

The CHOICE of Champions: Jesus Christ

Lesson # 3

Teacher's Section

This third lesson illustrates the third step in the CHOICE steps of salvation. O = Obey by Repenting. Once the child chooses Jesus and fully understands who He is and can give Him his or her whole heart, then the next stage is to repent of sin. This is what this third step explores. What is repentance? What do we do in repentance and how does it affect our lives in the long run are all ideas discussed in this lesson.

Goals:

- to understand what repentance is and how that fits into the CHOICE framework for salvation.
- to discuss what is done in repenting of sins.
- to discuss how repentance affects the life, choices, and decisions the child will make.

Champion for this lesson: John the Baptist (He preached repentance to all who would listen)

Lesson Bible Verse:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| –Joshua 24:15 | Unit Bible Verse |
| –Matthew 3:1-6 | John's repentance message |
| –I John 1:9 | Definition of Repentance |

Coming In Activity:

For the younger children, start them on creating a John the Baptist cloak. Directions below. The older children's activity follows.

John the Baptist Cloak

Materials Needed:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| brown grocery sack (1 for each child) | markers |
| cotton balls | scissors |
| brown tempera paint | brown yarn |

Using a brown grocery sack or a large piece of brown butcher block paper create a jacket of sorts for the children to wear.

1. Cut a neck hole and arm holes in a brown grocery sack or a neck hole in a piece of butcher block paper. For the grocery sack you may want to create a slit in the sack up the front of the sack so they can easily slip on and off the jacket. (The hole for the head is cut in the bottom of the bag and the arm hole cut in the sides of the bag.)

2. Once the holes have been cut let the children decorate it. Point out to them that John the Baptist wore clothes of camel hair.
3. Take cotton balls and pull apart somewhat and place 5-10 cotton balls in a small lunch sack with a teaspoon of brown tempera paint. Shake up the sack so that the cotton balls are coated with the brown paint.
4. Take the cotton balls out of the sack and glue on the paper sack or butcher block paper cloak. If you have many children you may want them to only decorate the front of their jacket.
5. Finish the ensemble with brown yarn for a “leather” belt.

Transition: Say, **Who do you think would wear a type of jacket like this? What would he be like? What would he do? What type of job would he have? Do you know anyone in the Bible who wore clothes like this?** Gather the students around to hear the Bible story for the lesson. **Today we are going to learn about a champion who told others they needed to repent and believe in Jesus Christ.** At this point you can introduce the third step in the CHOICE salvation framework—Obey by repenting.

For the older students:

1. The students can complete the maze helping John the Baptist find Jesus.
2. Play Simon Says. You may want to play Simon Says until all the children have arrived. Then gather them together and discuss the topic of obedience. Say, **“Simon Says is about obedience. You have to obey the commands of the leader if you want to stay in the game. Who else do you obey? How do you obey these people? God wants us to obey Him also. He says, we show Him love when we walk in obedience to his commands and God commands us to repent of our sin. To repent is to say that we are sorry for sinning. What is sinning? (a known disobedience to God). When we repent we tell God we are sorry for the wrong things we have done and decide to not do those things again. And God cleanses us, makes us feel clean inside because the Bible says, Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Let’s read about a champion who told others about repenting.”**

Bible Story:

Read Matthew 3:1-4

Discuss who John the Baptist was. You might want to give them so more information about John the Baptist found in Luke 1: 39-80.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who was John the Baptist? **(A forerunner of Christ. Someone who told others about the coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus’ cousin. Someone who camped in the wilderness, wore**

different type of clothes and told others to repent of their sins and then baptized them in the Jordan river.)

2. Why do you think he looked like he did? **(He resembled the earlier prophets of the Old Testament like Elijah.)**

3. What was his message? **(to repent of sins. John's baptism of repentance represented a change of heart, which included sorrow for sins and a determination to lead a holy life.)**
This is the definition of repentance we will use for this lesson.

Transition: **Let's look at what repentance means.**

CHOICE activity:

1. Before class cut apart the puzzle pieces located in the Student Section of this lesson.
2. Place them in a container so each student can pick one puzzle piece.
3. The students need to circulate around the room to find the puzzle pieces that fit together.
4. The two students need to check the Bible verse in a Bible to make sure the pieces go together.
5. Once all the pairs have been found, form a large group. Let each student pair read their verse.

Discuss the verse and explain what the verse is saying about repentance. (If you have more than 10 students create several pairs of one verse and let each group state what they think the verse means.)

Transition:

Discuss with the children what repentance is: A feeling of sorrow for our sins, an awareness that Jesus can forgive our sins, asking Jesus to forgive our sins and a turning away from previous sinful behavior. Often times this repentance is described as turning over a new leaf. Doing something totally opposite of what you would have done before. Play the New Leaf game to help the children understand a change in behavior is needed along with asking Jesus to forgive our sins.

The New Leaf game:

This game helps the children understand that there is a definite before repentance and an after repentance type of behavior.

1. Using the leaf models in the Student Section, create ten to 20 different leaves –enough for 2-3 per child.
2. On each leaf, on one side write an activity that they might have done before they asked for and received forgiveness, such as telling a lie, looking at someone's answers for a test, taking something at a store, saying mean things to a friend..... etc.
3. Place each leaf in a large container and have each student pick one leaf at a time to read and then tell what they would do after repentance.

(For the older students you could place each leaf in a balloon, blow it up and then post them to a bulletin board. Then each student could pop the balloon by throwing a dart at it. They would read the leaf that comes out and tell the class what they could do differently. OR place a leaf in a

balloon, blow it up and give each student a balloon. One at a time they need to sit on it and pop it, read the leaf activity and have them tell the class what they would do differently after repentance.

Alternative Activity:

1. Forgiven Heart

Materials Needed:

Red construction paper

picture of Jesus duplicated from below for each child

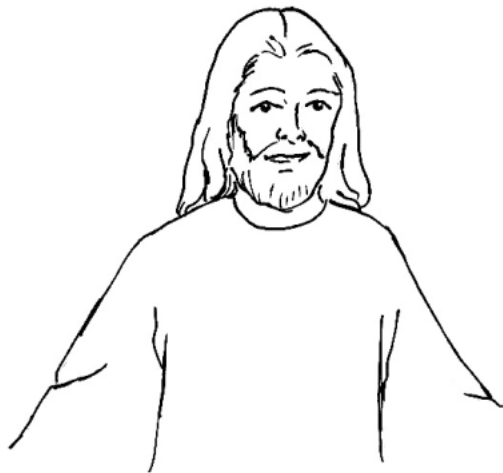
scissors

craft knife

crayons or markers

tape

1. Cut a heart out of the red construction paper. (roughly 8"x8")
2. Using a craft knife the teacher or an adult should cut a door in the center of the heart, folding the paper back so the door will open.
3. Each child should color his picture of Jesus and carefully tape it to the back side of the red heart so the picture of Jesus shows through the window.
4. Each child should write the Bible verse I John 1:9 on the front of his/her picture. Explain the significance of this verse and how it applies to obedience in repenting.



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 O on the next lowest rainbow arch or in the third set of rings. Explain to the children that the third step in being a Christian is to obey Jesus by repenting of one's sin. Go over I John 1:9 once again explaining the idea in this verse.

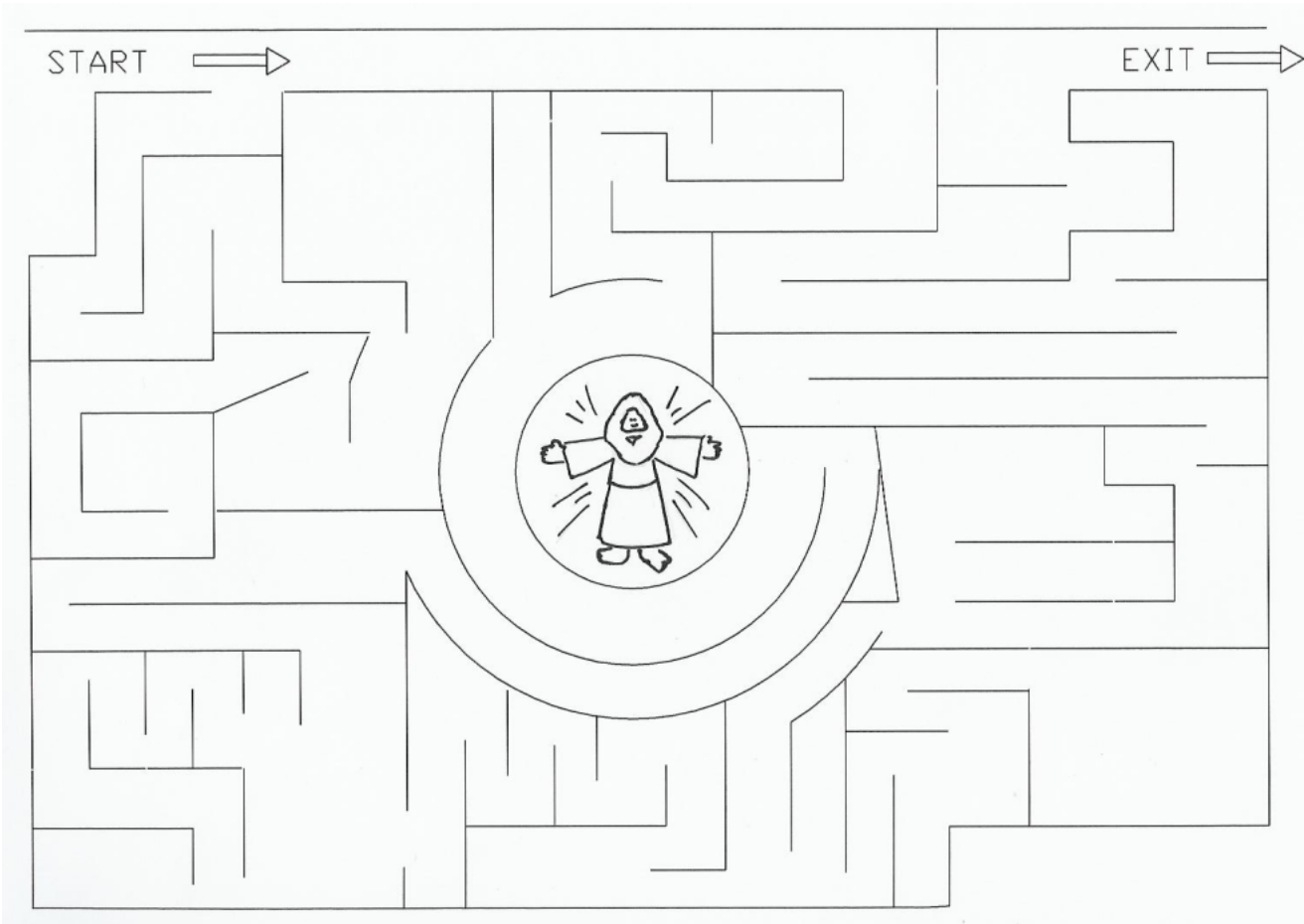
End with prayer.

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

Student Section:

1. John the Baptist Maze
2. Repentance Puzzle Pieces
3. Leaf model

John the Baptist Maze



Repentance Puzzle Pieces

A

Repent, turn away
offenses;
will not be

Rid yourselves
offenses you have
and get a

Ezekiel 18:

A

from all your
then sin
your downfall.

of all the
committed
new heart.

30-31

B

Repent, then, and
so that your sins
that times of
may come from

Acts 3:

B

turn to God,
maybe wiped out,
refreshing
the Lord.

19

c

If we
confess
our sins, he
is faithful
and just
and will
forgive us

our sins
and
purify us
from all
unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9



D

If you repent,
you so that you

Jeremiah 15:

D

I will restore
may serve me.

19

E

I have declared

and Greeks

to God in

faith in our

Acts 20:

E

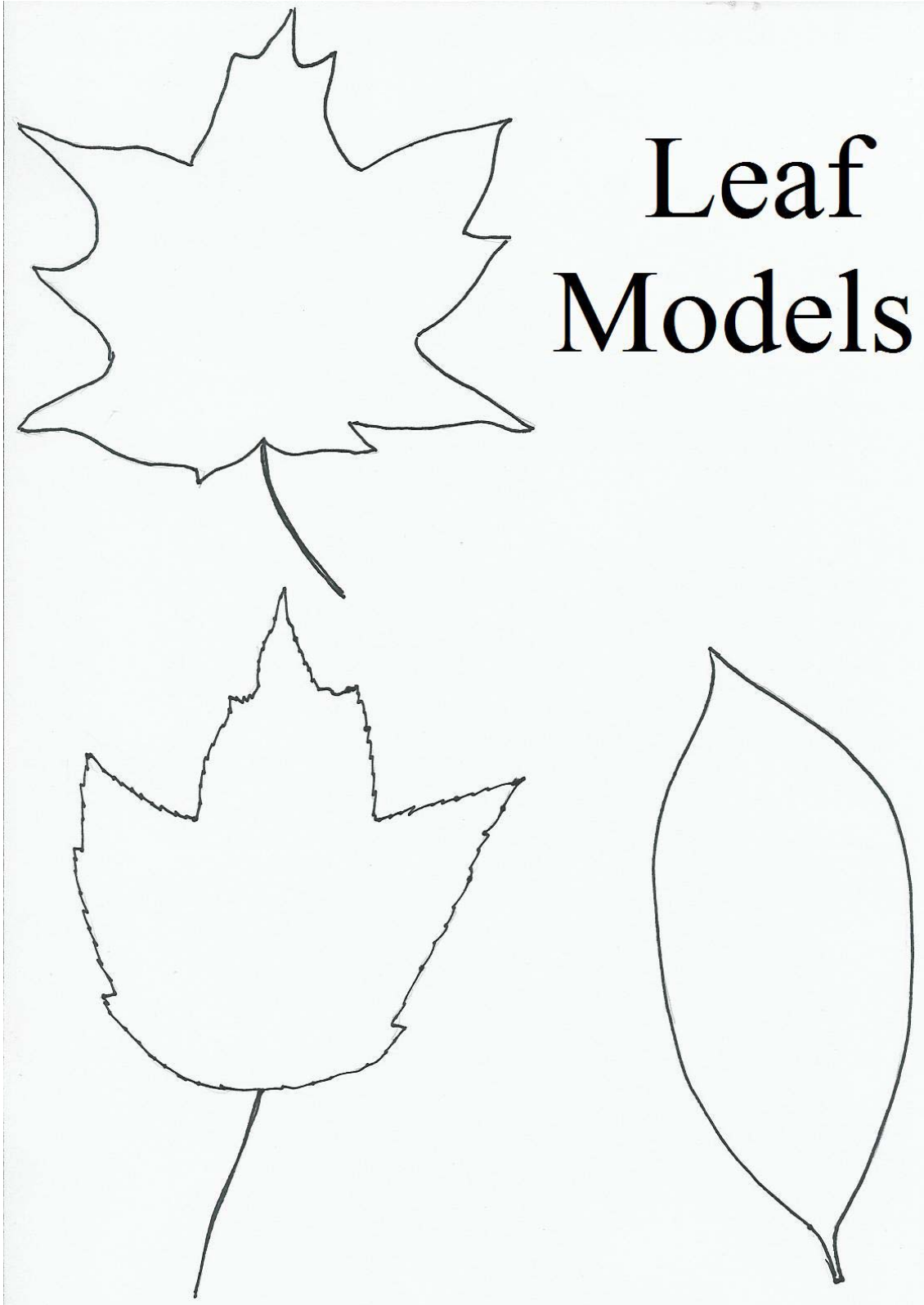
to both Jews

that they must turn

repentance and have

Lord Jesus.

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Leaf Models