

Life's Most Important Decision

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: A good decision is worth more than a billion dollars!

Scripture: Joshua 24:15

Memory Verse: As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. - Joshua 24:15

The Children's Sermon

Hey kids! Today, we're going to talk about a very special story from the Bible. It's all about choices and it's found in verse called Joshua 24:15. This story is about a man named Joshua who was a leader of the Israelites, God's special people. Joshua had a big message for the people about making choices.

Joshua told the people that they had to choose who they were going to follow. He said, "You can choose to follow the gods that your ancestors followed, or you can choose to follow the Lord." This is what Joshua 24:15 Bible verse is all about. Joshua made his choice clear. He said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." This means Joshua and his family decided to follow God and His ways.

Making choices can be hard, right? Sometimes we have to choose between playing or doing our homework. Or maybe choosing between sharing our snacks with a friend or keeping them all to ourselves. Just like we have to make these choices, Joshua and the people had to make a big choice too.

Joshua showed us that making the right choice is super important. By choosing to follow God, Joshua and his family were saying that they trusted God and wanted to live

in a way that made Him happy. It's like when we choose to listen to our parents or teachers because we know they want what's best for us.

Now, let's imagine we're on a big adventure, like a treasure hunt. On this adventure, we come to a place where the path splits into two. One path is all sunny and bright, and it's the path that God wants us to take. The other path looks fun and exciting but it doesn't lead to the treasure. This is like the choice Joshua talked about. The sunny path is like choosing to follow God and the other path is like choosing to do things our own way without thinking about what God wants.

Choosing to follow God's path might not always be the easiest. Sometimes, it might mean we have to be kind when we don't feel like it, or share when we'd rather keep things to ourselves. But Joshua 24:15 Bible verse reminds us that following God's path is the best choice because it leads to the greatest treasure of all - being close to God and living a life that makes Him happy.

Joshua's choice to follow God wasn't just for him. He said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." He was thinking about his family too. This shows us that our choices don't just affect us; they affect others around us too. When we choose to be kind, share, and listen, it makes our homes, schools, and playgrounds better places for everyone.

So, how can we make choices like Joshua? First, we can remember Joshua 24:15 Bible verse and think about it when we have decisions to make. We can ask ourselves, "Is this choice going to make God happy? Is it kind and good?" We can also pray and talk to God, asking Him to help us make the best choices.

Another way to make good choices is by listening to the stories from the Bible, just like Joshua's story. The Bible is full of examples of people who made good choices by following God. These stories can teach us and guide us in making our own choices.

And remember, even when we make a wrong choice, God still loves us. He's always ready to forgive us and help us get back on the right path. Just like when we're playing a game and we make a mistake, we can always try again. God gives us chances to try again too.

So, kids, let's be like Joshua and choose to serve the Lord. Let's make choices that make God happy, help others, and lead us on the sunny path of life. Remember, Joshua 24:15 Bible verse isn't just a verse; it's a guide for how to live our lives, making choices that honor God.

And just like Joshua led his family to follow God, we can be leaders in our own homes and with our friends. We can show them how awesome it is to make choices that are good and kind. We can be examples of what it looks like to follow God's path.

In conclusion, making choices is a big part of our lives. But with Joshua 24:15 Bible verse in our hearts, we can make the best choices. Choices that make us, our families, and God very happy. Let's be brave like Joshua and say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." And let's have fun on this adventure of making good choices together!

Bible Memory Verse

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. - Joshua 24:15

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers with stars or hearts

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into house shapes, one for each child.
- Write the memory verse on a large poster board and display it where all the children can see.

Do This:

1. Give each child a paper house and markers or crayons. Ask them to decorate their house while thinking about what it means to serve the Lord as a family.
2. Once they are done decorating, let them pick stickers to place on their house as a symbol of their commitment to serve the Lord.
3. Gather the children in a circle and let them share their decorated houses. Encourage them to say the memory verse together, emphasizing that making the decision to serve the Lord is more valuable than anything else in the world.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Printable "Decision Dollars" (fake money with various amounts)
- A "Decision Jar" labeled with Joshua 24:15
- Small prizes (stickers, pencils, etc.)
- A printout of Joshua 24:15 for each child
- Coloring supplies

Get Ready:

1. Print out enough "Decision Dollars" for each child to have several.
2. Prepare the "Decision Jar" by decorating a jar or box with the verse Joshua 24:15.
3. Gather small prizes and set them aside in a "Prize Area."
4. Print out Joshua 24:15 on individual sheets for each child and set up a coloring station.

Do this:

1. ****Introduction****: Start by reading Joshua 24:15 together. Explain that making good decisions is like choosing to serve God, which is more valuable than anything, even a billion dollars!
2. ****Decision Dollars Activity****: Give each child a set amount of "Decision Dollars." Present them with scenarios where they have to make a choice between doing something that serves God (helping others, being kind, etc.) or making a selfish choice. If they choose to serve God, they put some of their "Decision Dollars" into the "Decision Jar" as a symbol of choosing God over money. Explain that every good decision is worth more than any amount of money because it shows our love for God.
3. ****Prize Redemption****: After making several decisions, allow the children to use their remaining "Decision Dollars" to 'buy' small prizes. This illustrates that while serving God is the best choice, God also rewards us in many ways for making good decisions.
4. ****Coloring Joshua 24:15****: Lastly, have the children color their printout of Joshua 24:15 while discussing the importance of the verse. Encourage them to hang it somewhere they will see it daily as a reminder to always choose to serve God.

5. **Reflection**: Conclude by asking the children to share one way they can make a good decision this week to serve God. Encourage them to bring their "Decision Dollars" home to remind them of the value of good decisions.

Snack Activity: Decision Cookies

You'll Need:

- Sugar cookies (store-bought or homemade)
- Icing in two different colors
- Small candies or sprinkles
- A clean, food-safe paintbrush or small spatula
- Paper and pens for each child

Get Ready: Prepare a clean workspace for each child with all the necessary materials.

Pre-bake the sugar cookies if you're making them from scratch. Mix the icing and divide it into two bowls, coloring them differently to represent good decisions (e.g., green for 'go') and not-so-good decisions (e.g., red for 'stop').

Do this:

1. Start by discussing Joshua 24:15 with the children. Explain how Joshua made a good decision by choosing to serve the Lord and how making good decisions is more valuable than having a billion dollars. Ask the children to think of a good decision they've made recently and write it down on paper.
2. Give each child a sugar cookie. Tell them to think of the cookie as their life. Using the icing and candies, they will decorate one half of the cookie to represent the good decision they wrote down, using the 'good decision' icing color. Encourage creativity!
3. On the other half of the cookie, they can use the other icing color to represent a decision they regret or one they think wasn't the best. They can decorate this side with

the candies or sprinkles to show how even not-so-good decisions can be turned around with the help of good ones.

Finish by reminding them that just like in their decorations, life is made up of decisions, and choosing to follow God and make good choices is the most valuable decision of all.

Game Activity: Decision Treasure Hunt

You'll Need:

- Small treasure boxes or envelopes
- Paper and pens
- Small prizes or treats

Get Ready: Write different decision-making scenarios based on Joshua 24:15 on pieces of paper. These should be simple, relatable situations for kids, like choosing to share toys with a sibling or deciding to do homework before play. Place these papers in the treasure boxes or envelopes and hide them around your play area.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into teams and give them a map or clues to find the hidden treasures. Explain that each treasure contains a decision-making scenario.
2. When a team finds a treasure, they must open it and discuss the scenario inside. Together, they decide on the best choice that reflects the lesson from Joshua 24:15 - choosing to serve God and make good decisions.
3. Once a decision is made, they return to the teacher to explain their choice and receive a small prize or treat. The game continues until all treasures are found.

Emphasize that making good decisions is more valuable than any treasure they could find.

Craft Activity: Decision Treasure Box

You'll Need:

- A small cardboard or wooden box (like a jewelry box)
- Paints and paintbrushes
- Glitter, stickers, and any other decorations
- Paper and pens

Get Ready: Gather all your materials and cover your work area with newspapers to keep it clean.

Do this:

1. Paint your box with your favorite colors. This box is going to be your Decision Treasure Box, where you'll keep reminders of good decisions you make. Let the paint dry.
2. Decorate your box with glitter, stickers, and anything else you like. Make it as unique and special as you are!
3. On a piece of paper, write down 'As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD - Joshua 24:15'. Discuss what this means: choosing to do what's right is more valuable than anything else in the world. Fold the paper and place it inside your box. Whenever you make a good decision, write it down on a small piece of paper and add it to your box, remembering how valuable good choices are.

Prayer Activity: Choosing Wisely: A Prayer Garden

You'll Need:

- A small potted plant for each child
- Decorative stones or markers
- Permanent markers

Get Ready: Prepare a space in your classroom where the children can comfortably sit around in a circle with their potted plants in the middle.

Do this:

1. Start by telling the children about Joshua 24:15, explaining that Joshua decided to serve God and that was the best decision he could make. Compare it to choosing the best treasure, even better than a billion dollars!
2. Give each child a potted plant and some decorative stones or markers. Explain that the plant represents their life and the stones/markers are the good decisions they make, like choosing to pray, help others, and follow God.
3. Ask the children to think of good decisions they can make in their lives and write them on the stones or markers. Then, have them place the stones around their plant.
4. Close with a prayer circle, asking God to help each child make good decisions like Joshua did, choosing to serve and follow God every day.