

Lesson 2

Choosing God



Theme: Faith – Choosing to follow God

Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Operation Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Write the Memory Verse as words or phrases on several sticky notes. Stick each note on a student's shirt. Have students form a line and put themselves in order to arrange the Memory Verse. For older students, place the sticky notes on their backs so they must work together to complete the project. Place sentence strips in the pocket chart to show the verse. Talk briefly about the meaning of the verse and how it relates to the quarter's study.

Prayer

Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read Deuteronomy 30:15-18. Have reading students find and mark Deuteronomy 30:15 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible Story Bunker.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today's events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by asking a student to show Canaan and the Plains of Moab on a map.
5. Introduce *Lesson Graphics* using the Lord's Army Ammo Box as described on page 8 of this Guide.
6. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:
 - Moses had led the people through the Wilderness, and God had taken care of them.
 - Moses was talking to the people to get them ready to live in the Promised Land.
 - He told them about blessings and curses. If people kept their covenant with God by obeying Him, they would receive many blessings. If people broke their covenant with God by disobeying Him, they would receive the curses.

- Each person must decide what he or she will do about the Word of God.
 - Moses prepared Joshua to be the next leader of God's people. He told him to be strong and have courage.
 - Moses was God's great servant. He would not go into the land of Canaan. Moses died on Mount Nebo.
7. Read and reenact the scene in Deuteronomy 34:1-12. A student is Moses, another is Joshua, and all the other students are children of Israel. The teacher reads the Bible text and represents the Lord. From Mount Nebo, Moses looks over into the Promised Land. The Lord explains that He is giving this land to His people, but Moses will not be going. Moses dies in the land of Moab at 120 years old, and the Lord buries him at a place no one knows. The children of Israel are sad and cry over Moses' death. They talk about Moses' special relationship with God and the mighty works God did through Him. Joshua now becomes Israel's leader. He has the spirit of wisdom. The children of Israel listen to Joshua as he begins leading them toward the Promised Land.
 8. Create a covenant between you and your students concerning your time in class together. You begin by telling them what you want them to do as their part of the covenant. Let them make suggestions about your part. Write it all down and have everyone, including you, sign it. Call their attention to the covenant when they don't keep it. Violate it yourself and see if they call this to your attention. Talk about the blessings of obeying and the curses of disobeying.
 9. Read Deuteronomy 30:15-18. Talk about how the people of Israel had a choice to follow God or not.

**Things to Get or Do
for Sunday Morning**

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Lesson 2

Choosing God

Theme: Faith – Choosing to follow God



Wednesday Evening Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Operation Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Using the sticky notes from Sunday, stick them at different places around the classroom. Have students find the sticky notes and arrange them correctly on the marker board to display the verse. Place sentence strips in the pocket chart to show the verse. Read the Memory Verse together out loud.

Prayer

Starter

Suppose your parents call a family meeting to talk about how the family will operate. Right now, the kids are not keeping their rooms clean, they're not doing their homework, and they are disrespectful to their parents. Everyone is watching a lot of TV and staying on the Internet for a long time each day. Dad explains that changes must be made.

Dad and Mom lay out a plan for their family about cleaning rooms, doing homework, watching TV, and being respectful. Then Dad comes to the hard part – the consequences of obeying or disobeying. If everything goes okay and the children follow the agreement, they will receive an allowance, part to save, part to spend, and part to give to the Lord. If everything does not go okay and the children do not act by the agreement, they will lose the spending part of their allowance and may lose other privileges, too.

To get everyone's attention, Dad stands on a chair in the living room to go over the agreement and to make sure everyone understands the terms. He asks each person – Mom and each child – if they understand the agreement and plan to live by it. Everyone laughs at Dad up on the chair, but he does get their attention. Everyone says, "Yes, we understand and will do it." This was a covenant between family members. Only time will tell if this family's new agreement does any good. God's covenant with Israel was something like this.

Briefly review the lesson from Sunday morning and read Deuteronomy 30:15-18.

Illustrations and Applications

1. *Objective: Help students understand “Blessings” and “Curses” and the consequences of keeping or obeying the covenant respectively.*

Make or purchase two pieces of poster board with frames. Title one “Blessings” and the other “Curses.” Make cards out of other poster board pieces that have blessings and curses printed on them. Put a Velcro dot on the back of each card. Place Velcro dots in two vertical lines on each board to receive the cards. For “Blessings” print Enemies Defeated, Full Barns, Many Children, Many Animals, Good Crops, Rain, and Prosperous Nation. For “Curses” print Sick & Dying Children, Defeated by Enemies, Few Animals, Famine, Diseases, Poor Nation, Plagues. Have all the cards together. The students must decide which are *Blessings* and *Curses* and attach them to the correct poster board. You may mount these boards on the wall and use them later in the quarter for review.

2. *Objective: Teach that a covenant is only words and paper until people decide to live by it and then really do it.*

Read aloud Deuteronomy 27:1-4, 8. Make large stones out of bulletin board paper that may be attached to the classroom wall. In large letters, write on each stone, “All God’s Law.” Provide a pencil or marker and allow each student to write his or her name on the stones. This means the student is entering the covenant and agreeing to keep God’s Word. Talk about the fact that each person must decide and enter the covenant. One person cannot do this for another.

3. *Objective: Help students understand a covenant.*

On a long sheet of paper, write down some class rules for the students to follow. Make the rules into a “scroll” by rolling up the paper and tying it with string or ribbon. During class unroll the rules and read them to the class. Let each one sign his or her name as they agree to the rules and promise to follow them. Talk about how this is like a covenant. Talk with the students about obeying with their hearts because they love God and want to please Him.

4. *Objective: Teach the importance of keeping our promises.*

Tara was “the new kid” in school. She met Katelyn and they soon became friends. After they became friends, Katelyn said she was having a birthday party in a few weeks and promised to invite Tara. After that, Katelyn and Tara got busy with school activities and didn’t see as much of each other. A couple of weeks later, Katelyn passed out invitations to her birthday party, but she didn’t give one to Tara. She had promised Tara she would invite her, but she broke her promise. Discuss the following questions in class:

- Does it matter that Katelyn broke her promise?
- How does Tara feel?
- Does God care if simple promises are broken?

Things to Get or Do for Wednesday Night

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