BE YE SEPARATE

Ages
7-9

The Missionary Baptist
Vacation Bible School Literature Committee presents

"Be Ye Separate"

Vacation Bible School Lessons for Ages 7-9
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CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY

Key Verse: Joshua 24:15
Background: Deuteronomy 1, 2, 9, 11; Jonah 1, 2, 3

You, as a young person, will face many important decisions at an earlier age than ever before. Some of the decisions you make will affect the rest of your life! That is why it is SO IMPORTANT that you learn about God and what will please Him. He is, after all, the One who made you and the whole universe! By learning about what God expects from each of us, we can make better choices and build a happy life for both this world and for our life in eternity.

The Bible gives us many examples of individuals and nations that have made both good and bad choices. When they made good choices, God blessed them. If they made bad choices, God either punished them or withdrew blessings from them. The nation of Israel was one such group of people who were constantly forgetting God's many blessings as His chosen nation. They often rebelled against God and suffered great loss. (Deut. 9:7) God had promised them their own land (Deut. 1:8), but they chose to be impatient and complained about God's care for them. As a result, God allowed them to wander around the wilderness for 40 years! (Deut. 29:5) Only a very few adults who had obeyed God, along with the younger children who were not responsible to God yet, were allowed to inherit their promised land. (Deut. 1:35-39) They got to enjoy God's richest blessings, because God never goes back on His promises! (2 Peter 3:9)

An individual in the Bible who made a bad choice and suffered for 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of a great fish was Jonah. (Jonah 1:17) He was a servant of God who chose to flee from God instead of obeying Him to warn the wicked people in the city of Nineveh. When Jonah became willing to follow the Lord, God caused the great fish to throw him up on dry land. After going through such an amazing ordeal, you can be SURE that Jonah was ready and willing to preach to the people of Nineveh. When he made the right choice to do what God wanted him to, he and the people of Nineveh were both greatly blessed! God spared the destruction of Nineveh, because the people repented of their wicked ways at the preaching of Jonah. (Jonah 3:10)

It is important that you learn the lesson of both Jonah and the rebellious nation of Israel while you are young. Learn to follow the Lord, do His Will, and He will bless you! If you don't make the choice to follow the Lord, He will not be pleased with your life. You will be risking the wrath of our Almighty Heavenly Father! (Deut. 11:26-28)
Choose to live for Jesus, and you will NEVER go wrong!

Memory Verse: Joshua 24:15
". . . choose you this day whom you will serve; . . .but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Questions

1. **Why is it important to choose to serve God?**

2. **What made Jonah get swallowed by the large fish?**

3. **What kept getting the nation of Israel in trouble?**

4. **What can you do to make better choices?**

Activities

1. **Make a list of good and bad choices with a partner or small group. Share your list with the class.**

2. **Play the game, "Choose You This Day." Put your name on the game piece. Take turns picking up a "Choice" card and reading it aloud. Do what it says to move around the path that leads to Christ. Players may land on the same space with no penalty. Reshuffle cards if you use them all to continue the game. The first person to reach Christ wins.**

BAD CHOICES **GOOD CHOICES**

BE CHRIST-LIKE

Key Verse: Romans 6:4
Background: Genesis 1- 3; Matthew 4 - 7

After learning how important it is to serve the Lord, this lesson will focus on some ways Christians should live their lives to be more like Christ.

The Bible tells us in Genesis 1:26,27 that God made man in His own image. What an honor it is that we have qualities similar to God's! It should make us want to please God, even though we cannot be perfect in our physical bodies. What CAN BECOME PERFECT, however, is our SOUL, or the inward part of us that will live forever. (John 3: 15,16) When Adam first sinned in the Garden of Eden, he and all of mankind became sinners whose souls were separated from God in a spiritual way. (Gen. 2:17) That meant that both Adam and his descendants had to be saved, so that our souls could be what God would have them to be--perfect!

Once we are saved by God's Grace, Jesus teaches us to live as He lived. You can read about His life and teachings in the New Testament. In Matthew, chapters 5 - 7, he taught several ways to become more Christ like. He said we should be humble, seek after righteousness (the ways of God), be merciful, use good language, love and pray for our enemies, forgive others, witness to others of our faith in God, and always have a sincere, secret prayer life to thank God for His blessings and pray for others daily. Jesus knows our every need, but He wants us to be obedient and ASK Him for those needs and daily guidance to better serve and please Him. He promised to take care of ALL our NEEDS, if we put Him first! (Matt. 6:33)

When Jesus had trouble with Satan trying to tempt Him, He did not give in to the devil, but scolded him, saying: ". . . Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." (Matt. 4:10)
We should also tell the devil to leave us alone, and pray to God for help when we try to do what is right. James 4:7,8 says, "Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh (near) to God, and he will draw nigh to you." Always remember that you cannot do anything that is good without God's help.

Strive for the spiritual things of God to fill your life, try to keep His commandments (Exodus 20), and live as closely to Jesus' teachings as you can with the help of God's Holy Spirit. You will never live a perfect life, but you can become more Christ-like, as God would have you to be.

Memory Verse: Colossians 3:1
"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."

Questions

1. **What does it mean to be Christ-like?**

2. **What is the one thing we have to do to become Christ-like?**

3. **What can you do in your life to live more like Jesus did?**

4. **What is perfect about a saved person? Why?**

Activity

Form words from the Bible using the term "Christ-like."

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KEEP THY HEART

Key Verse: Proverbs 4:23
Background: Ephesians 6: 11-18

In our last lesson, we learned how important it is to become saved and be a Christian. After we get saved, we must still carefully be on guard because we live in sinful bodies. (Proverbs 4:23) The most important thing we can do to keep our hearts in good condition is to pray daily and trust in the Lord for the results. Proverbs 3:5 states, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." We are promised that the Lord will answer the desires of our prayers if they are asked according to His Will. (I John 5:14,15) When a Christian truly reaches the Throne of Grace with a humble, sincere prayer, God will direct their path, show them how to stay away from sin, and work out their problems for their good and God's honor and glory. What an awesome comfort that is!

In order to stay focused on God and keep our hearts away from sin, we must, "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (Ephesians 6:11) The armor represents things we must have to be strong in our Christian walk. The two most important parts of our armor would be the helmet of SALVATION and the breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS that we receive when we are saved to seal our hearts in eternal love from God. (Ephesians 6:14,17) Another part of our armor would be God's TRUTH that we wear around us that comes from studying the Bible, so that we will be prepared to defend our faith. (2 Timothy 2:15) When we see God answering our prayers and working in our lives, our FAITH is strengthened to act like a shield against sin. (Ephesians 6:16) Our feet must wear the preparation of the GOSPEL, so we will be ready to go and witness to others. (Ephesians 6:15) Finally, the sword of God's SPIRIT that goes with His Word guides us and cuts into our hearts to convict us of our sins and keep us humble before God. (Ephesians 6:17) It is so important to have God's Spirit within us, because it makes our prayers known unto God and lets us know if we are following Him the way we should. The Spirit also accompanies the preached Word of God, so we should always try to attend church regularly to help stay focused on God. (I Kings 8:56)

When we keep all parts of our Christian armor in good repair, we will be able to serve God better. Try to keep your heart focused on the Lord while you are young, so you can enjoy all the blessings God has promised to give you if you serve Him. God always keeps His promises! (I Kings 8:56)

Memory Verse: Proverbs 4:23
"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

Questions
1. Does man have two hearts? Explain.

2. What are some ways in which you can keep your heart focused on God?

3. Name some parts of our Christian armor and what they represent.

4. If you are with a friend, or watching TV, and you see someone do something they are not supposed to do, what will YOU do?

"SEEK, FIND, SHARE"

Your teacher will call out a Bible verse related to this lesson. Try to be the first person to find the chapter and verse. If you are called on, you can read the verse to your class.

ABSTAIN FROM EVIL

Key Verse: I Thessalonians 5:22
Background: Genesis 2,3

We have been studying different ways to stay close to God. This lesson will talk about ways to abstain from evil. That simply means you choose to stay away from or to not do things that are bad, sinful, hurtful, or harmful. We should always try to stay away from people who want us to do bad or unhealthy things. We should also try to avoid unhealthy activities like watching violent TV shows, movies, or video games. Those things are not pleasing to God, so we should abstain from taking part in them.

Jesus is our perfect example of a person who always abstained from evil. All evil comes from the devil, so Jesus had nothing to do with the devil. He had no sin about him at all, because He WAS PERFECT. (Matthew 5:48) Even though we cannot be perfect in our sinful bodies, we can look to Jesus to find ways to live a life that is close to God. Jesus went around trying to help others find joy and peace. He even became the perfect sacrifice for our sins, so that we can be saved and live with Him in Heaven forever. (Philippians 2:8)

The first two people on earth, Adam and Eve, did not abstain from evil. When God put them in the beautiful Garden of Eden, there were many trees that were pleasant to the sight and good for food. God told Adam he could eat of the fruit of any tree except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. (Genesis 1:17) They did not obey God and ate from that tree. That is how sin entered the world, and all men after them became sinners. (Romans 5:12) God punished them and us today with the guilt and shame of sin. Sin NEVER goes unpunished, so we can never get away with doing evil things. We should fear God and abstain from evil. (Job1:1)

Psalms 1:1 says, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly (sinful), nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." God will always rescue you from evil if you pray to Him. (Matthew 6:13) God has also promised that He will make a way for you to escape from any evil temptations. (I Corinthians 10:13)

There are many things that the Bible warns us to avoid, because they are evil. I Timothy 6:10 warns us that the love of money is the root of all evil. We can avoid this by being content with what we have or with just our needs being met. Another evil to avoid is bad language, so choose your company wisely. (I Corinthians 15:33) Also, choose your movies carefully, because many have a terrible influence on young people.

Learn to trust God's power to help you overcome all the tricks the devil may have to deceive you and rob you of God's blessings. Remember that others are always watching your life, so set a good example for them to follow and abstain from even the very appearance of evil. (I Thessalonians 5:22)

Memory Verse: I Thessalonians 5:22

"Abstain from all appearance of evil."

Questions

1. **What are some ways you can abstain from evil?**

2. **How did Adam and Eve commit evil?**

3. **What are some other evils that you should avoid that haven't been mentioned?**

4. **Where are some places that you should avoid?**

Activity

Proverbs 6: 16-19 tells us seven things the Lord hates. Write what you think each means.

1. **A proud look.**

2. **A lying tongue.**

3. **Hands that shed innocent blood.**

4. **A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations.**

5. **Feet that be swift in running to mischief.**

6. **A false witness that speaketh lies.**

7. **He that soweth discord among brethren.**

FINALLY SEPARATE

Key Verses: Matthew 25: 31-34
Background: Matthew 25; Judges 3; Deuteronomy 6

In this week's lessons, we have discussed the following ways to stay closer to God: choose right, be Christ-like, keep our hearts right toward God, and abstain from evil. This last lesson will tell about what awaits people when they are finally separated by death for all eternity.

The very minute a person gets saved, his or her soul is ready to go to Heaven. (Luke 23:42,43) But God saves His people for more than just a guaranteed trip to Glory. He has a purpose for each of our lives that revolves around helping others to find salvation, giving praise to God, and serving the Lord. He gives each of us different abilities and talents, so that we might reach many kinds of people. When Christians work for the Lord by doing things like helping others in need and witnessing to others about their salvation, they get blessings in this life and heavenly rewards or treasures when they get to Heaven. (Matthew 6:20) Once their lives are over, their souls go directly to be with God where they can enjoy Heaven forever! They will be finally separated from all sin, pain, and suffering (Revelation 21:4) and will have perfect bodies--like Christ! (I John 3:2,3)

When the unsaved die, just the opposite will be awaiting them in the Lower World (hell), a place of eternal suffering and never-ending death and torment. This is the reality for those who never make any or the wrong preparation for life after death. (Revelation 20:15) How sad for those who have been warned, but never submitted themselves to God as their Lord and Savior. Don't be in that number! Pray for salvation as soon as God troubles your heart to let you know that you are separated from Him. It is truly a life and death situation that should NOT BE PUT OFF!

The Lord warned His chosen nation of Israel to be a separate people when they were allowed to finally enter into the promised land of Canaan. (Deuteronomy 6:12-18) They were not to mingle with other religions and cultures, because it would eventually turn them away from God, as it later did. (Judges 3:5-7) We should heed that warning even today and be separate from the sin of the world that leads us away from God. Let God fill that emptiness inside you with His love. Hopefully, you will find that eternal salvation, live for Christ, and be ready to live forever in Paradise with God!

Memory Verse: Matthew 25: 34

". . . Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Questions

1. **What does "finally separate" mean?**

2. **What happens to people who are saved? To the unsaved?**

3. **What does Christ want people to be like?**

4. **When do you know if you are going to Heaven or not?**

Activity

Draw what YOU think Heaven will look like.

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