SUMMARY — “The 10 Best Decisions Every Parent Can Make”
Based on the book by Bill & Pam Farrel
Learn more at www.Love-Wise.com

Decide to be a proactive parent
- Give your children to God & commit your parenting to God — go to God first when you wonder what to do. The Bible is a “treasure map” for parents
- Repent and rebuild — if you didn’t experience good parenting role-models, you can change that legacy in your family

Decide to be consistent
- Outlast, out think, and out maneuver your child’s inborn bent to foolishness (Prov. 22:15)
- Don’t give up on discipline & training even when you’re tired, pre-occupied, frustrated, or angry with your kids
- Beware 5 negative traits — sensuality, rebellion, shortsightedness, laziness & selfishness

Decide character counts
- Kids need to be taught essential skills to experience success in life — spiritual, relationship, life skills & character qualities
- Who teaches your kids is just as important as what they’re taught

Decide to have a plan
- Three main things kids need — being a learner, being a leader, and loving God
- Make a contract — listing responsibilities, privileges, and consequences
- “Summer celebration” — be intentional with family activities that reinforce values for your time — look back, look ahead, look deeper, and look for adventure

Decide to be creative
- Dad’s role is to engage a strong-willed child
- Be united — Mom & Dad need to back each other up
- Find the treasure — discover your child’s unique & special talents
- Creative tools for the strong willed, spirited, or hard to raise child

Decide to be a student of your child
- Understand gender & personality differences
- Find ways to celebrate your child’s unique personality & talents
- Tools to bring out your child’s God given potential

Decide to partner with God
- The role of prayer in unleashing potential
- How to create a caring network around your child
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**Decide to build a network**
- Find a group of parents you can trust (eg…*MOPS, Moms in Touch*, etc)
- Some kids face unique challenges (eg…special needs, prodigals, etc) which will make finding their treasure harder to do
- Learn to grieve your disappointments & heartaches. Give it to God

**Decide to trust**
- Teach kids to honor God with their lives/future
- Teach your kids how to make trustworthy decisions
- Make the transition — help your child transition into a responsible adult
- Tools including relationship, driving, and education contracts for tweens and teens

**Decide to celebrate**
- Spiritual gifts inventory
- How to launch teens into college or adult world successfully

**Other parenting resources by the Farrels**
*Got Teens?* (co-author Jill Savage)
*Raising a Modern Day Princess* (for parents and leaders) and *Becoming a Modern Day Princess* (for daughter)
*10 Questions Kids Ask About Sex*
*Single Men are Like Waffles, Single Women are Like Spaghetti*