



CHOOSE GOD

LESSON 2

POWER PHRASE

I can know who the enemy is!

MEMORY VERSE

James 4:7, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

SUPPORTING DOCTRINES

For supporting doctrines, see our Statement of Faith at novoministries.org/statement-of-faith.

GOALS

The child will...

- Learn that the devil is the enemy and wants to confuse, discourage, and destroy!
- Understand that he can choose God and receive victory over the devil.
- Believe that with God, he can resist the devil (Satan) and the devil will flee!

REMINDERS

At Novo we typically use the term “Satan” instead of “the devil.” The Memory Verse uses the term “the devil,” so for continuity in this lesson, we will also use that term. Make sure that the children understand that both terms are referring to the same thing. Also help the children understand that there is a battle for our souls. We fight daily against the devil and his schemes. The devil isn’t a cute little cartoon character or someone you can jokingly blame when you do things wrong (e.g., “the devil made me do it”). The children need to know that if they choose to submit to God, God will give them power and strength to resist the attacks of Satan.

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The stories and photos shared in the Gospel Presentation activities are used with the permission of www.iamsecond.com.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

All Large Group or Small Group activity visuals or supply items followed by an asterisk (*) may be downloaded for printing at www.novoministries.org/resource.

THE GIBEONITE DECEPTION (BIBLE STORY - JOSHUA 9:1 - 10:15)

Recommended Visuals

- Bible Story Visuals*

Recommended Supplies

- Bible, Bible Insert for Large Group*, old sandals, torn and dirty fabric or old worn leather

Captivate #1 - Props!

- Use different items to help you tell the story. Items could include old sandals and torn, dirty fabric, or old worn leather. As you tell the story, show these items. Let the children see the dirt, the damage, and even the smell of the items.

Captivate #2 - Thumbs Up!

- Stop at different points during the Bible Story and ask the children a question that has a “yes” or “no” answer. Ask them to show their answer by putting their thumbs up for “yes” and thumbs down for “no.”

Introduction

- At this point in the history of the Israelites, they had crossed over the Jordan River, and Joshua was the leader. They had huge victories in battles at Jericho and Ai, and word of their power spread throughout the land. Some of the neighboring nations were worried about fighting them.

Story

- Retell the story from Joshua 9:1-10:15.
- See Bible Story Script.

Conclusion

- The Gibeonites came to Joshua to trick him into making a peace treaty with them. Joshua did not talk to the Lord about it first and made a bad decision to make a treaty with them. Later, when the Gibeonites asked Joshua to help defend them against their enemies, Joshua did talk to the Lord about it first and saw clearly what he should do. God can help us know who the enemy is!

TESTIMONY

- Share about how you realized that people are not your enemy but Satan the devil is.
- Share about a time that God revealed to you that the devil was trying to deceive you.

CHALLENGE

Recommended Visuals

- Key Point Visuals*, Power Phrase Visual*, Memory Verse Visual*

Supplies

- Bible, Bible Insert for Large Group*

Introduction

- In our Bible Story today, we learned that the Gibeonites tricked the Israelites. The Israelites made the mistake of not seeking wisdom from God to know what the truth was. If they had talked to God first, they would have known that the Gibeonites weren't who they said they were. But the Israelites learned from their mistake. When the Gibeonites asked the Israelites to help defend them against their enemies, Joshua talked to God first to ask what they should do. Not only did God tell Joshua what the Israelites should do, but God went with them and gave them the victory!

Key Points

The enemy is the devil!

- Our enemy is the devil, who also is called Satan. We have to be very alert and ready for his attacks.
- 1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

The enemy will try to trick me!

- The devil is out to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). We have to be prepared and be ready to stand against him. The devil can use people to tempt, trick, and attack us. People may lie to you or pressure you to do things that do not honor God. The Gibeonites tricked the Israelites and disguised who they were.
- God gives us salvation, peace, and truth through His Word as our armor to help us stand strong against the devil. Ephesians 6:11 says, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."

God can give me wisdom against the enemy!

- We don't have to be afraid if God is on our side! If we need wisdom, all we have to do is ask, and God will give it to us generously. James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."
- The Israelites learned from their mistake with the Gibeonites and then went to God for wisdom on what to do when the Gibeonites asked for help.

God can give me boldness to defeat the enemy!

- We can be bold because God has given us authority over all the powers of the enemy! We don't have to give in to peer pressure or believe the lies of the devil. God gives us boldness to stand up for what is right and defeat the devil.
- Luke 10:19, "Behold, I have given you the authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you."
- The Israelites knew they were doing what God wanted so they didn't need to be afraid. God went with them and gave them the victory!

CHALLENGE (CONTINUED)

Conclusion

- We can know who the enemy is! God can give us wisdom when we ask Him for it so we can identify the tricks of the devil who wants to deceive and destroy us. Just like the Israelites, we need to first seek God for wisdom.
- James 4:7, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

Invitation

For the unsaved child:

- God loves you and wants to keep you safe from the attacks of the devil. But first you have to acknowledge your sin and realize that it separates you from God (Romans 6:23a). Sin is anything we think, say, or do that breaks God’s Law. Jesus paid the price for our sin; He became our Substitute (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- Because of Jesus, we can admit that we have sinned and ask Jesus to be the Lord of our lives (Romans 10:9). He will provide victory over the devil.
- Invite the children to stay behind and talk to a leader if they have any questions or would like to ask Jesus to forgive their sins and be the Lord of their lives.

For the saved child:

- Challenge the saved children to submit to God, seek His wisdom, and boldly take authority over the enemy.
- Encourage children to stay behind and talk to a leader if they have any questions.



MYSTERY (ARRIVING ACTIVITY)

Visuals

- Picture of children reading a mystery book*

Instruction and Application

- As the children arrive, ask them if they have ever read a mystery book or played a mystery game. What was their favorite mystery book or game? The goal is to try to figure out who the bad guy is and solve the mystery. Sometimes it is tricky and hard to know who the real bad guy is. Today we're going to learn who the real enemy is in life and how he tries to deceive us and keep us from having a relationship with God. This enemy is no mystery!
 - Review the Memory Verse with the children. James 4:7, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."
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JUST SAY NO (MEMORY VERSE)

Visuals

- Memory Verse Visual*, Picture of “Just Say No” Sign*

Supplies

- Bible

A.G.A.I.N. Acrostic

A — Attention Grabber (Grab their attention with an interesting introduction, and don't let go!)

Ask the children if they have been taught in school or by their parents that they have to take a stand and say no to drugs, alcohol, and gangs. What does it mean to “Just say no!”? It means to make a decision ahead of time and make a commitment that you will not do those things. Our Memory Verse today tells us that we should submit ourselves to God and decide ahead of time that we are going to “Just say no!” to the devil. If we stand up to him, he will flee. He has no power over us if we have God on our side!

G — God's Word (Show them that the concept you are teaching them comes from the Bible.)

James 4:7, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

A — Awareness (Make them “aware” of the words and concepts.)

Submit — to obey

Resist — withstand, stand up to, oppose

Devil —Satan, enemy of God

Flee — run away from

I — In Their Lives (Teach them to apply the lesson “in their lives.”)

Unsaved child (questions to ask an unsaved child)

Have you submitted your life to God and asked Him to forgive your sins and be the Lord of your life?

Do you know how to submit your life to Him? Would you like to believe in Jesus today?

Saved child (questions to ask a saved child)

How can you resist the devil? What things are in your life that you need to say “no” to? Why will the devil flee?

N — Number of Times (Repeat the content again and again until the children understand it.)

Read from Scripture. Repeat after me. Play the Memory Game three or four times.

Memory Game

Play March-a-Verse (Jog-a-Verse/Skip-a-Verse). Chant the Memory Verse as the group marches around the room/Small Group area. Say a word or phrase with each step you take. If you are in a small space, you can have the children pat their hands on their legs instead of marching.

CHOICES (GOSPEL PRESENTATION)

Visuals

- “What’s the Problem?” and “What’s Your Choice?” Foundational Gospel Truths Visuals*, Picture of Moriah Peters*

Supplies

- Bible, paper, writing tools

Instruction and Application

- Moriah Peters discovered her love for music at a church camp in 6th grade. When she later auditioned for American Idol, her family and friends prayed for her through each step of the audition process.
- When she performed in front of the judges, they loved her voice but critiqued her for trying to be too “good,” never having kissed anyone, and leading a wholesome life. They wanted her to go out and experience more.
- Moriah trusted that God’s will would be done in her life. Instead of feeling defeated, she believed that God had closed a door and had a greater plan. After she left her audition, she was approached by a man who had heard her sing and knew that she was a Christian and wanted to help her with her career.
- God blessed Moriah. She signed with a label, got married, and is walking in God’s calling for her life.
- Moriah knew she was a sinner and needed a Savior (Romans 3:23). Her sins separated her from God (Romans 6:23a). Use the “What’s the Problem?” Visual to review.
- Moriah chose to believe in Jesus and received forgiveness for her sin. She also chose to honor God with how she lived in spite of the pressures to fit in by people in the music industry. We can make that choice as well! Use the “What’s Your Choice?” Visual to review.

Discussion

- Older Team: Have the children discuss pressures they face to fit in and how God can help them make the right choices.
 - Younger Team: Have the children discuss how Moriah used her singing to honor God and what they can do to honor God.
 - Quiet Team: Have the children write the word choices in the center of a page and write around it what choices they can make that honor God.
 - Active Team: Have the children find a partner and play Rock Paper Scissors. The winner can share pressures she faces to fit in and how God helps her.
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FLASHBACK (REVIEW QUESTIONS)

Supplies

- Review Questions*

Large Group Story Review Questions

- Who was the leader of the Israelites? (Joshua)
- What had all the area kings heard about? (The battles at Jericho and Ai)
- What did they all come together to do? (Fight Israel)
- What was the Gibeonites' plan? (To trick the Israelites)
- How did they trick the Israelites? (They made their clothes look dirty and old, their food moldy, and their wineskins old to look like they had traveled a long distance.)
- What did they ask the Israelites for? (A peace treaty)
- When did the Israelites allow the Gibeonites to be? (Servants of the Israelites)
- What didn't the Israelites do when they made a treaty with the Gibeonites? (They did not talk to God first.)
- Who planned to attack the Gibeonites? (The Amorites)
- When the Gibeonites asked for Joshua's help, what did Joshua do? (Joshua talked to God first before deciding what to do.)
- What happened during the battle against the Amorites? (God made the sun stand still and sent hail stones that killed the Amorites.)

Discussion Questions

- How can we know who the enemy is?
 - What can you do to hear from God?
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GIBEONITES (CRAFT)

Visuals

- Craft sample*

Supplies

- Gibeonites Template*, balloons (one per child), tan paper (small square per child), fabric (small square per child), burlap (small square per child), glue, scissors, coloring tools

Instruction and Application

- Give each of the children a Gibeonite Template. Have them glue the balloon in the “Old Wineskins” spot and color it so it looks weathered. Next have them cut the burlap to look like an old sack and glue it on the donkey. Then have the children cut the tan paper so it looks like a piece of bread but color it with a green crayon so it looks like moldy bread. Finally, have the children cut the fabric to create clothing that looks old and worn. The children can then color anything else on the paper that they would like.
 - Remind the children that we learned how the Gibeonites deceived the Israelites to get what they wanted. The devil also tries to deceive us. But we don’t have to be deceived. We can know who the enemy is!
 - Review the Memory Verse with the children. James 4:7, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
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WHAT'S THE POINT? (APPLICATION ACTIVITIES)

Supplies

- “What’s the Point?” card*, paper, writing tools

Activity #1

- Give each child a “What’s the Point?” paper. Have the children write what they learned about how they can know who the enemy is. Next, have them fill out the “Put it to action!” portion by writing something they can do this week to apply what they have learned. How can they know when the devil is trying to deceive them? How can they guard against the devil’s attempts to steal, kill, and destroy?

Activity #2

- Have the children take turns acting out different scenarios where they can know who the enemy is and stand up against him. If you have a group that is more quiet, you could choose to have them draw a picture instead.
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NOW WHAT? (ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY)

Supplies

- Additional Activity #1: Gibeonite Coloring Page*
- Additional Activity #2: The Gibeonite Deception Word Search*
- Additional Activity #3: The Big Take Away Key Chain*

Instruction and Application

- These activities are to be used with your team as time fillers while reinforcing the lesson concepts. The children can take these home each week or do them while they are listening to you teach during Small Group. These activities require little to no explanation and can be great for moments when you are transitioning or don’t have time to start another activity.
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