



*Please begin this study by opening in PRAYER and asking God to reveal his will to us and to guide your time together.*

The Big Idea from this week's message:

Decide today the story you want to tell tomorrow by starting the small disciplines that will help craft your story. The focus of our discussion today will be on what we should decide to start. We will be discussing things we should decide to stop, things we should hang on to, and things we should walk away from in the upcoming weeks.

**Review:**

- What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention? [some options: the idea of your life being a story, keystone habits, choosing one discipline, doing today what you can do]
- **READ – Daniel 6:1-10**
- The passage we just read tells us that Daniel had an excellent spirit and no fault could be found in him. Daniel decided to pray 3x each day and to obey God at all costs. How did these disciplines help to write his story? What would have happened if he had never started praying in the first place? [Daniel might not have become the governor, God would not have been glorified in this pagan land, the end time prophecies of Daniel would not be written, no lion's den story!]

**Story Time:**

- As you look back on your journey - can you think of a time when a small decision changed the course of your life? (Please share with the group) [Pastor Nathan's story about deciding to go to Bible College is one such example, try and think of a personal story to start the group off!]

**Questions:**

- If the decisions we make today determine where we will be tomorrow ... how can I ensure that I am making the right choices today? [the simple and practical answer to this question is: by knowing where God wants me to go. If we know the destination we can figure out the steps to get there ... it doesn't matter if we mess up occasionally if we keep the destination out in front of us]
- **READ – Hebrews 12:1-3**
- According to this passage we are supposed to look to Jesus for guidance and direction ... what does this look like practically (DISCUSS)? [how do we find guidance and direction for our daily decisions by following Christ? Discuss the role of prayer, reading the word, church participation, and small groups can have on our daily decisions]

**Reflection:**

- What do you think God wants you to want? What does he want for your life, family, marriage, finances?

- What story do you think God wants you to tell in 5 or 10 years from now? [the idea here is for all of us to think long term about our lives and to prayerfully consider what God would have for us ... this should lead to the next question – what do I have to do today to get there?]
- **What's one thing you need to start doing today? What's your next step?** [this study will be most effective if each person can think of one thing that they can decide to begin doing today]

Please pray that God would form in us the desire to live the story God wants to tell. Pray for wisdom to know the right thing to start and the strength to do it.