

JOURNEY

ADVOCATES

PARENT GUIDE

LESSON 4.3: AGENCY

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 5-7

SUMMARY:

The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 is packed full of great commands and also some stern warnings. However, behind it lays an important implication: people are agents who can act and make their own decisions. God has given humanity the ability to make genuine choices. This week students consider what their ability to choose means for their faith and the character of God.

God has created us with the ability to make free choices and He wants us to genuinely choose to obey Him. Jesus reminds us that making the right choices—based on God’s standard—is like building a house on a rock, a firm foundation. So when the storms of life come, we will not fall because we have our foundation firmly in place on the Rock.

CORE VERSES	CORE CONCEPTS
<p><i>Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.</i></p> <p><i>Matthew 7:24-25</i></p>	<p>Human agency points to a supreme agent.</p> <hr/> <p>AGENCY: The ability to think and act</p>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Talk to me about the most interesting thing you learned from this week’s lesson.
- Do you think carefully about your own choices in regard to your faith?
- How does choosing to love God freely impact your responses to Him?
- How much are your decisions influenced by what you know about God and the Bible versus what your friends and society try to tell you?
- Describe your next steps based on what you’ve learned. How can I help?