

## 12. Choose You This Day

Joshua 23-24

Joshua was a good example. He put God first in his life. When Joshua died at the age of 110, he was called “the servant of the Lord” (Joshua 24:29).

Before Joshua died, he called together the elders, heads, judges, and officers. Joshua told these leaders to be very courageous and obey the law God gave to Moses. He reminded them how God had helped them take over the Promised Land up to that point. Joshua told them that if they turned away from God, He would no longer help them (Joshua 23:6-16).

Later Joshua gathered the leaders again. God had Joshua remind the people how He had called Abraham and made him the father of a great nation. The blessing was passed on to his son Isaac and Isaac’s son Jacob. During the famine, Jacob and his sons went to Egypt. After many years, the Israelites became slaves to the Egyptians, but God sent Moses to bring them out of Egypt and to the Promised Land (Joshua 24:1-7).

After reminding them of all God did for them, Joshua told them to serve God. But they had a choice. They could either serve God, or they could serve false gods like the people who were living in Canaan before the Israelites came. Joshua said, “Choose you this day whom ye will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).



Joshua lived during the Mosaical Age. We live during the Christian Age. Their laws were different than ours. Even so, we have a choice to make just like they did. We can choose whether or not to serve God.

**NOTE TO THE CUSTOMER:** Children are frequently admonished, “Make a good choice.” They are familiar with this concept at home and school. This lesson makes a spiritual application simple to comprehend.

Below you will find the teachers’ instructions followed by a book to be printed for third and fourth graders. The cover is the same as the book for younger children. Older students will perform a self-evaluation. Their book may also be used as a prayer notebook, as is explained in the teachers’ instructions. The cover for both age groups is followed by a book for young children.

**The review, Lesson 13,** is a unique game I created, “Who Wants to be A Christian Heir?” It is based on the popular TV game show, “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?” Teachers may reproduce the play money and Bible verses to paste to the billfolds (made with cover stock).

## **Teachers’ Instructions:**

### **LESSON TWELVE: CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY**

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

Encourage children to make good choices, especially related to choosing to go to heaven!  
Stress the importance of praying every day.

“**Choose You This Day**” is a portion of a well-known verse, which also serves as the memory verse for the children. Be sure to memorize it yourself if you haven’t already. Children are generally familiar with the concept of making a choice. Teachers use this tool to point out to students that their actions are based upon the choices they make. As Bible teachers, we are aware that the choices we are discussing in Bible class are far more important to our students lives -- their **eternal** lives! Make this a focal point of your lesson.

**Duplicate** the lesson on colored paper. Print a copy for all students, including those who are not able to read. If you have the large charts on the wall showing the three Bible ages, use them as you tell the lesson to younger students, or point out a few things as older students take turns reading. (These charts can be made from graphics provided in *RWS #104, The Ten Commandments*. It would be well worth your time to make the charts if they are not already on the wall. I refer to them often as I teach my students, even when covering New Testament lessons.)

**Copy a book for each student.** All students will have the same cover. Young students will be given the pages with larger letters. There is a page with eight rectangles containing phrases, which children will cut and paste. Use several colors of paper to copy these pages. Cut out the rectangles, and put them in baggies, giving each child a variety of colors of rectangles to be pasted. In the baggie you should also place enough happy face stickers for them to use on pages one and two.

**Older children** will be doing a self-evaluation. They may use the book they are creating as a prayer book. Suggest that they keep it close to their beds so they can look over the prayer list and pray for the people and needs they have written down.

**Very young children** may have a difficult time knowing which rectangle to paste on which page. If you feel this may be a problem, print the same words on individual pages, and show each page as you discuss where it should be pasted. Let each child take a turn answering where it belongs. Print your letters as they appear on the rectangles so they can easily compare theirs to the one you are holding. When they are done pasting, tell the children to use bright markers to fill in the words on the cover, “CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY.” Let them also color the house. Explain that when Joshua said, “but as for me and my **house**, we will serve the Lord,” he was referring to the members of his family, servants, etc. He was not talking about a “house.” They can think of the people who live in their house serving God.

# Self-Evaluation

Joshua told the Israelites to choose who they would serve (Joshua 24:15). They could choose to serve the true God or idols. Each day we must choose if we want to do things that please God, or if we want to do things that do not please God.

Evaluate yourself. How hard do you try to please God? Are you making the best possible choices for your life? Look at the list later (at least a month from now or longer). See if you have improved. DG means doing good. NI means needs improvement. Check the one that comes closest to describing your present behavior and attitude.

DG      NI

- |       |       |                                                                                             |
|-------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | 1. I try hard to obey my parents.                                                           |
| _____ | _____ | 2. I work hard to make good grades at school.                                               |
| _____ | _____ | 3. When a friend wants me to do something I should not do, I say "no."                      |
| _____ | _____ | 4. I try to choose friends who have good moral values.                                      |
| _____ | _____ | 5. I read the Bible several times a week.                                                   |
| _____ | _____ | 6. I pray every day.                                                                        |
| _____ | _____ | 7. When I am old enough, I plan to be baptized.                                             |
| _____ | _____ | 8. I am a good example most of the time.                                                    |
| _____ | _____ | 9. When I have an opportunity, I visit the elderly (such as going to the nursing home).     |
| _____ | _____ | 10. If a friend is ill, I pray for them and try to let them know I care about them.         |
| _____ | _____ | 11. When I must choose between going to Bible class or entertainment, I choose Bible class. |

# Prayer List

Some people find it helpful to write out a list of things to pray for each day. Write as many things as you can think of during class and add to the list at home. Even if you don't get out the list every time you pray, it will help you remember if you use the list now and then.

## Praise God

Often times we forget to praise God in our prayers. We have been studying about **our mighty God**. Write down a few things you could say to God in a prayer to express how mighty God is, and to praise Him in other ways. There are many good examples in Psalms. For example, "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" (Psalm 8:9).

## Thank God

We are so blessed! Make a list of things for which you are thankful, and thank God often.

## **Help Others**

Write down the names of people you know who are ill. Pray for those who are traveling. Think of any who have lost loved ones. Pray for those who are not saved, that they may choose to obey God.

## Help Me

Think back to your self-evaluation. Do you need to improve in some areas of your life? Ask God to help you. Do you have a health problem? Pray about it. Remember, God does not promise to take away all of our problems just because we are Christians. But He does promise to help us! "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

CHOOSE YOU  
THIS DAY  
WHOM YE  
WILL SERVE...



but as for me and  
my house, we will  
serve the Lord.

By Barbara Hanna  
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# What Will I Choose?

Joshua told the Israelites to choose who they would serve (Joshua 24:15). They could choose to serve the true God or idols. Each day we must choose if we want to do things that please God, or if we want to do things that do not please God. Put a happy face beside each thing you want to do to please God.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. I want to try harder to obey my parents.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. I will work to keep my room clean.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. I will borrow a toy from a friend without asking.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. If my grandparents come to visit, I will try to do everything they tell me to do.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. When my mom or dad tells me to go to bed, I will tell them to wait until my program is over.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. I want to choose to become a Christian when I am older.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. I want to serve God all of my life so I can some day live in heaven with God and Jesus.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. I want to set a good example so my friends and family will want to go to heaven, too.

# Choose to be Saved

We live in the Christian Age. In the book of Acts we read how a person can become a Christian by being baptized. Little children are safe. They do not need to be baptized until they are enough to understand what sin is, why Jesus died for us, and why we should be baptized.

Right now I can:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Hear** Bible stories and learn about God and Jesus (Romans 10:17).

\_\_\_\_\_ **Believe** Jesus is the Son of God (Acts 8:37).

When I am older I can:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Repent**, or be sorry for my sins and want to do what is right (Acts 2:38).

\_\_\_\_\_ **Confess** that Jesus is the Son of God (Romans 10:10).

\_\_\_\_\_ **Be baptized** and have my sins washed away (Acts 22:16).

**I Choose to be Thankful for:**

**I Choose to Ask God to:**

Cut and paste these words on the correct page:

Help sick people  
get well.

Keep us safe  
when we travel.

My family and  
friends.

A nice place to  
worship God.

Help me obey  
my parents.

Learn how to  
obey God.

Jesus and  
the Bible.

Good food  
to eat.