starters and reflections are devotional writing, not additional Scripture.

Reviewed edition | October 2026 | AbideRooted

Begin Here

A practical workbook that guides Christian leaders through a biblical decision-making process, addressing the pain of decision fatigue and complex choices. It provides a step-by-step framework to work through one live decision, integrating Scripture, prayer, self- examination, counsel, and consequence analysis, leading to wise and courageous action.

You are facing a decision that keeps you up at night. The options are real, the stakes are high, and the path forward is not clear. You have prayed, you have weighed the pros and cons, and still the way is murky. This workbook is for that moment. It will not give you a formula or a magic word from heaven. Instead, it will walk you through a Scripture-centered process of discernment that honors God, engages your mind, seeks wise counsel, and leads to a decision you can own with courage and peace. You will work through one live decision, step by step, and identify a responsible next step, even if some uncertainty remains.

DIAGNOSTIC

Name the Decision

Proverbs 3:5-6

> “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Before you can seek wisdom, you must define the question. Vague anxiety is not a decision. A clear, written statement of the decision you face is the first step toward discernment. This is not about rushing to a solution but about framing the problem honestly before God and yourself.

Put It Into Practice

Write your decision as a clear, one-sentence question. For example: 'Should I accept the new role in another city?' or 'Should we launch this new ministry now or wait a year?' Be specific. Then, list the main options you are considering, even if some seem impossible.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. What is the real decision I am facing?
2. Why does this decision feel heavy or unclear?
3. What are the options I am actually considering?

Prayer

Lord, You see the weight of this decision. Help me to name it honestly and to trust You with the process. Amen.

SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT

Search the Scriptures

James 1:5

> “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

God promises to give wisdom generously. But wisdom from above is not a feeling; it is grounded in His Word. As you face your decision, you need to immerse yourself in Scripture, not to find a proof-text for your preference, but to let your mind be shaped by God's principles. Look for passages that speak to your situation: about stewardship, calling, relationships, fear, faith, and obedience.

Put It Into Practice

Identify 3-5 Scripture passages that seem relevant to your decision. Write them down. Then, for each passage, write one principle that applies to your situation. For example, if you are considering a job change, you might look at passages about work, provision, and calling.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. What does Scripture say about the kind of decision I am facing?
2. Are there any commands or promises that directly apply?
3. Am I willing to obey what Scripture says, even if it is not what I want?

Prayer

Father, give me wisdom from Your Word. Help me to see my decision through Your eyes and to have a heart that obeys You above all. Amen.

SELF AUDIT

Examine Your Motives

Proverbs 16:2

> “All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.”

Our hearts are deceptively good at justifying what we want. Before you can discern God's will, you must honestly examine your own motives. Are you seeking comfort, approval, power, or security? Or are you seeking to love God and others? This is not about paralyzing self-doubt but about bringing your heart into the light.

Put It Into Practice

For each option you listed, write down the possible motives behind choosing it. Be brutally honest. Then, ask yourself: Which motives are godly? Which are selfish? Confess any selfish motives to God and ask Him to purify your desires.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. What do I really want out of this decision?
2. Am I afraid of something? What?
3. Am I trying to please people or God?
4. What would I choose if I had no fear of what others think?

Prayer

Search me, O God, and know my heart. Reveal any selfish motive in me. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Amen.

COUNSEL

Seek Wise Counsel

Proverbs 15:22

> “Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.”

God has placed you in a community of faith for a reason. You are not meant to make major decisions alone. Wise counsel is not just any opinion; it is input from people who know you, love you, and are grounded in Scripture. They can see blind spots you cannot.

Put It Into Practice

Identify 2-3 people who fit this description. Ask them to pray for you and to give you honest feedback on your decision. Share your options and your motives with them. Listen carefully, but remember that the final responsibility is yours.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. Who are the wise, godly people in my life?
2. Have I asked them for input? If not, why not?
3. What patterns do I see in their counsel?
4. Is there any counsel I am resisting because it is not what I want to hear?

Prayer

Lord, thank You for the body of Christ. Give me humility to receive counsel and wisdom to discern what is from You. Amen.

CONSEQUENCE ANALYSIS

Consider the Consequences

Luke 14:28-30

> “For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.”

Jesus Himself taught us to count the cost. Wise decisions consider the foreseeable consequences for yourself, your family, your ministry, and your community. This is not about fear or over-analysis, but about responsible stewardship of the resources God has given you.

Put It Into Practice

For each option, list the potential positive and negative consequences in the short term (1 year) and long term (5 years). Consider spiritual, relational, financial, and emotional impacts. Write these down.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. What are the likely outcomes of each option?
2. Who else will be affected by this decision?
3. Am I willing to accept the risks and costs of each option?
4. Which option best stewards the gifts, time, and resources God has given me?

Prayer

Lord, give me wisdom to count the cost and courage to follow You even when the cost is high. Amen.

DECISION GRID

Make a Decision in Faith

Option	Scripture / safeguards	Facts / counsel	Effects / next step
Option 1			
Option 2			
Option 3			

Decision worksheet: Complete one row for each eligible option. Scripture sets boundaries; a favorable outcome or a calm feeling cannot cancel them.

Proverbs 16:3

> “Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.”

After you have prayed, searched Scripture, examined your motives, sought counsel, and counted the cost, you must make a decision. Delay can be wise when essential facts, consent, or safeguards are missing; endless avoidance can also prevent responsible action. Faith is not the absence of doubt; it is action

based on what you know of God's character and promises. You may not have absolute certainty, but you can have peace that you have sought God and acted in obedience.

Put It Into Practice

Use the decision worksheet below. First remove any option that violates clear Scripture or ignores necessary safeguards. For each remaining option, record the facts, motives, counsel, likely effects, and unanswered questions. Do not add scores or let a feeling of peace override biblical duties. Write your next step and review it with your advisers.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. Which option best aligns with Scripture?
2. Which option is most consistent with pure motives?
3. Which option is supported by wise counsel?
4. Which option has the most favorable consequences?
5. What essential facts or safeguards still need attention before you act?

Prayer

Lord, I have sought You. I have listened to Your Word and Your people. Now I commit my decision to You. Give me courage to act and trust You with the outcome. Amen.

Continue Abiding

You have worked through a process of discernment that honors God. You have named your decision, searched the Scriptures, examined your heart, sought counsel, counted the cost, and made a decision in faith. Remember that God is sovereign over the outcome. Your job is to obey and trust. As you move forward, continue to pray and stay accountable. And when the next unclear decision comes, you can return to this framework with humility and fresh attention to the facts.

Go Deeper

You have made a decision, but what happens when the pressure to perform clouds your judgment? In 'When Ministry Becomes Performance,' we explore how the need to appear successful can distort our discernment and lead us away from God's call. This book will help you find freedom from the performance trap and lead from a place of rest and authenticity.