

Making Wise Choices



*“Set your mind on things above, not on the things that are on the earth”
Colossians 3:2*

Summary

Have you ever faced a tough choice and didn't know what to do? In a culture that's constantly changing, how do you know what's right and what's wrong? In this session you'll discover God's foundation for your life and how to make godly choices.



Discover More...

Download the entire Making Wise Choices teaching pack which includes:

- Ten graphic images (*Preview these below*) with permission to print, email, post, add to your website or app and more.
- A printable card to give to your students
- Outlines for five teaching sessions and teaching guide for each session
- Printable sermon note booklets in both 8.5x11" and 5x8" sizes
- Weekly challenges to enhance the teaching and to help your students in their daily walk with Christ.
- Sample Disciple Now Weekend schedule
- Sample Retreat schedule

Learn more at www.330resources.org/wise-choices-pack

Making Wise Choices

Our Foundation

Scripture: Matthew 7:24-27

Key Verses:

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Hebrews 4:12
- Psalm 119:105
- James 1:22

Outline

Opening Activity

Activity – Samurai, part 1

Illustration - Gravity

Key Verse - Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Activity – Samurai, part 2

Key Verse - Read Hebrews 4:12

Activity – Samurai, part 3

Key Verse - Read Psalm 119:105

Activity – Samurai, part 4

Making Wise Choice Question Cards - Student Activity

Scripture – Read Matthew 7:24-27

Message:

- The Wise Man
- The Foolish Man
- The Right Foundation
- The Wrong Foundation

Ending Scripture: Read James 1:22

Reflection Questions

Give out the Making Wise Choice cards

Challenge students to read Colossians 3 before the next session.

Memory challenge: James 1:22

Making Wise Choices

Teaching Session

Our Foundation

NOTE: This session could be easily expanded to two sessions. As you prepare, be mindful of how many students will be attending and how much time you have. Also, always be careful not to spend so much time on the games and activities that you don't make a strong point with them.

Activity – Samurai, part 1

YOU WILL NEED: Two pool noodles.

You will play this game several times throughout the session. Depending on your time, you might want to only play one version at the beginning and introduce the other version later in the session. Try to give every student who wants to participate an opportunity to play at some point during this lesson.

Version #1 - Tournament-Style Samurai

Have the students sit in a large circle and then choose two volunteers to go to the middle of the circle. Give each a pool noodle. When you say “Go” the first one to touch the other person with their samurai (pool noodle) wins. The winner remains in the circle to face the next challenger. The overall winner is the person who won the most matches.

Also, be careful not to spend so much time on the game that you don't make your point with it.

Discussion

SAY: Just a little touch wins the game. You didn't have to hit hard or swing hard. It didn't have to be anything big. And just a little can make a big difference in life too. A lot of people think that they'll be okay as long as they don't do anything really big that's wrong, but even what someone might consider to be the “smallest” sin, will always have a huge impact. Sin will always separate you from God. Even as a Christian, if you allow sin, however small, a place in your life, you will have a broken relationship with God. As a Christian, you will still have a relationship, but it won't be a right one.

ASK—What do you have to do to have a right relationship with God? (Get rid of all sin.)

ASK—How does a person get rid of their sin? (They confess it to God, turn from it, and ask for His forgiveness.)

ASK—Is there any sin in your life from which you haven't turned away or confessed to God?

ASK—What is stopping you from getting rid of it today? How do you think this sin will affect your life if you don't turn away from it. (Sin will always lead to more sin. Sin will always hurt the person doing it and usually those around them too.)

Version #2 - Free-Style Samurai

Have the students make a large circle and then choose two volunteers. Give each a pool noodle. When you say "Go" give them 20 seconds to "beat the living daylights" out of the other person. This is an "extreme" game and although it may sound and look like hits with a pool noodle might hurt, the impact is usually minimal.

Read these Rules to the Students: Head shots are illegal. Be careful not to get so close to each other that you actually hit your opponent with your hand. Take off glasses, large earrings and anything else that might get caught in or damaged by a pool noodle. You don't have to participate if you don't want to. Stop when I say stop.

Have a couple of rounds and then the discussion below...

Discussion

SAY: There will be times in your life when you struggle against sin. There might be something that you know is wrong, but you want to do it. Just like the game, where you used the Samurai (pool noodle) to defend yourself, you need to be ready to have God's Word defend you.

ASK—What if you had never picked up the Samurai? Could it have defended you? (No.)

SAY: In the same way, if you haven't hidden God's Word in your heart, you won't be fully ready to fight against sin. You won't be ready to defend yourself and it'll be easy for the world to pull you into one of its lies.

Lies such as:

 "It's not that bad."

 "Just once won't hurt."

 "Times have changed."

 "Right and wrong depend on your perspective."

Illustration - Gravity

- If I throw (an object such as car keys, etc.) in the air, what happens to it? It comes back down.
- A thousand years ago, if someone threw something in the air, (throw the object up again) what happened to it?
- A thousand years from now, if someone throws something up, (throw the object up again) what will happen to it?

What goes up comes down. It's called the law of gravity. It was true a thousand years ago and it will be true a thousand years from now. In a similar way God has other laws that govern life as well. These truths don't change. Times may change but the truth never will. What was wrong long ago is still wrong today and will always be wrong. What is right was right at the beginning of time and will still be right at the end of time. Truth doesn't change and God's Word is the truth that we build our lives on.

NOTE: The following uses several key verses. You can read these to your students or have different students look up and read different ones. However, never put a student "on the spot" to read. Many students are not comfortable reading aloud and making fun of how they read or forcing them to read when they don't want to is neither healthy nor beneficial.

Key Verse - Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Explain that the Bible is God's truth and that it is God-breathed. It's a living Word that guides and instructs those who follow Christ.

[If you have time...Samurai, part 2]

Choose more volunteers and play the game some more...

Key Verse - Read Hebrews 4:12

Explain that God's Word, the Bible, is like a sword. The sword is the only weapon in history that is both offensive and defensive. In other words, you can attack with it but it can also be a shield to defend you.

[If you have time...Samurai, part 3]

Play the game again.

Key Verse - Read Psalm 119:105

Explain that God's Word is our guide. Imagine walking in the dark. Without a light you would not know where to go. The Bible is a light that shows you the path for following God.

[If you have time...Samurai, part 4]

Play a few more rounds of the game. You might even have a championship round of the previous winners.

Pass out the “Making Wise Choice” question cards.

Divide your group into 10 groups. Give each group one of the questions. Ask them to look up the Scripture verses and to creatively prepare a way to teach that card to the rest of the group. They can explain it, read the verse, give an illustration, give a true-life story, act it out, etc. Remind them that God’s Word is the foundation for making right choices. (If you have a small group, you might assign two cards to each group or only distribute five cards this week and the other five at another time during this series.)

Scripture – Read Matthew 7:24-27

Message:

(Since today is full of a lot of activities, the “message” time will be shorter. Most of today’s message is being taught above by the students as they illustration the truth behind the ten “Making Wise Choice” questions.)

Read and explain Matthew 7:24-27.

- **The Wise Man** - Ask your students to identify what made him wise.
- **The Foolish Man** - Ask your students to identify what made him foolish.
- **The Right Foundation** - Ask your students to explain the right foundation.
- **The Wrong Foundation** - Ask your students to explain the wrong foundation.

Ending Scripture: Read James 1:22

Explain that God doesn’t want us to listen to the truth but to live it.

Reflection Questions

- How important is it to you that you know God’s Word?
- Do you have a habit of spending time with God?
- How well do you feel like you know the Bible?
- Have you been a wise person or a foolish person?
- Which of the 10 questions do you feel will help you the most in the future?

Ending

- Challenge your students to memorize James 1:22.
- Challenge your students to read Colossians 3 before next week.
- Give out the “Making Wise Choice” cards. Explain that these 10 questions will help them to determine what to do when they face temptation or choices when they don’t what to do. Review the questions with them and challenge them to put the card in a place where they will see it often.