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a resource in:
Sunday School

Biblical Decision Making Lessons

Elementary School



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Biblical Decision Making

Lesson 1 - Right Choices that Please God

Recommended Age/Class: **Elementary School** (K-5th grade)

Lesson Objectives:

1. The student will understand that God gives us the freedom to make our own choices.
2. The student will understand that all choices have consequences.
3. The student will understand that we can pray to God to give us wisdom to make good choices.
4. The student will understand that children should go to their parents for help in making good choices.
5. The student will understand we can read the Bible to learn the choices God wants us to make.

Scripture:

Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Psalms 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

James 4:17, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

Related Bible Stories:

- Lot's Choice (*Genesis 13*)
- Gideon Choosing Men for His Army (*Judges 7*)
- The Parable of the Wise Man and the Foolish Man (*Matthew 7:24-27*)

Content:

- God gives people the freedom to make their own choices in life.
- Every choice brings a consequence, whether it is a good consequence or a bad consequence.
- Our choices affect not only us, but can also affect others.
- We can pray to God for wisdom to make wise choices, because God knows what the best choices are since He can see the future.
- God's Word gives us direction for making good choices that please God.
- When we have a choice to make, we should ask what option would please God.
- When we have a choice to make, we can also ask what Jesus would do in the same situation.
- When we have a choice to make, we should ask which option our parents would want us to choose.
- Children should turn to their parents for help in making good choices.

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Discussion Questions:

1. Do we know everything before it happens? Why not?
2. Have you ever been really sure about something and then found out you were wrong? What happened?
3. Is it always easy to know which choice to make? How do you feel when you have a hard time making a choice?
4. Why do we need to make good choices? Who is affected by the choices we make?
5. How do we learn what God would want us to choose to do?
6. What are some questions we should ask ourselves when we have a choice to make?
7. What should we do if we are tempted to make a choice that would not please God?
8. What is a choice you made this last week? How did you decide what to do?

Activity:

1. **Activity 1:** Hand it to God
(materials needed: paper, pencil, scissors, glue, markers or crayons)
 - a. Have students trace their two hands on a piece of paper and cut them out.
 - b. Have them glue the two hands together as if they are praying.
 - c. Have them write on their hands the memory verse for this week about making wise choices (any of the Scripture selections above could be appropriate).
 - d. Talk about how when they have a choice to make, they should pray to God for wisdom to know what is the right thing to do or say.
2. **Activity 2:** Good Choice or Poor Choice? Game
(materials needed: one set of the Choice Cards printed on card stock and cut apart, bag for the cards)
 - a. Put the cards into the bag.
 - b. Have each student draw out a card and decide what would be a good choice to make in that situation.
 - c. Discuss possible consequences of choices that could be made, both good and poor.
3. **Object Lesson:** How important are our choices?
(materials needed: two different types of breakfast cereal, baseball, football, two different toy people)
 - a. Set out the various items on a table.
 - b. Tell children that we have choices to make all day long and some of them seem important, while others don't make much of a difference.
 - c. Ask one student to choose a breakfast cereal they might like to eat. Talk about whether this was an easy/hard choice and if it was an important choice that God would care about.
 - d. Ask another student if they want to play baseball or football. Talk about whether this was an easy/hard choice and if it was an important choice that God would care about.
 - e. Hold up the two play people and talk about how some decisions are very important that we make, such as the friends we choose to be with. Choosing the right friends can help us make good choices that are pleasing to God.
 - f. Have the students talk about other choices they make that are important and have consequences. Possible examples could include: obeying their parents when they are told to do something, using a safe path to come home from school, choosing whether to participate in bullying the new student at school, or deciding whether to copy from someone during a test.

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Lesson 2 - Making Right Choices When Others Do Not

Recommended Age/Class: **Elementary School** (K-5th grade)

Lesson Objectives:

1. The student will understand that it can be hard to make good choices when others are not doing the right thing.
2. The student will understand that children should always obey their parents and God, no matter if others choose to do so.
3. The student will understand that one should stand up for what is right, no matter if their friends will treat them kindly or make fun of them.

Scripture:

Ephesians 6:1-3, "Children obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth."

Proverbs 1:8, "My son, hear the instruction of Thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:"

Romans 12:21, "Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good."

1 John 3:7, "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous."

Related Bible Stories:

- Three Men in a Fiery Furnace (*Daniel 3*)
- Aaron and the Golden Calf (*Exodus 32*)
- Pilate and Jesus' Trial (*Matthew 27*)

Content:

- Making good choices when others are not can be hard to do.
- Children should obey their parents, no matter if others are or not.
- When others are making poor choices, it can be hard to do what is right and look different from others.
- Choosing to make poor choices because others are doing it can cause us to become a type of person that does not honor God or our parents.
- If others are making poor choices, one should pray to God for help in making the right choice.
- Sometimes walking away from a place where people are making poor choices is the best thing to do.

Discussion Questions:

1. When can it be hard to make good choices?
2. What is a time when others were making poor choices and you had a hard time making a good choice?
3. What can help you to stand up for what is right and make a good choice?
4. Share a time when you felt pressured to do something wrong and you chose to do the right thing. What helped you to stand up for what was right?
5. What are things you can do when others are pressuring you to do what is wrong?

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Activity:

1. Activity 1: Human Sculptures

- a. Make groups of five children. Have one volunteer from each group sit in a position of someone doing something pleasing to God (e.g. praying or reading the Bible).
- b. Have the groups each reveal their sculptures and talk about how this shows someone who is letting God mold them into the person He created them to be. They are making good choices that align with God's Word.
- c. Have the group members tell their sculpture things to do that are poor choices, but ones their friends may have told them to do or things they saw others do that were poor choices (e.g. cheating on a test, hitting others, not sharing). As they say each thing, the human sculpture should move their body into other positions. Finally, have the human sculpture just say "no" and move back into their original position that shows them doing something pleasing to God.
- d. Talk about how God made us each as a beautiful sculpture when He created us and making a poor choice ruins His work. However, we can choose not to do those poor choices and God will keep us safe and continue to make us into His image.

2. Activity 2: Just Say No!

(materials needed: edible playdough [1 cup powdered milk, 2T. honey, 2 c. peanut butter], napkins)

- a. Give each student some playdough and have them shape it into the word "no."
- b. As students eat this word, talk about how God has given us the power to say no when others want us to do something wrong. He will help us make the right choices.

3. Object Lesson 1: All Bottled Up

(materials needed: balloon, Sharpie marker, empty water bottle)

- a. Blow up the balloon and draw a face on it. Once the ink dries, deflate the balloon. Put the balloon into the empty water bottle so that the balloon is hanging inside the bottle and the opening of the balloon is over the mouth of the bottle.
- b. Have a student volunteer (who knows how to blow up a balloon) try really hard to blow up the balloon in the bottle. The balloon should not inflate, no matter how hard they are blowing, since it is stopped by the bottle.
- c. Discuss how this represents what happens when we are pressured to make a bad choice. Giving into the pressure can put limits on us, like the bottle did on the balloon. It does not allow us to be the person God created us to be.
- d. Take the balloon out of the bottle and have the student volunteer blow it up. The face should appear on the balloon.
- e. Discuss how once the person decided not to give into the pressure that was limiting him to be the person God created him to be, he was freed from it to grow.
- f. Talk about *Romans 12:2* ("*being transformed*") and what it has to say about doing what is right even when others in the world are not.

4. Object Lesson 2: Dropping Like Dominoes

(materials needed: Dominoes)

- a. Have a volunteer arrange the dominoes in a line.
- b. Have someone else push on a domino and see what happens.
- c. Talk about how peer pressure is like the push on the domino. It can be easy to fall to this pressure and when others see us fall to it, they fall as well.

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Choice Cards

<p>It is Sunday morning. You can go to Sunday School or stay in bed. What would be a good choice?</p>	<p>You come home from school with lots of homework to do. Do you run outside to play or finish your homework first?</p>	<p>Your mom and dad ask you to clean your room. Do you complain or pick up your toys and clothes?</p>
<p>Your friend wants you to watch a movie that you know you aren't supposed to see. Do you watch the movie or tell your friend you can't watch it and choose something else to do?</p>	<p>It is time for bed and your Dad reminds you to brush your teeth. Do you brush them or sneak to bed without cleaning them?</p>	<p>Your classmate breaks your new pencil. Will you forgive your classmate or get even by breaking her pencil?</p>
<p>Your Mom tells you to come inside from playing. Will you stay outside an extra 10 minutes or come in right away?</p>	<p>You accidentally broke your grandmother's flower vase. Do you tell her you're sorry for breaking it, or do you hide the pieces and say nothing?</p>	<p>You are sick with a bad cold. Your Mom tells you not to go outside, but your best friend wants you to go sledding. Will you go out sledding with your friend or tell him you can't come?</p>
<p>You have a science test tomorrow in school. Do you play video games until bedtime or do you study for your test?</p>	<p>Your teacher asks you to stop running in the halls. Will you argue with her or stop running?</p>	<p>Your brother was mad and said some mean things to you. Now your brother is sorry. Will you forgive him or say mean things to him?</p>