

The CHOICE of Champions: Jesus Christ

Lesson #2

Teacher's Section

This second lesson focuses on the second letter of the acronym CHOICE. H for Hand your heart to Jesus. The last lesson discussed choosing Jesus. Often times this choice is a cognitive, head choice, but it must also be a heart choice. It is in the heart that true emotions and feelings reside. The heart acceptance of Christ, who He is and of His leadership requires a deeper commitment than just an audible choice of Christ. This heart felt choice is discussed in this lesson. We want the children to understand that the choice for Christ involves both the mind and the heart.

Goals:

- to discuss the second letter of the CHOICE acronym. H= Hand your heart to Jesus.
- to help the children understand Jesus wants us to choose Him with our mind and heart.
- to help the children understand that when we choose Jesus with our hearts, we are deciding to give Him all of our love.

Champion for this lesson: Peter

Lesson Bible Verse:

- Joshua 24:15 Unit Bible Verse
- Matthew 16:13-16 Peter's heart confession

Coming In Activity:

Puzzle /activity to review unit verse

Use the puzzle to review the Unit Bible verse. The key to the code is write down the letter directly to the left of the letter listed below the line.

Introduction:

Introduce Peter to your children. Ask them **“Who was Peter?” “What do you know about Peter?”** Solicit answers to who Peter was. Say, **“Today we are going to do a sword drill to see what the Bible tells us about Peter.”** Give each student a Bible so they can complete the sword drill activity. You may want to pair students up to help locate the verses, especially in the younger grades.. Listed below are possible scripture passages to use for the sword drill. (Directions for sword drill. Supple each child with a Bible. Call out the passage, have the students locate the passage and the first one to find it reads it aloud. Then have the child tell the group what that passage tells us about Peter.)

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|------------------|---|
| Matthew 4:18-22 | a disciple of Jesus |
| Matthew 14:25-31 | walking on the water |
| Matthew 15:27 | a student of Jesus' |
| Matthew 16:16-19 | the Rock that the church will be built on |
| Matthew 17:1-2 | saw the transfiguration |

Matthew 26:36-37	Garden of Gethsemane
Matthew 26:75	disowns Jesus
Luke 5:4-4	a fisherman
Luke 22:7-8	prepared for the Last Supper
John 1:42	all the names of Peter
John 18:15-18	a more detailed portrait of Peter's denial of Christ
John 21:15-17	given the responsibility to "Feed my sheep"
Acts 2:38	a preacher
Acts 4:3	in jail for preaching about Jesus
Acts 12:5-10	escapes from jail by the way of an angel
2 Peter 1:1-2	a servant of Jesus Christ
2 Peter 3:1-2	a letter writer

The above passages are just a survey of the passages involving Peter. You may be able to find more to use. Pick 4-5 for the children to find. The number to look up will be determined by the time allotment of the class and the composition of the class. Use your discretion here. Mix up the passages so you are not saying Matthew all the time or several times in a row. The goal for this activity is for the students to understand who Peter was.

Bible Story

Transition:

Peter is a champion because he chose to follow Jesus and ask Jesus to forgive his sins. He understood who Jesus really was when he cried out that Jesus is the Christ. Read the passage about Peter's heart confession.

Matthew 16:13-16

Questions for Discussion:

1. Who did some people think Jesus was? (**Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the other Old Testament prophets.**)
2. Who does Peter say Jesus was? (**The Christ, the Son of the living God.**)
3. Why is it important that Peter make this heart confession of who Jesus is? (**He believed with his whole heart and mind that Jesus was the Son of the living God, the Messiah, the one to come and save them. He first made the conscious choice to follow Jesus physically and now he is making the heart choice to believe who Jesus really was. I believe you with my whole heart is a saying that sums up what Peter is feeling here. He truly believes in his heart that Jesus is who He says He is.**)

Transition:

As we come to Jesus many of us choose to follow Jesus initially with the do's and don'ts of what a Christian does. After this mind decision to follow Jesus we also need to believe in our hearts that He saves us from our sins and loves us deeply. To make this heart felt commitment to Him, the children first need to understand who Jesus really is. The following activity will help them understand some of the attributes of Jesus.

Bible story activity:

1. Give each student a copy of the cross supplied in the Student Section of this lesson. They are going to fill the cross in with descriptions of who Jesus is.
2. The students can either just write in the description of Jesus by the Bible passage or they can do something a little more creative. Have the students cut out the cross. Have the students look up the Bible passage and decide on a good description of Jesus found in that passage. For a collage effect have lots of ragged edged pieces of construction paper in all sorts of colors. They then can write their descriptions on the construction paper and then glue it to the corresponding Bible passage notation on the cross. This will be a colorful way to visualize all that Jesus is. An alternative is to cut different shapes of construction paper (circles, squares, triangles, diamonds, etc.) and have the students place their description of Jesus on these shapes. The image here is that each shape or color of construction paper is an unique characteristic of Jesus and when you put all these characteristics together we can understand who Jesus is. The Bible passages are listed on the cross. You can photocopy like that or you can photocopy the cross blank and let the students look up any of the listed Bible passages listed below.

John 6:35 Bread of Life I Peter 2:6 The Cornerstone Matt. 4:17 preacher
Matt. 8:13 Healer Mark 4:39 Creator/controller of nature
Hebrews 1:3 Radiance of God's glory Romans 10:9 Jesus is Lord
Luke 19:9-10 Savior Luke 18:15-16 gentle and compassionate John 13:1 love
John 14:6 the Way, truth and the life John 10:7 the gate John 1:29-30 The Lamb of God
Mark 1:35 quiet Mark 10: 32-34 knowledgeable Mark 12:41-44 knows the heart
Luke 9:57-58 no place to live Mark 16:6 the risen Savior Matt. 17:2 transfigured
Luke 7:11-13 tenderness

Discuss the characteristics of Jesus. Emphasize that Jesus is capable of taking care of us and it is safe to give him all of us, heart and mind.

Transition:

Once we understand who Jesus really is we can make a heart decision for Jesus. When we give Jesus our hearts, He comes in and forgives us of our sins and takes care of us from then on. You can give your heart to Jesus by choosing Jesus to be the leader of your life. You might want to pray a prayer of repentance and acceptance for your students at this point.

CHOICE Activity:

There are 2 different activities to choose from for this part of the lesson. The first is for the

primary level and the second one is for the junior level, but you can choose whichever one is most appropriate for your age group.

1. A Heart for God

stiff poster board

Scissors

Glue

Cotton balls

Dry tempera paint (red)

paper bag

Black marker

teaspoon

white paper

1. Cut the poster board into a heart shape roughly 7"x8".
2. Put one teaspoon of dry red tempera paint into the paper bag.
3. Drop several cotton balls into the bag and shake. The balls will be colored by the paint. Shake the extra paint off as each cotton ball is removed.
4. Glue the cotton balls onto the heart. Cover as much as possible.
5. Cut a small heart from the white paper roughly 2"x2". Use the marker to write "A Heart for God" on the white heart. You may want to do this beforehand for your students.
6. Glue the white heart in the middle of the larger cotton ball one.

You can punch a hole in the top of it and tie a string on it so the children can hang it in their room.

2. Beautiful Heart Basket

red construction paper

ruler

scissors

black marker

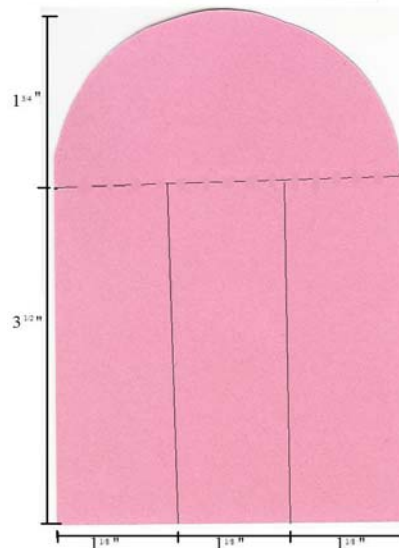
pink construction paper

pencil

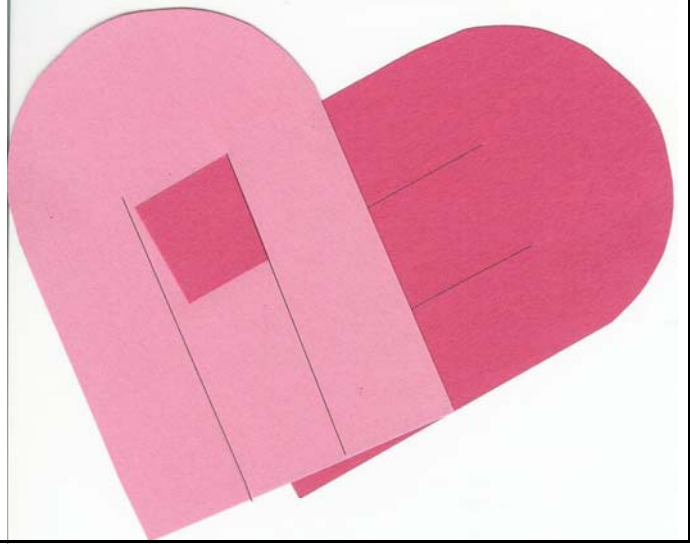
white paper

1. Fold a 3 1/2" x 10 1/2" piece of red construction paper in half. Do the same for a pink piece of construction paper.

2. On both pieces of construction paper draw a dotted line 1 3/4" from the top. Draw an arc in the top area and divide the bottom into strips. Cut out the arc. Snip up the strips to make loops.



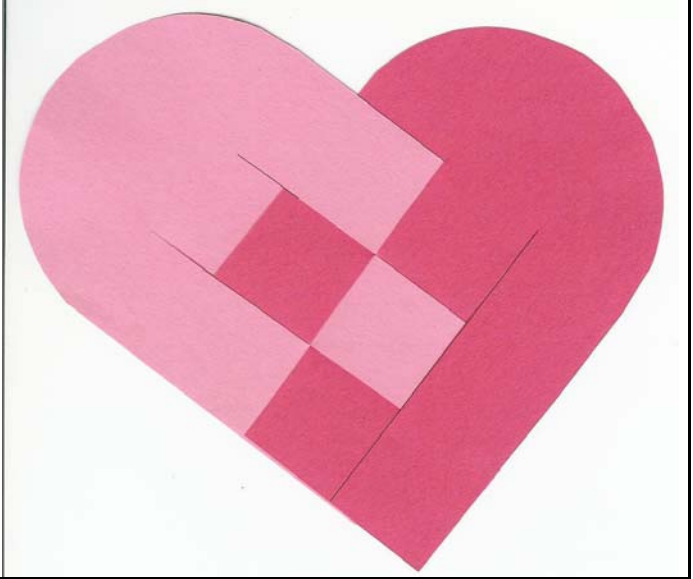
3. Lay the pink and red cut out shapes side by side. Then, slide the first loop of the red paper shape between the two layers of the first loop of the pink paper shape.



4. Next, slip the red loop around the bottom of the second pink loop and slide it up. Then, slip the red loop between the two layers of the third pink loop.



5. Slip the second red loop round the first pink loop, between the second and around the third. Follow steps 2 and 3 for the third red loop.



6. Open it up. Glue on a handle - a 1" by 3" strip of construction paper.

7. Cut a small white heart out of the white piece of paper. Write "Jesus, I give you my heart" on it and then have each child sign it and place it in the basket.

Concluding Activity:

Bulletin board activity:

Whether you are using the Olympic rings or rainbow for your bulletin board, draw your children's attention to this place. Place a large H on the second to highest rainbow arch or in the second set of rings. Explain to the children that the second step in being a Christian is to hand your heart to Jesus. This is the second step in salvation.

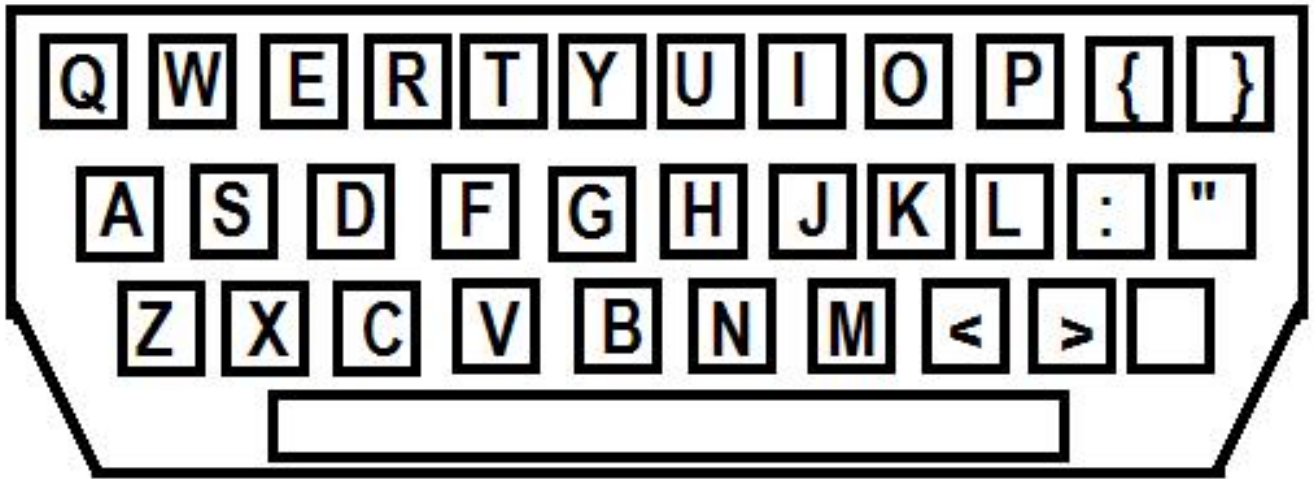
End with prayer.

The worksheets to be used in this lesson follow in the Student Section.

Student Section:

1. Unit Bible Verse Puzzle
2. Cross model

Use the keyboard below to help crack the code. Then read a verse about the importance of choices.



“C
V J P P D R G P T U P I T D R: B R D T J O D

F S U E J P < U P I E O : : D R T B R’ N I Y

S D G P T < R S M F < U J P I D R J P : F’ E R

E O : : D R T B R Y J R : P T F.”

Cross Model: Who is Jesus?

