

# The Spork

## LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

**Theme:** We have to choose between serving God or the world. We can't do both.

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:19-24

**Memory Verse:** No one can serve two masters. - Matthew 6:24

## The Children's Sermon

Hey kids! Today we're going to talk about something really important. It's about choosing to do what God wants us to do instead of just doing things to make people happy or to get lots of stuff. This is called "Serving God vs. Mammon." Mammon is a fancy word that means money or things we might want a lot, like toys or video games.

You know, sometimes it's easy to get caught up in wanting lots of toys, games, or even trying to be the most popular. But, guess what? Those things don't make us truly happy in the end. What makes us really happy is knowing we're doing what God wants us to do.

Serving God means we listen to what He tells us in the Bible and try our best to do it. It's like if God had a big, wonderful plan for a super fun day, and all we have to do is follow His plan to have the best day ever. But sometimes, we get distracted by other things, like maybe a shiny toy we see in the store, and we forget about God's plan.

Now, let's talk more about Serving God vs. Mammon. Imagine you have two paths in front of you. One path is shiny and full of toys, candy, and everything you could ever

want. But this path doesn't lead to God. The other path might not look as exciting at first, but it leads to God and to doing what He wants, which is the best thing ever.

Choosing to serve God might mean sharing your toys with someone who doesn't have any, being kind to someone even when you don't feel like it, or helping your mom and dad around the house without them asking. It's not always easy, but it's so worth it because it makes God happy, and it makes us happy too.

Serving Mammon, or chasing after things and trying to be popular, might seem fun at first. But in the end, it's like eating too much candy. It seems great at the time, but then you end up with a tummy ache. Serving Mammon doesn't fill up our hearts the way serving God does.

Now, I want to tell you about a friend of mine named Amber. Amber is a super talented artist who loves to paint. Instead of selling her paintings for lots of money to buy toys, she does something really cool. She sells her art to raise money to feed people who are hungry. Amber is choosing to serve God by helping others, and that makes her really happy.

You see, when we choose to serve God, we get to be part of something bigger than ourselves. We get to help people, spread kindness, and make the world a better place. And the best part is, God sees everything we do, and He's so proud of us when we choose to serve Him.

So, kids, let's remember to focus on what really matters. Let's choose to serve God by being kind, helping others, and following what He teaches us. It's way better than

chasing after things that don't last. Serving God fills our hearts with joy and makes our lives super special.

Let's pray together and ask God to help us choose to serve Him every day. We can ask Him to show us how to share, how to be kind, and how to make the world a better place by following His plan.

## Bible Memory Verse

### **No one can serve two masters. - Matthew 6:24**

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into heart shapes, one for each child.
- Write 'God' on half of the hearts and 'World' on the other half.

Do This:

1. Give each child two hearts, one with 'God' and the other with 'World'.
2. Ask them to decorate the 'God' heart with things they think please God (like praying, helping others) using markers and glue.
3. Then, discuss why we can't decorate the same heart with things that please the world and God at the same time, explaining the importance of choosing to serve God.

# Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large piece of cardboard or poster board
- Markers or paints
- Two sets of stickers or pictures (one set with images representing "serving God" like praying, helping others, reading the Bible, and the other set with images representing "serving the world" like money, toys, being selfish)
- Glue or tape
- Scissors

Get Ready:

- Cut the cardboard or poster board into a large heart shape.
- Divide the heart into two sections: one labeled "Serving God" and the other "Serving the World."
- Prepare the stickers or pictures by cutting them out if necessary and sorting them into the two categories.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Matthew 6:24 to the children, explaining that we have to make a choice between serving God or serving the world. Make it simple: "We can't follow God and be greedy or only think about ourselves at the same time."
2. Show the children the heart and explain that it represents our love and who or what we choose to serve with our actions and decisions.
3. Give each child a set of stickers or pictures. Ask them to think about each image and decide if it represents serving God or serving the world. Then, one by one, let them come up and stick or glue their pictures onto the appropriate side of the heart.

4. As they place their stickers, encourage them to share why they think each picture belongs on the side they chose. This helps reinforce the lesson and allows for discussion.

5. Once everyone has placed their stickers, reflect on the heart together. Discuss how we want our heart to be more filled with serving God than serving the world. Conclude with a short prayer, asking God to help us make choices that show we are serving Him.

## Snack Activity: Choose Your Path Snack Mix

You'll Need:

- A bag of pretzel sticks
- A bag of chocolate candies
- A bag of mini marshmallows
- Small paper plates or cups
- Napkins

Get Ready: Pour each snack item (pretzels, chocolate candies, and mini marshmallows) into separate bowls. Place a spoon in each bowl for serving.

Do this:

1. Tell the children that today we're learning about choosing to serve God or the world, just like in Matthew 6:24. Explain that we can't choose both, and our choices show who we serve.
2. Explain that the pretzel sticks represent the straight and narrow path of choosing God, the chocolate candies represent the tempting things of the world, and the mini marshmallows represent the pure and good choices we make.
3. Let each child take a turn to make their own 'Choose Your Path Snack Mix' on their plate or cup. Encourage them to think about their choices as they make their mix. Ask

them to share which part of their mix is the biggest and why, helping them reflect on the importance of choosing to serve God in their lives.

## Game Activity: Treasure Path: Choosing God's Way

You'll Need:

- A large open space (indoors or outdoors)
- Two sets of colored markers or flags (one color representing 'God', the other 'the world')
- A bell or whistle

Get Ready: Create two distinct paths on the ground using the markers or flags. One path should be labeled 'God' and the other 'the world'. Each path should have its own set of challenges or tasks written on pieces of paper or cardboard placed along the way. The 'God' path should have tasks like 'Help a friend', 'Say a kind word', or 'Share your toys', while the 'the world' path might include tasks like 'Win a game at all costs', 'Keep your toys to yourself', or 'Say something unkind'.

Do this:

1. Explain Matthew 6:24 to the children, emphasizing that we have to choose to follow God's way or the world's way, but we can't do both. Use simple language to make it clear that following God means making choices that show love and kindness to others.
2. Have the children start at the beginning of the paths. At your signal (blow the whistle or ring the bell), they choose a path to follow. As they move along their chosen path, they must complete the tasks or challenges listed.
3. At the end of the paths, gather the children and discuss their experiences. Ask them how they felt about the tasks on each path and what they learned about choosing

between serving God or the world. Reinforce the idea that choosing God's way leads to true happiness and fulfillment.

## Craft Activity: Choosing Paths: God or the World

You'll Need:

- A large piece of poster board
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers or pictures that represent both worldly things (toys, money, etc.) and Godly values (church, family, helping others)

Get Ready: Cut the poster board in half. On one side, write 'World' and on the other side, write 'God'. Draw a line down the middle to separate the two.

Do this:

1. Read Matthew 6:24 together and discuss what it means to serve God and not the world. Explain that we have to make a choice because we can't do both.
2. Give the children the stickers or pictures. Ask them to think about whether each one represents serving God or the world. Then, have them place the sticker or picture on the side of the poster board that matches their decision.
3. Once all the stickers or pictures are placed, discuss the choices. Ask the children why they placed each item where they did and what it means to choose God over the world in their daily lives.

## Prayer Activity: Choosing Our Treasure: A

You'll Need:

- A large treasure chest cutout from cardboard

- Two sets of treasure items (can be cutouts or small objects) labeled 'God's treasures' and 'World's treasures'
- Glue or tape

Get Ready: Prepare the treasure chest cutout and the two sets of treasure items beforehand. Make sure each 'treasure' is labeled clearly as either belonging to 'God's treasures' or 'World's treasures'. Place the treasure chest on a wall or board where all the children can reach.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Matthew 6:24 to the children in a simple and understandable way. Explain that we have to choose to fill our hearts (our treasure chest) with what is important to God, not just what the world thinks is important.
2. Invite each child to come up and pick one 'treasure' from the 'God's treasures' and one from the 'World's treasures'. Have them think about which one they would choose to put in their treasure chest and why. Encourage them to choose the 'God's treasure' and explain how this choice can help us serve God.
3. After each child has made their choice and glued or taped their 'God's treasure' to the chest, lead them in a prayer. Ask God to help them always choose Him over the world, to fill their hearts with His treasures, and to give them strength to serve Him every day.