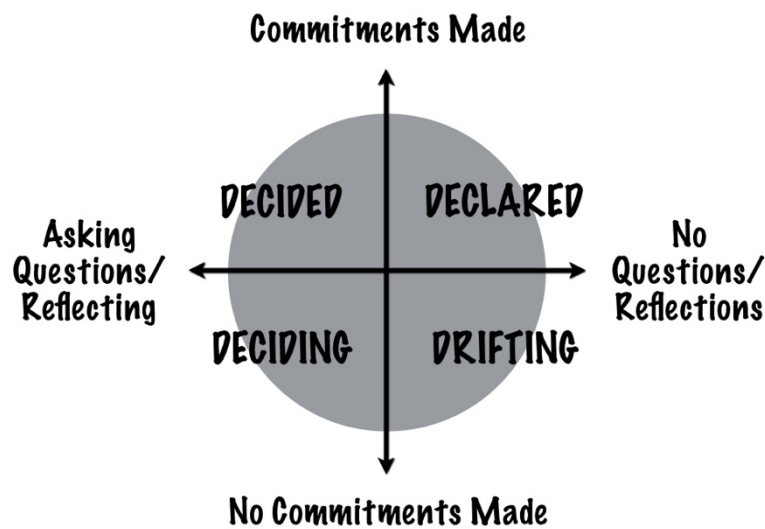


ADOLESCENTS NEED TO OWN THEIR FAITH

“⁶⁵ For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well... ¹⁴ You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned the, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Tim 1:5; 3:14-15)



(This is an adaptation of the “Four Stages of Adolescent Development” by James Marcia)

Decided	Declared
I have developed some strong convictions on drinking alcohol by thinking about it, talking with others and by my own failures.	I don't need to think about whether I will drink alcohol. My parents and youth pastor say it's wrong and I trust them.
Deciding	Drifting
I know what my parents and friends think about drinking alcohol, but I'm not sure what I think about it yet. I want to think some more on it.	Alcohol? I don't think about it and honestly, I don't really care. I'll figure that out when I get to college.

- Owning our faith involves checking our ideas and behaviors with God's Word, interacting with others on these topics, personal reflection and developing convictions over time.

“Adolescents need to question the things Mom and Dad believe and come up with their own reasons for faith and other values. If their faith does not become their own, they will lose it later, or become Pharisees.”

Changes That Heal, Henry Cloud

PARENTS HELP THEIR KIDS OWN THEIR FAITH BY LISTENING

1. Good listening allows our kids to think out loud in a non-judgmental atmosphere; it helps them sort out what they believe or don't believe by hearing themselves think out loud.

"...one of our most important responsibilities as parents is to listen to our children, hearing not only their words, but the feelings behind their words."

Raising an Emotionally Intelligent Child, p. 16

2. Good listening expresses love.

"The principal form that the work of love takes is attention. When we love another we give him or her our attention, we attend to that person's growth. When we attend to someone we are caring for that person. By far the most common and important way in which we can exercise our attention is by listening."

The Road Less Traveled, p 121

Exercise:

"This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger."(James 1:19)

3. Good listening involves:
 - Listening to understand, not correct or criticize (tell your face):.
 - Hearing and empathizing with the emotions behind their words.
 - Summarizing their ideas or emotions to their satisfaction and without judgment.
 - Seeking understanding by asking clarifying questions
 - Remembering this is not the last conversation on this topic.

PARENTS HELP THEIR KIDS OWN THEIR FAITH BY ASKING QUESTIONS

- **The nine critical questions your child needs to "think out loud" about before they leave your home.**
 - Alcohol: What role will alcohol play in my life before I'm 21?
 - Dating: Will I date a non-Christian?
 - Sex: What is sex and will I have sex before I get married? Where will you draw "the line"?
 - Friends: Will the friends I choose push me closer to God or away?
 - Phone: Will I be in charge of my phone or will it be in charge of me?
 - Forgiveness: Are ALL my sins forgiven, or are some unforgivable?
 - Fellowship: Is Christian fellowship a nice thing or a necessity?
 - The Bible: Is it historically reliable and true, or made up?
 - Jesus: Who is He and what role will I let Him play in my life