

The CHOICE of Champions: Jesus Christ

Lesson #4

Teacher's Section

This fourth lesson focuses on the fourth letter of the CHOICE plan of salvation. I is for Involvement in Jesus' Church. Involvement within the Church and with the Church's mission is vital for every Christian. It is also important as a part of this plan of salvation.

Goals:

- to discuss the fourth letter of the CHOICE acronym. I is for Involve yourself in His church.
- to help the children understand that Jesus calls us to be involved with His church—the people and the activities.
- to help the children identify some special gifts and talents they have that can be used for Jesus.
- to help the children decide what they can do to be involved with Jesus and His church.

Champions for this lesson: The early Christians

Lesson Bible Verse:

- Joshua 24:15 Unit Bible Verse
- Acts 2:42-47
- I Corinthians 7:7 Lesson verse

Coming in Activity: (can pick among these several introductory activities)

1. Review the Unit Bible Verse:

Group the students in a large circle. Give one student a blown up beach ball. Have that one student say the Unit Bible Verse then throw the beach ball to another student. Have that student then say the Unit Bible Verse. If a student needs help with the verse, let them throw the ball to a friend to finish the verse. This can be done with the lesson verse (I Cor. 7:7 also).

2. Family Picture: The children need to draw a picture of their family—all members, even pets. Once all are finished let each child tell about their picture.

3. Family acrostic: Give each student an acrostic worksheet located in the Student Section of this lesson. They need to write out what families do or why they like their families using the letters of FAMILY on the acrostic. (You may need to explain to them what an acrostic is—You use the beginning letter to start out a word or a phrase.)

4. Talent Box: Give each student a copy of the Talent Box worksheet located in the Student Section of this lesson. On each box the students need to either write a talent or skill they have or draw a symbol or a picture of a talent or skill. (You may need to explain a talent or skill is something the child can do,.... being a listener, playing soccer, solving math problems, building

things, playing the piano.....). Decorate the boxes if wanted.

Once the child has all the boxes filled in and decorated put together the talent box. Fold on the dotted lines and tape together to make a box. Put aside for later.

(This talent box will be needed for another activity later on in this lesson.)

Introduction:

Ask the students to describe their families. Ask, **“What is your family like? Who is in your family? What does your family do for fun? How do you know your family loves you? Say, Families are important because a family takes care of you. Your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, or caretakers all involve themselves in your life because they love you and want to take care of you. Ask, Did you know you belong to the family of God also? Let the children tell you what that means—to be part of the family of God. Explain to them what being part of the family of God means—(You have someone to help you, someone you can fellowship with, someone who understands what it is like to be a Christian and you have a father—God)**

Bible Story:

Transition:

After Jesus went into heaven after He rose from the grave the disciples were in charge of all of the believers at that time. Jesus told the disciples to go out and make disciples and teach everyone about Jesus. They were to start the Church that we now know. On the day of Pentecost Peter preached a sermon and over 3000 people believed in Jesus and asked Him to forgive their sins. Over 3000 people became believers that day. Many of those people went back to their homes and some stayed in Jerusalem. The new Church was growing daily and this new Church was like a family. Everyone took care of everybody else. Let’s read about the early Church.

Read Acts 2:42-47

1. What were the early Christians diligent in doing? (Listening to the teaching of the disciples, fellowshiping with each other and praying with each other.)
2. If one of the Believers needed something what was done? (It was given to them. People shared what they had with others.)
3. How would you characterize the early Church and the early believers? (Like a family—supportive of each other, loved each other).

Transition:

The early believers did as Jesus did. The Bible says that Jesus went about doing good. Because we are to be Christ like we need to go around doing good and telling others about Jesus. To that end, Jesus gives us each talents and skills to use to bring others to Jesus and to enable us to be involved with the Church.

CHOICE Activity:

Take the talent boxes created earlier or if not completed earlier do that activity now. Directions under the Coming In section of this lesson. Group students in 2 or 3 and have each student take a turn at rolling his or her talent box. As a student rolls the talent box, have the student tell how they can use the talent listed on the side of the box facing up. Let each child in each group roll enough times so all the talents come up and he or she can talk about each one. Circulate around the room while the students are doing this. When all are finished, in a group discuss the talents and skills each student talked about. Try to have at least every student mention one talent or skill they have and how they would use it for Jesus.

Transition:

It is important for the students to understand Jesus doesn't use these talents and skills in isolation. Jesus doesn't want the students to expect they will have to use these talents and skills by themselves and without Jesus being the leader for this. God calls us to join Him in His mission of the Church. We don't call ourselves. "Weaving God's Church" will help them understand this concept.

Weaving God's Church

1. Give each student a 11x17 inch piece of construction paper.
2. Fold the sheet of paper in half long ways.
3. Starting at the fold, the children need to cut slits across the paper stopping about one inch from the edge. Keep slits about 1 to 1 ½ inches apart.
4. Open paper and lay flat.
5. Give students at least 6 strips of paper 1 inch wide and 17 inches long. (You can cut these strips out before class or you can have the students do this. The strips need to be different colors of construction paper.
6. Weave strips of paper in and out of the slits. First over one slit, then under the next slit, through to the other side.
7. Repeat with each strip until the slits are full. Glue or tape the ends down.
8. Write "God's Church" on the top and bottom of the paper.
9. Explain to the students that the colored paper woven into the large piece of paper represents their talents and skills God gives to them. God takes the talent and skill and weaves it into His picture of His Church. God does the work. We only have to be willing to give Him our talents and skills for Him to use. It is our talents and skills He uses to meet the needs of the people around us. Everyone working together, using their talents and skills make up the Family of God.

Concluding 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 I on the next lowest rainbow arch or in the 4th set of rings. Explain to the children that the fourth step in being a Christian is to involve themselves in Jesus' Church.

End with prayer.

Student Section:

1. Family acrostic
2. Family wordsearch
3. Lesson Bible Verse Puzzle

FAMILY Acrostic

F

A

M

I

L

Y

Family wordsearch

Families

p l s q b g b b n o i s s a p m o c e
h k m p n m r h h w d c m f u s i p r
j r u i o o y h o b b i e s a z f d i
j u r t t l a p a r t m e n t t u b n
d a h h i o t s a f e h a v e n h g s
c e e m r e h t e g o t g n i t a e t
r r a s t n u a s i c h i l d r e n r
s f m p c h a l l e n g e s g x y s u
g r a n d m a c t i v i t i e s l u c
l i s e s u n r e t h g u a l f n c p t
d e t t e h a h h c r u h c o u i p i
j f c r s l o r m s j p e t s j n o o
f u a a o i c u g s n i s u o c c r n
e f d l h p s n s a b h d m n i i t o
t s l o v e s w u e t h s b n f p l s

family
mother
father
children
grandma
grandpa
aunts
uncles
brothers
sisters

picnic
eatingtogether
fun
church
support
love
challenges
caring
safehaven
activities

house
apartment
pets
laughter
compassion
instruction
cousins
hobbies
sports

Lesson Bible Verse Puzzle

