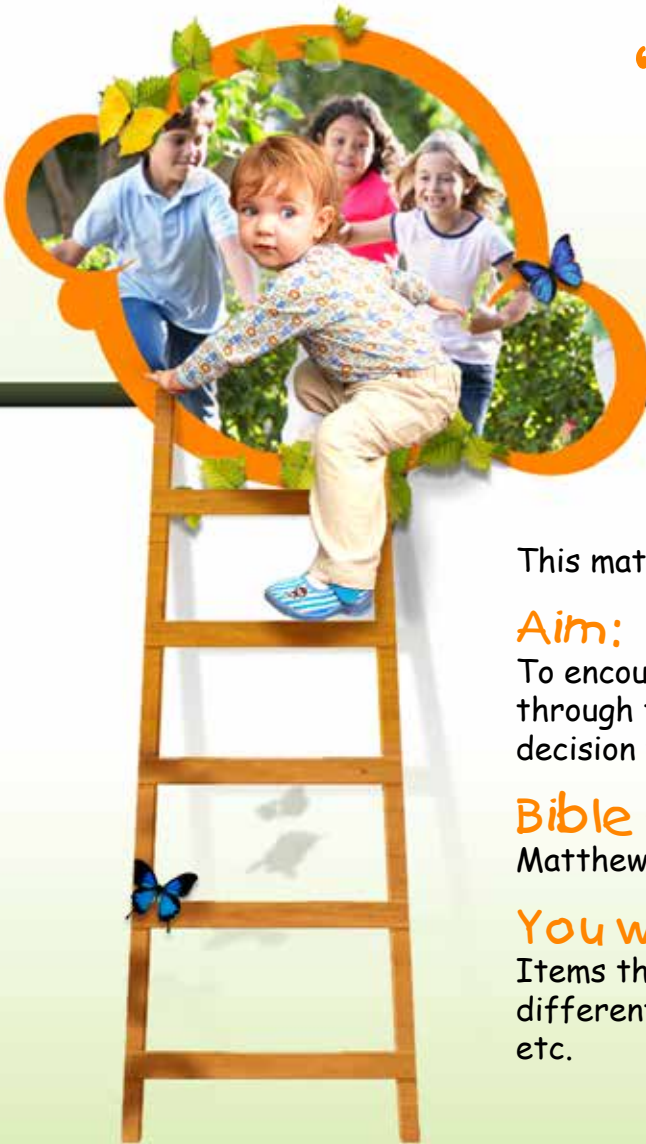


Decision Resources

'Choosing (or Deciding) What Is Best'



This material is suitable for ages 5 - 7 years.

Aim:

To encourage the children to make good choices through their lives emphasizing the most important decision they can make is to follow Jesus.

Bible focus:

Matthew 19:6 - 22 (The rich young ruler).

You will need:

Items the children can make choices about. E.g. 2 different types of cordial, chocolates, soft drink, etc.

Introduction:

Have these items out on a table (use only one of these options e.g. 2 different types of soft drink for them to choose to drink) and ask the children to make a choice between the two options given. While they are eating, drinking etc. talk to them about the following:

We make choices every day. Sometimes as children you also have to choose whether to be good, or whether to be naughty. For example, if mum tells you not to throw balls inside, you have to choose whether to be good and not do it, or whether to be naughty and continue to throw balls. We're going to hear about a man from the Bible who also made a choice.

Bible time:

(Tell the children you are going to ask them some questions after you have presented this story from the Bible. Do this as a quiz - you may like to do this in teams if you have a large group or as individuals if your group is small.)

Read Matthew 19:16 - 22. (If you have access to the 'Matthew' series of videos produced by The Visual Bible cue it and show this segment. The verses are in the bottom right corner to make it easy for you to find. Alternatively you could use flannel graph, pictures or puppets to tell the story.)

1. Was the man in the story rich or poor? (Poor.)
2. Did the man ask Jesus a question or tell him what to do? (He asked a question.)
3. What did Jesus tell the man to do? (Jesus told him to go and sell all he had, and give the money to the poor. He also asked the man to follow Him.) **(If they only answer one part of this question that will be OK. Make sure you reinforce the story by going over this part of the story.)**
4. Did the man do as Jesus asked? (No.)
5. How did the man feel when he left Jesus? (Sad)

At the end of this quiz say:

The young man was sad because he loved his riches and could not give them up to follow Jesus. He chose not to follow Jesus that day.

Application:

We can choose to put Jesus first in our lives. Some of you have already made that choice and that's great. But some of you might like to choose to start following Him from today.

If you would like to make that choice today you can pray with me now and ask Jesus to be your friend. I'm going to stop between each sentence so that you can pray silently to yourself if you would like to make this choice today.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me (pause). I am sorry for the wrong choices I've made (pause). Please forgive me and be my friend forever (pause). Please help me to love you and to follow (pause) and obey you for the rest of my life (pause). Amen.

Follow up:

Ensure you follow up any children who indicate they said this prayer with you for the first time.

For this age group Scripture Union produces Bible reading notes called 'Join in - Jump on!' These resources are available from Scripture Union's Resources



For Ministry bookshop ph. 02 4337 0200 or check out the website www.scriptureunion.org.au/resources_ministry.htm.

Make time to go through the Bible Reading notes with their parents and the children to ensure they have a good understanding of how to use these notes. This may be a good opportunity to talk to the children's parents if it is appropriate (especially those with no other church contact) and encourage them to help their children to read through this book.

Linking them in to other sections in the corps which they may not already be attending e.g. Sunday School or Kids Club, will also help with their ongoing spiritual development.





