



**Corbin & Associates, Inc.**  
**Lesson Plan of the Month**  
**(December 2001)**

**Topic:** Life Choices  
**Target Group:** High School  
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**Objectives:**

- I. To demonstrate through the experiences of others that there are life changing consequences to the decisions we choose to make on a daily basis

These consequences may be either good or bad. And although we may not be able to directly affect the outcome, there are certain choices, which have statistically produced negative effects, and others, which have consistently produced positive outcomes.

- II. The objective of this lesson will be to introduce students to the real life consequences of decisions others, their ages, have made.

**Introduction:**

- I. Personal Introduction:
  1. Name
  2. Age
  3. Graduated: La Quinta HS, 1975
  4. Professional Experience: Police Officer 16 years, Patrol, SWAT, Community Policing, Gangs, SRO, Youth pastor 5 years

## **Body:**

I. Introduction Story “Prodigal Son” Almost 2000 years ago a story was told about a wealthy man and his two sons..

Almost 2000 years later, while working a troubled neighborhood I became friends with a young girl, we’ll call her “Sonia.” She knew all the gang members and felt important hanging out with older guys (About 10 at this time). 2 years later I arrested her for Sales of Narcotics/ she was 12 years old, addicted to cocaine and pregnant by her 22-year-old boyfriend who used her to sell the drugs.

1. Taking the example of the “Prodigal Son” and “Sonia” were there choices made?
  - a. Discuss some of those choices:

II. There may not be any “Sure-fire” guarantees for success, but certain choices have proven more successful then others. In the same way statistically certain bad choices almost guarantee disaster. *(Difficult concept for a lot of your because you suffer from a teenage disease called “That can’t happen to me” that makes you believe you are immortal and untouchable-too young to get hurt or die)*

1. How many cook or bake? (Guys you’d better learn how...)
  - a. If you follow the recipe there is a good chance the cake will come out.
  - b. If you deviate from the recipe chances are the cake won’t even look like a cake.

*(I’ll make it the way I want ... it will turn out because ... I’m a teenager...)*

**Ecclesiastes 1:9** *What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.*

2. Following the recipe won’t guarantee the cake will look like it does in the book, but not following it almost certainly guarantees it won’t.

III. There is a book called the California Penal Code.

1. It is a book of causes and effect

- a. Under section C.P.C. 211 it says that if you by means of force or fear take the property of another you are subject to arrest and incarceration for 3, 5, or 7 years in a State prison.
- b. If you choose to sell narcotics on this campus the Health and Safety Code says you can be incarcerated for up to 4 years.
- c. What about choosing friends? I heard the testimony of a man who talked about consequences of his decisions and how they affected his life. (Convicted of 211 his friends committed.)
- d. One of the first cases I handled in Gangs was a homicide. The victim was shot by rival gang members of the guys he had chosen to go to the store with. He wasn't even a member of a gang. (Did his choice impact his life?)

IV. Your choices may affect more than just yourself.

1. How many people would be affected if you were killed or crippled because of gang violence?
2. How many people would be affected if you developed, lung, throat, larynx, mouth or any one of the many beautiful cancers or diseases associated with smoking?
3. How many people would be affected if you killed your friend while driving drunk?
4. How many people would be affected by an unwed, teenage pregnancy
  - a. Although you may think your decisions are yours alone and therefore only affect you, you are dead wrong.

(Do you think Bill Clinton had any idea that his choice to have sex with his female staff members would affect anyone outside of that circle? Truth is his choice tarnished the reputation of an entire nation. Also his choice to lie about having sex has corrupted the minds of millions of impressionable youth.)

## **Review:**

- I. I know what a lot of you are thinking. “I’m young, I have my whole life in front of me, I can afford, no, I’m expected to make mistakes.”
1. Having your entire life before you can either be a very good thing or a very bad thing. It all depends upon what that life is going to be.
    - a. Visit to Tehachapi
    - b. I knew a gang member who was shot in his teens. The bullet severed his spine and he became a paraplegic. (Used to always tell me about how he was down for the hood...maybe because he couldn’t stand up for it anymore.) As the years went by I watched him suffer as he began to fall apart, literally.
- II. In closing, I’m going to let you in on a little secret. Life isn’t always fair, and you may not always get what you want.
1. The truth is you can work very hard for your dreams, and situations may arise that prevent you from ever attaining them, there are no real guarantees.
  2. But you can pretty much guarantee that your life will be a nightmare merely exercising your right to make bad decisions.
    - a. I don’t believe there is anyone in here that doesn’t know the difference between good or a bad choice.
    - b. The quality of your life may literally depend on a decision you will choose to make this day. Please choose what you know to be right!

## **Practice:**

- ❖ Can you think of some choices you have made in the past that you regretted?
- ❖ Can you think of choices you might be faced with today that could conceivably change your life?
- ❖ How have you been pressured in the past to make bad life choices?
- ❖ Can you think of ways to avoid these pressures in the future?

**Documentation And/Or Sources:**

- The Bible: Gospel of Luke, Chapter 15:11-32.
- The Bible: Ecclesiastes, Chapter 1:9.
- California Penal Code
- Under 18, You Do The Crime, Here's The Time, Senate Committee on Public Safety

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