

CONVICTION

STANDING FOR WHAT IS RIGHT EVEN WHEN OTHERS DON'T.

PROVERBS 13:20

DAY 1

Friendships are a big deal. Sure, friends make kickball more fun. But friends also have the power to lead you in the right or wrong direction. When you choose the right kind of friends that listen to and follow God, you will grow closer to God, too. But the opposite is also true. If you surround yourself with friends who don't follow God and make unwise choices, you will suffer harm.

So, does this verse mean you shouldn't be kind to everyone? Of course not! But part of having conviction and standing up for what is right meaning that you need to surround yourself with wise friends. These friendships have the power to make you better, stronger, and wiser.

So the question is: who's on your friends list? Quickly make a list of your closest friends. Would you say that the people on the list help you do the right thing and grow wise?

THANK God for the friendships in your life.

PROVERBS 15: 22

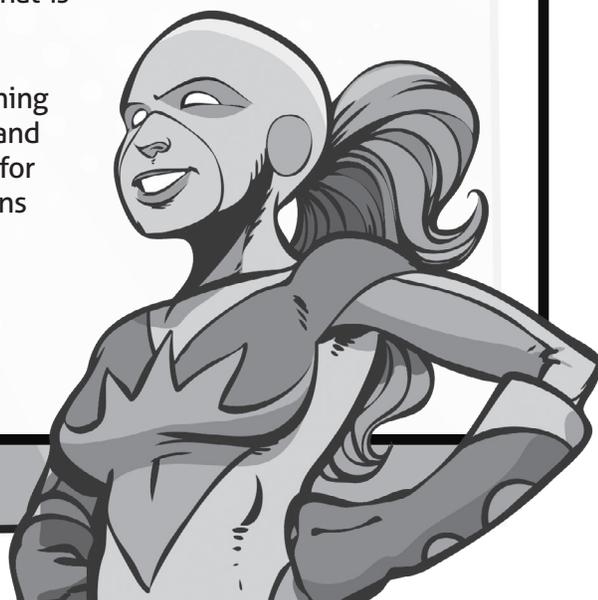
DAY 2

Failing to plan is like planning to fail. Take a second and think about that. You know how important a plan is if you've ever tried to put together a model airplane or a large set of Legos® without the instructions or plans. You probably ended up with a bunch of random pieces and a big headache.

When you're facing a big decision or you find yourself in a situation where you're not sure what to do, it's easier to have conviction when you have a plan! And part of putting together a good plan is to ask others for advice who love and follow God. If you want to stand for what is right, you should always listen to someone who listens to God.

Grab a set of Legos® or some other toy that requires putting something together. Without using the directions, set a timer for 5 minutes and attempt to put the item together. What happened? Set the timer for another 5 minutes and try again – this time WITH the instructions in front of you.

ASK God to help you find the people in your life that listen to Him.



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PROVERBS 19:20

DAY 3

Do you think you're a good listener? What makes someone a good listener? In order to stand with conviction, you need to listen to other wise people around you.

So, how can you be an active listener? Well, start with focusing on what the other person is saying. Too often, when someone else is talking, we're thinking about what we plan to say next. And if we're honest, sometimes we don't even wait for the other person to finish before we jump in with a response. But active listening requires open eyes and ears and firmly shut mouths! After all, you can't learn much from someone else while you're talking.

The next time someone is telling you about his or her day, practice the following active listening skills: look the person in the eye as they're talking and keep your ears open and your mouth closed until they are completely finished with what they wanted to say. It's even OK to leave a second of quiet before you start talking.

LOOK to people who listen to God.

PROVERBS 16:20

DAY 4

Think back over last school year and remember if something like this ever happened to you: the teacher holds up a worksheet and starts to explain the homework assignment. You drift in and out, daydreaming instead of listening to what your teacher is saying. Then you throw the worksheet into your backpack without another thought. But you get home from school, pull out that worksheet, and have NO idea what to do. There are no instructions at the top and you are lost. Did you find yourself wishing you'd listened to your teacher instead of daydreaming? Homework goes a lot better when we know how to do it, doesn't it?

When it comes to conviction and doing the right thing, we all have a lot to learn. God has placed people in your life, like parents, grandparents, small group leaders, teachers, and friends that can help you follow Him. He's given you His word to help you know what to do as well. But it's up to you to LISTEN and then apply what you've learned. And when you do, you will be successful. In fact, the Bible says you will be blessed.

Ask a grown up to tell you about a time that they took a wise person's advice. What happened?

KNOW that God puts people in your life to help you learn how to follow Him.

**IF YOU WANT TO STAND FOR
WHAT'S RIGHT, LISTEN TO
SOMEONE WHO LISTENS TO GOD.**