

# 'Making Choices'



This material is suitable for ages 5 - 7 years

### Aim:

To help the children understand that we must all make a choice to follow Jesus.

### Bible focus:

Matthew 7: 24 - 26

### You will need:

A Bible, 2 pieces of cardboard per group of four and plastic interlocking blocks for each group e.g. Leggo™ or Duplo™. The groups will use the blocks to build two simple houses, each on a separate piece of the cardboard.

### Background:

(Form into groups of four, or if your group is small have one group and assign children particular tasks.)

Jesus told people lots of important things. He taught them how much God loved them, how God wants us to live, and even how to pray. Jesus wanted people to know how important it was to make the right choice in the way we live our lives. So He told this story.

Read aloud Matthew 7:24 - 28 stopping to build the houses and act out the storms at the appropriate times.

Ask the children to build the first house as they normally would, connecting the blocks together well. Let's pretend this is the first house. Let's see how this house does in a 'storm'. (Have a child shake the cardboard base while other children blow on the house. After a few seconds, have the 'storm' stop.) Jesus said that a person who chooses to follow His teaching is like someone who builds a strong house, like this one.

◆ What do you think Jesus meant by that?

Ask the children to build the second house but this time they don't connect the blocks very well so they will fall apart. Let's pretend this is the second house. Let's see how this house does in a 'storm'. (Have another child shake the cardboard base while other children blow on the house. After a few seconds, stop the 'storm'.) Jesus said that a person who chooses not to listen to Him is like someone who builds a house that would easily fall down.

◆ What do you think Jesus meant by that?

### Response time:

Jesus wants us to live the best life we can and He knows that to do that we need to listen to Him and do what He says. But He gives us a choice and we decide whether to listen to Him or take no notice.

If you would like to make up your mind right now to live Jesus' way there is a simple prayer you can pray. I'm going to say it right now and if you would like to pray it with me I will leave some time after each sentence so you can pray it silently.

### Prayer time:

Dear Jesus

Thank you for coming to earth (pause) to show me the right way to live (pause). I want you to be part of my life (pause). I'm sorry I've been living my own way (pause), please help me to live the right way (pause). Amen.

### Follow up:

Try to encourage the children who have made first time decisions to come and talk to you or another leader after this session. There may be questions that some children would like to ask and this opportunity will help them to do that.

Some age-appropriate Bible reading notes may be appropriate to follow up with the children. These resources are available from your local Scripture Union Resources for Ministry bookshop ph. 02 4337 0200 or check out the website [www.scriptureunion.org.au/resources/ministry.htm](http://www.scriptureunion.org.au/resources/ministry.htm) [www.su.org.au/rfm/](http://www.su.org.au/rfm/) or Koorong Books [www.koorong.com.au](http://www.koorong.com.au). Make time to go through the Bible reading notes with parents and children to ensure they have a good understanding of how to use the notes.

You may want to suggest some DVD's like the Veggie Tales series [scriptureunion.org.au/resources/ministry.htm](http://www.scriptureunion.org.au/resources/ministry.htm) or other animated Bible stories to help parents and children engage with the Bible in other ways and to help them talk to their children, if reading is not appropriate. These are available at most Christian bookstores.

Linking children into other sections in the corps e.g. SAGALA, Sunday school or Kids Club is another way to help with the child's ongoing spiritual development.

