

Choose to Serve God

Lesson Scripture: Joshua 24:1-26

Bible Truth: I will choose to serve God.

Bible Story: Joshua 24:1-26

Bible Verse: “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.” “And the people said to Joshua, ‘We will serve the Lord our God and obey him.’” (Joshua 24:15b and 24, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: “It’s Your Decision”

Preparation

If you teach younger children, write “My Decisions” at the top of a piece of paper for each child.

Presentation

Give each child a sheet of paper and a pencil. Ask older children to write “My Decisions” at the top of the page.

Materials

paper
pencils
shirt
watch or clock
food item

Say: **Every day you make decisions, many more than you probably realize. From the moment you get out of bed until you go back to sleep at night, you are making decisions. Every day you have to choose what to wear.** (Show the shirt.) **You have to choose what to eat.** (Show the food.) **You have to choose how to spend your time.** (Show the watch or clock.)

Give the children three minutes to write or draw some of the decisions they make each day. When time is up, ask the children to circle three things they consider to be the most important.

Say: **What three options did you choose?** Allow children to answer. **Why do you think these options are the most important ones?** Allow children to answer. **In today’s Bible lesson, a whole nation made a very important decision. We will discover what that decision was.**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Joshua 24:15b and 24

Preparation

Write Joshua 24:15b and 24 on a poster board or whiteboard.

“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.” [said Joshua].

“And the people said to Joshua, ‘We will serve the Lord our God and obey him.’”

Materials
poster board
marker

Explanation

Read the scriptures written on the poster board to the children.

Say: **What was the decision Joshua asked the Israelites to make? Whom did they choose to serve?**

Memorization Activity

Divide the children into two groups. Allow one group to play the role of Joshua. They will say: “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.” The other group should play the role of the Israelites. They will respond: “We will serve the Lord our God and obey Him.” Ask each group to say their part loudly, softly, in a whisper, while jumping, etc. until they have repeated the verses several times.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: “The People Choose,” Joshua 24:1-26

Preparation

Read and study Joshua 24:1-26.

The week before teaching this lesson, give the dialogue to two adults or teenagers. Ask them to learn the parts for Joshua and the narrator and be prepared to present it during this week’s session. Joshua will need to wear a Bible costume.

Materials
Bible
Bible costume for Joshua
poster board
marker

Copy from the script the two lines the children need to say during the story onto a piece of poster board, one line on the front and one line on the back.

Presentation

Say: **You get to be part of today's Bible story. You will be the people of Israel. During the story, the people of Israel say two different lines. When it is your turn to say your line, I will hold up the poster board for you to read. Let's practice.** Help them to practice those lines before the story is presented. As the teacher, help the children say their lines at the appropriate time. Say: **And now we present, "The People Choose."**

NARRATOR: The people of Israel had lived in Canaan for many years. They had built houses and cities. They had farmed the land and planted the crops. Joshua was a hundred and ten years old.

JOSHUA: Call the people to a meeting. I want to talk to them one last time before I die.

NARRATOR: When the people had gathered, Joshua talked to them.

JOSHUA: I want all of you to be a courageous people. I want you to obey the laws God has given you. There are still enemies in the land. You must drive them away. Don't have anything to do with them. Don't serve their gods. Don't marry their sons and daughters. If you obey God, He will bless you in everything you do. But if you disobey Him, you will have problems.

NARRATOR: Joshua reminded the people that God had been with them since Abraham arrived in Canaan. He had been with them while they were enslaved in the land of Egypt. He was with them and led them through the desert. As Joshua was speaking to the people, he reminded them of the things God had done for them.

PEOPLE: He has done great things for us. He has given us this land. He has helped us to fight our enemies.

JOSHUA: You must choose today if you will serve the Lord God or if you will worship other gods.

PEOPLE: We will serve the Lord our God. We will obey His commandments.

Once the skit is over, discuss the following questions with the children:

- What did Joshua ask the people to do?**
- What would happen if they obeyed God?**
- What would happen if they disobeyed?**
- Why did the people choose to serve God?**
- Why have you decided to serve God?**

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Art, "My Decision"

Preparation

Gather materials

Presentation

Say: **The most important decision you can ever make is to choose to serve God. Many of you made that decision when you asked Jesus to be your Savior from sin. Each day you also make other decisions that show you serve God. Can anyone tell me a decision you make each day that shows you serve God?**

Write children's responses on a piece of poster board, chalkboard, or whiteboard. There responses should include some of the following: obeying my parents, reading my Bible, forgiving others, praying, etc.

Do you want to know what Joshua did to help the people of Israel to remember the decision they had made? Let's read Joshua 24:26 so you can see it. Read the verse to the children. **Joshua wrote the decision the people made in a book of God's laws. After this, he laid a large stone under a tree as a memorial to help them remember the decision they had made.**

Today I want you to do what Joshua did. I want you to make a drawing that will help you remember the decisions you have made to serve God.

Ask the children to draw a picture of themselves when they asked Jesus to forgive them of their sins and chose to serve Him. Then they can also draw pictures of themselves choosing to serve God in the other ways discussed (obeying parents, reading the Bible, etc.)

This would also be a good time to pray with children who have not received Jesus as their Savior from sin.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Presentation

When children have finished their drawings, invite them to attach their pictures to the wall and say aloud, "I choose Jesus." Pray a prayer over each child asking God to help him live out his decision each day.

Materials

Bible
poster board
paper
pencils

Materials

tape
pictures from
application activity