The Choice of Parenthood

Directions: Below are several case studies on couples that are trying to decide whether to have a child. After each scenario, discuss reasons the couple might decide to have, or not have, a child. What decision would you make in each situation?

1. Sue and Tyrone have been married for ten years. Sue’s thirty-fourth birthday made her think about having children before it is too late. Tyrone enjoys their life together and is not eager for a child but will agree if Sue insists.

   o Reasons to have a child:

   o Reasons not to have a child:

   o What would you decide?

2. Wendy and Ian have been married for four years and would like to have children. Wendy, a sales representative for a cosmetics company, travels two to three days a week on business. She loves her job and would not be willing to give it up. Ian wants children but is not sure he wants full responsibility for a baby when Wendy is on the road.

   o Reasons to have a child:

   o Reasons not to have a child:

   o What would you decide?
3. Lisa and Darryl are newlyweds who want children right away. They are both college students who hold part-time jobs. They think it would take them an extra year or more to finish college if they have a baby now. They think it would probably be worth it.

   - Reasons to have a child:

   - Reasons not to have a child:

   - What would you decide?

4. Daniel and Nora have had genetic counseling because Daniel is a carrier for a genetic disease that could have a very negative impact on a child’s health. The counselor has told them there is a chance any child they bear will have the disease. Both are very interested in having children and would like to have them as soon as possible.

   - Reasons to have a child:

   - Reasons not to have a child:

   - What would you decide?
5. Sam and Alex have been married for two years. They got married at 20 years old because Alex was pregnant. Alex ended up having a miscarriage, but they decided to continue their wedding plans. They have been fighting a lot lately because some of their goals in life seem to be out of sync. Both Sam and Alex are eager to start a family and love kids. They think that kids are the “missing piece” of their relationship and would like to start trying for a family.

- Reasons to have a child:

- Reasons not to have a child:

- What would you decide?

6. Marsha and Kate are in a committed long-term relationship. They are both very interested in adopting or fostering children. Both Marsha and Kate are 26 years old and working full-time jobs. However, both have very low salaries and they can barely pay all their bills. They have large amounts of student loans to pay off over the next 7 years, and their cost of living is high where they live. Sometimes they don’t even have enough money to pay for cable/internet.

- Reasons to have a child:

- Reasons not to have a child:

- What would you decide?
7. Bill is a single bachelor. He hasn’t met “the one” but is very interested in having children. He is 30 years old and hangs out with a lot of other single people. His friends enjoy going to the bars every weekend, taking long vacations together, and living adventurously. He is financially and emotionally ready to have children, but is worried he will feel left out when he isn’t able to hang out with his friends.

- Reasons to have a child:

- Reasons not to have a child:

- What would you decide?