

Life's Most Important Decision

UPPER 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 construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks
- Stickers with Christian symbols (crosses, fish, etc.)

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into shapes of houses, one for each child.
- Prepare a sample house decoration to show as an example.

Do This:

1. Give each child a paper house and ask them to write the memory verse, 'As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. - Joshua 24:15', on it using markers or crayons.
2. Encourage the children to decorate their houses with the markers, crayons, and stickers, emphasizing the symbols that represent their faith and commitment to serving the Lord.
3. Once everyone has finished, have a 'House Gallery' where each child can present their house and share what serving the Lord means to them and their family.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large poster board
- Markers or colored pencils
- Sticky notes
- Bible or printed copies of Joshua 24:15
- "Decision Dollars" (play money)

- A "Decision Jar" or box
- Small prizes or rewards

Get Ready:

- Write Joshua 24:15 on the poster board and decorate it.
- Place the poster board where all students can see it.
- Prepare the "Decision Dollars" by either purchasing play money or creating your own with paper.
- Set up the "Decision Jar" or box in a visible area.

Do this:

1. **Introduction to Choices**: Begin by discussing the importance of making good decisions, using Joshua 24:15 as the foundation. Explain how Joshua made a choice to serve God and how we face choices every day that can bring us closer to God or further away.
2. **Decision Dollars Activity**: Give each student a set amount of "Decision Dollars." Present them with a series of scenarios (both biblical and everyday situations) where they have to make a choice. For every good decision that aligns with serving God, they earn more "Decision Dollars." If the decision moves them away from God, they pay "Decision Dollars" into the "Decision Jar." Use scenarios that are relatable, such as choosing to tell the truth, helping others, or spending time in prayer versus lying, being selfish, or wasting time on unproductive activities.
3. **Sticky Note Choices**: Have each student write down one decision they face regularly on a sticky note. Without writing their names, they should stick these on the poster board around Joshua 24:15. Group discuss how making a choice to serve God

can change the outcome of these decisions. This visual will help them see the collective commitment of the class to choose God's way.

4. ****Reflection and Reward****: At the end of the activity, count the "Decision Dollars" each student has. Discuss how making good decisions not only pleases God but can lead to rewarding outcomes in our lives. Offer small prizes or rewards for participation and for those who earned the most "Decision Dollars" as a fun way to conclude the activity, emphasizing that the true reward is a life aligned with God's will.

Snack Activity: Choose Your Path Trail Mix

You'll Need:

- A variety of nuts (representing strength to make good decisions)
- Pretzels (symbolizing the interconnectedness of our choices)
- Chocolate chips or M&Ms (to remind us that good decisions bring sweetness to our lives)
- Dried fruits (for the diversity of options we have)
- Small bags or containers
- Spoons for scooping

Get Ready: Set up a 'mixing station' with bowls of each ingredient labeled with their symbolic meaning. Print out Joshua 24:15 on a large poster or individual cards to display at the station.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Joshua 24:15 together as a group. Discuss what it means to choose to serve the Lord and how our daily decisions can reflect this choice.

2. Invite each child to the mixing station. As they add each ingredient to their bag, encourage them to share a decision they can make that would serve God or how they can show their choice to serve Him in their daily actions.
3. Once everyone has made their trail mix, close with a prayer asking God to help each child make choices that honor Him. Encourage them to eat their trail mix as a reminder of the discussion and the commitment they've made.

Game Activity: Choose Your Path: A Joshua 24:15

Adventure

You'll Need:

- A large open space (indoor or outdoor)
- Chalk (if outdoors) or tape (if indoors) to mark paths
- Index cards
- Pens or markers
- A Bible

Get Ready: Before the activity, draw or tape two large, winding paths on the ground, leading from a common start point to two different end points. Label one path 'Serving God' and the other 'Not Serving God.' Write various life choices on the index cards (e.g., helping others, lying, praying, being selfish), making sure there are enough choices for each child to pick one. Place these cards face down at various points along both paths.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and explain that today they will be making choices, just like Joshua told the Israelites they had to choose whom they would serve. Read Joshua 24:15 together.

2. Each child starts at the beginning of the paths. They take turns rolling a die (you can use an imaginary one if none is available) to see how many steps they can take. When they land on a spot with an index card, they pick it up and read the choice. They then decide if that choice would lead them closer to serving God or away from Him and move to the corresponding path.

3. When all the children reach the end of their paths, discuss the consequences of their choices. Emphasize that choosing to serve God, as Joshua and his family did, is more valuable than anything else in the world. Conclude by encouraging the kids to think about the choices they make every day and how those choices reflect who they are choosing to serve.

Craft Activity: Choose Your House: A Joshua 24:15

Craft

You'll Need:

- A large poster board
- Markers or paint
- Stickers or magazine cutouts related to various life choices (e.g., family, money, nature, technology)
- Glue

Get Ready: Cut the poster board into a large house shape. Divide the house into rooms by drawing lines with a marker.

Do this:

1. Read Joshua 24:15 together and discuss what it means to 'choose this day whom you will serve.' Talk about the different things people might choose to serve or prioritize in their lives (e.g., money, fame, technology, family, God).
2. Have each child pick stickers or cutouts that represent what they want their 'house' (life) to be filled with. Encourage them to think about the choices they make and how those choices reflect who or what they serve.
3. Let the children decorate their house with the stickers and cutouts, placing them in the different 'rooms' on the poster board. As they work, encourage them to explain why they chose each item and how it relates to serving God and making good decisions. Conclude with a discussion on how making God the center of our 'house' leads to the best choices.

Prayer Activity: Choosing Wisely: A Treasure Hunt for the Heart

You'll Need:

- A Bible or printed copies of Joshua 24:15
- Treasure chest or box
- Paper and pens
- Small 'treasures' (could be candy, stickers, or small toys)

Get Ready: Before the activity, hide the 'treasures' around your classroom or designated area. Write out Joshua 24:15 on pieces of paper and place them inside the treasure chest or box. Make sure you have enough copies for each child.

Do this:

1. Start with a discussion about choices and how they can affect our lives. Introduce Joshua 24:15 and explain its significance in making good decisions.
2. Tell the children they are going on a treasure hunt to find the 'treasures' you've hidden. The twist is, before they can claim their physical treasure, they must find the treasure chest and take a copy of Joshua 24:15.
3. Once everyone has found a piece of the treasure and their scripture, gather the children and have them write a short prayer on the back of their scripture paper. The prayer should be about asking God to help them make good decisions, similar to how Joshua chose to serve the Lord. Encourage them to keep this paper as a reminder of their commitment.