



## Connecting the Dots

*Andy Stanley*

*Note: The following content is a raw transcript and has not been edited for grammar, punctuation, and word usage.*

**0:00:00.0 Andy Stanley:** Today we are beginning a brand new series entitled, You'll be Glad you Did, timeless advice for troubled times. Now, here's what we all have in common, this isn't a religious thing, this is just a thing thing. We have all lived, most of us have lived long enough basically to reap the benefits from some good decisions we've made and some good habits we've developed, and most of us have lived long enough to have dealt with the consequences of some bad decisions we've made and some bad habits we've developed. So looking back again, this is kind of the wide end of the funnel, looking back we are either glad that we did or we wish we had or we're glad we didn't and we wish we hadn't. I mean, right now every one of us could stand up and tell a, hey I'm glad I did or I wish I had story. Now, because eventually, and this is just part of growing up, eventually we realize that life is connected, that the decisions we make today end up impacting what's gonna happen tomorrow, or create tomorrow's realities. And this is the lesson that every single parent does everything they can to impart to their children. Okay, if you raise kids or raise grandkids, you've said it a thousand times. These grades count.

**0:01:09.4 AS:** In fact, let's just say it together. These grades count. Yeah, because what we're saying is this, your academic decisions now, your academic decisions now determine your academic options later, and your academic options later determine the people you meet, and the people you meet determine the people you date, and the people you date determines who you bring home and the people you bring home determines who you marry, and the people you marry determines who your in-laws are, and if I don't like your in-laws, I won't be happy. [laughter] So at the end of the day, your grades ultimately determine my happiness. So study hard because my happiness depends on it. Maybe that's not how it went down in your home, but you get the point, and that silly illustration actually illustrates the importance of the topic that we're gonna talk about for the next few weeks, because it underscores another facet regarding the connectedness of life. When we think about the things we're gonna talk about for the next few weeks, not only will you be glad you did, other folks will be glad you did as well, because today's decisions impact your tomorrows, but they also impact the tomorrows of the people you love the most and care about the most.

**0:02:20.2 AS:** And this is a really, really big deal, and maybe you knew this, but I'll just throw this out there in case you haven't thought about it in a while. We are rarely happier, isn't this true, we are rarely happier than our relationships are healthy. So your decisions now, my decisions now, my decisions in this season of life that have the potential to impact my relationships later, ultimately it comes back to me, so this is not just about us, but it impacts everybody around us, but ultimately it comes back on us. Your own decisions aren't just about you. In fact, again, most of us have lived long enough to know this. In fact, I'm gonna say some things in the next few minutes, and you're gonna think what I think even when I put a message like this together. I wish I had known this when I was 20, or I wish I would have remembered it when I was 20, or I certainly wish I would have applied this when I was in my 20's, that in every season of life, we make decisions that impact and shape the lives of the people around us in the next season of life. So in this series, here's what I'm gonna do, and this is a little bit strange. And if you're like a real, real... You're a super church person, just hang with me for a few minutes.