

# "Chose Life"

*Deuteronomy 30:15-20 NIV*

*Bible Lesson & Activities for Children*



THE **SUNDAY SCHOOL** STORE

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# Choose Life

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Some decisions should seem obvious, yet we don't always opt for the glorious blessings God offers us. Life or death? Good or evil?

This lesson encourages students to make wise choices about life and loving the Lord. Our choices have important consequences!

Consider the words of Deuteronomy 30 as they relate to everyday decisions and the importance of accepting God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.



When discussing decisions, we can sometimes be tempted to focus a little too much on our own power and place. We might act like we have something great when it comes to accepting the gift of God's grace, but it's Jesus who did the heavy lifting! This message emphasizes the beauty of how God is in control. He loves us and has chosen us no matter what. We can still turn away from that love and choose not to serve and follow Him, but why would we reject such amazing grace?

**Passage:** Deuteronomy 30:15-20

**Target Audience:** Kindergarten-6<sup>th</sup> grade

**Materials Needed:** Construction paper; paper plates; brad fasteners; small containers; glue; markers or crayons; items that could be used in decision making (choices of varied items); tape; scissors; decorative supplies; Bibles. Object lesson props can include items representing choices; sports-related elements (if using the sports theme).

## More Resources Online

- Watch the [video demonstration of the object lesson](#).
- Watch the [video example for the craft projects](#).
- Watch the [video Bible Story "God's Story: Moses"](#) from *Crossroads Kids Club*
- Watch the [video Bible Story "Moses and the Exodus"](#) from Saddleback Kids
- Watch the [object lesson "Why it's important to obey"](#) from *Family Moments*
- For more free Bible illustrations, visit [Christian Clip Arts](#) and [Ministry-To-Children's Coloring Pages](#)

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## Object Lesson (5 minutes)

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*Greet children, and consider incorporating sports gear.*

Hello, children of God! Do you like watching sports? There are a lot of interesting things that happen out there in the world of athletics. This weekend (*insert applicable*

*sporting event; this message uses the Superbowl*), there's this big football game we have called the Superbowl. It's a big deal if you live in the United States, although I think it's best for snacks, parties, and commercials. Two teams play in this game, trying to determine the best. Which team do you think is going to win? Who would you choose? Why? *Discuss teams and picks.* Now, will that team win because you think they're the best?

Unfortunately, it doesn't quite work like that...the team that will win is, of course, whichever group of players scores more points! So rooting for them doesn't exactly change the outcome.

There are a lot of choices we have to make in life daily. We choose what to wear, what to eat, what to do. Some of these things aren't a big deal, but other choices we make have quite an impact on our lives. And some decisions are pretty obvious. What if you had the choice of chocolate or brussels sprouts? Or what if you had the choice of life or death? God told His people in the Old Testament to choose between good and evil, between life and death. He promised blessing and long life for following Him. That seems like a "no-brainer", right?

It seems too easy, but we can still make poor decisions sometimes. God wants us to choose to accept His grace and follow Him. It seems easy enough. We know that God gives us freedom from sin and new life, and you would think everyone would want to take



that. But we make poor choices. We have choices to honor and serve God and obey Him, but we mess that up sometimes. We make a lot of mistakes. We don't always follow through even if we know the right choice.

But that's where the great news comes in even though we do things we shouldn't. God loves us and covers all of our sins and mistakes! He sent Jesus to live a perfect life for us and die in our place. Even when we do wrong things, we know His blood covers us. We might not always choose to follow the Lord like we ought to. But God chooses us! He chose us first. He chose to give His Son for us; when we mess up, we can always come back to God and receive His grace. No matter what we do or what kinds of decisions we make, He is always there, ready to welcome us back into His loving arms. Just like our picks for the football game aren't really what determines it, we don't pick the death and Resurrection of Jesus. That already happened! God already planned to rescue us, and it's not our work that saves us. It's His! All we do is open our hands and hearts to accept that beautiful and abundant gift of grace. We can choose to obey the Lord and follow His Word, but we don't always do it perfectly. God loves us perfectly, so we can run to Him every time and know that He chooses us to be His children. Why don't we thank God for that love right now?

**Prayer:**

(Have kids repeat each line)

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us your Son

And granting eternal life through Him.

Help us to always make wise decisions

And most importantly, to choose to follow you

Thank you for your promises and blessings

Thank you for your love

We love you, God!

In Jesus' name, Amen!



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## Game & Activities Suggestions (10 minutes)

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This passage involves the importance of choosing to love and serve God over and above all other things. There are elements of choice and wise decisions, along with the importance of how students (and we!) can honor our Lord. Consider opening the lesson with activities involving choices or the importance of God's Grace. Some possible ideas include the following:

- What would you choose? Discuss obvious decision possibilities and have pictures or actual options available for students. Ask them what they would choose if given a choice between two things. This activity can be done with items that might be tougher to decide between, or it can also be made an obvious choice, like pairing candy with vegetables or chores with a game.
- Decide 2.0: This version might work better with older students. Have participants line up on one side of the room. Offer students two choices and designate a direction for them to walk towards based on each one. For instance, "if you prefer ham, head to the north side of the room; turkey goes to the south side." Students can also move partway across the room if the answer is "moderately agree" or "somewhat decided".
- Obey the Lord freeze tag: Invite students to consider methods of honoring God with a twist on freeze tag. Have an "it" begin chasing students around a designated play area. To avoid being tagged, a student must crouch and call off an example of how

to obey God. If they are tagged before reciting it, another student can "un-freeze" them by tagging them and calling off a way to honor the Lord.

- Consequences...we can choose to reject God's blessings, but those decisions will result in consequences that might not always be pleasant. Discuss the negative impact certain things can have. If relevant, show videos of foolish choices or the consequences of poor choices. You might also display pictures and brainstorm predictions of potential outcomes for behaviors.

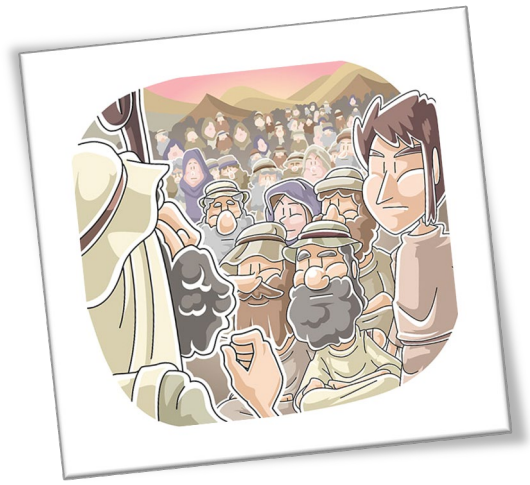
Explain to students that today's lesson reminds us of the importance of making wise choices. We have many choices we can make in life, and the most important thing we can decide to do is follow God and obey Him. God promises that He will always love us, and that choosing HIM leads to life and blessing!

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## Main Bible Teaching

### (15 minutes)

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This passage is from the Old Testament and involves words God gave to His people, warning them of the importance of keeping God's laws and embracing His blessings. You might have students take turns reading these verses, or you could choose to read them out loud and pause to explain and discuss what is being said.

*Deuteronomy 30:15-16 NIV See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. (16) For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.*

God is here talking to His people and explaining the best way to live. He simply describes how to live: loving the Lord and walking in His ways. God also promises a blessing that accompanies walking in His ways. By keeping His commandments and loving the Lord, good things will come.

**Ask:** How can we love and obey God? What things can we do to keep His commandments?

*Deuteronomy 30:17-18 NIV But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, (18) I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.*



Children are familiar with the concept of rewards and punishments. God has set up the reward for choosing Him. There is a warning here, too. With obedience comes blessing and long life. However, disobedience will yield negative results. Note that it is possible to reject God; unfortunately, some people choose to. We can turn away from Him and His promises of blessing. But it seems rather foolish. Why would you want to give it back if someone tried to give you a great gift?

**Ask:** If someone offered you a wonderful thing, what would make you turn it down? Have you ever said no to something and later regretted it?

*Deuteronomy 30:19-20 NIV This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live (20) and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.*

God makes a final appeal here, reminding His people of His faithfulness. God had made promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Israelites knew that the Lord was powerful and stayed true to His covenants. They trusted in His word and here were given a choice to follow Him and remain faithful to Him. It might seem straightforward, but we are given the same choice. We have the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, but some people still turn it down! God gives us a choice to follow Him and embrace His grace. We can choose to turn Him down, but it sure does make our lives a lot better if we follow Him!

**Ask:** What positive blessings do you think God offers us for following Him and obeying His Word?

For young children, it might not seem like there's much choice in the matter of faith when it comes to things like attending church or doing what the family does. But it can still be emphasized that God loves our prayers and hearts that are close to Him. We can make positive choices like obeying parents and loving friends and neighbors, and those choices will bless Him, bless us, and bless others!

Note: it can seem like this is a "works-focused" lesson discussing the things that we do to obey God. Emphasize that He has first loved us and given us good things. God chose us and loved us, and He wants what is best for us. He wants to bless us and gave us Jesus, the best blessing of all! We make mistakes, but God will always forgive those mistakes and welcome us back into His family.

**Close** with prayer, asking God to help us make wise choices and be obedient to His calling in life.

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## Craft Activities (15 minutes)

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What choices shape our daily lives? There are many things that impact who we are, but the most important thing we can choose is to accept God's grace. We have the option of life or death! These crafts celebrate Deuteronomy 30 and how it reminds us to love and obey God. A "Choose Life Spinner Game" encourages students to identify ways to live for the Lord. A "Shake Up God's Love Box" acts as a Bible verse memory aid and decorative centerpiece. Get creative, choose a craft, and choose life!

### Verses or Captions to Consider... (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

- *Choose life!*
- *Jesus is love! Choose God's love!*
- *Hold fast to God's love.*
- *Obey God's voice! Choose His love!*
- *Love the Lord!*
- *Love other people!*

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## Craft one: "Choose Life Spinner Game"

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### You will need:

- Paper plate
- Scissors
- Markers and/or crayons
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Brad fasteners
- String or pipe cleaner for hanging
- Extra decorations as desired



### Procedure:

1. Divide the paper plate into a few sections. In each segment, write a description of ways that we can love, serve, and obey God.
2. Add to the plate captions and verse references. Add extra decorations (stickers, etc.) as desired.
3. Cut an arrow shape out of paper or cardstock, and place it in the center of the plate, securing it with a brad fastener.
4. Place a string or pipe cleaner, if desired to hang, and use the spinner arrow as a game of sorts, naming methods that can be used to listen to God and obey His word.

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## Craft Two: “God’s Love Box”

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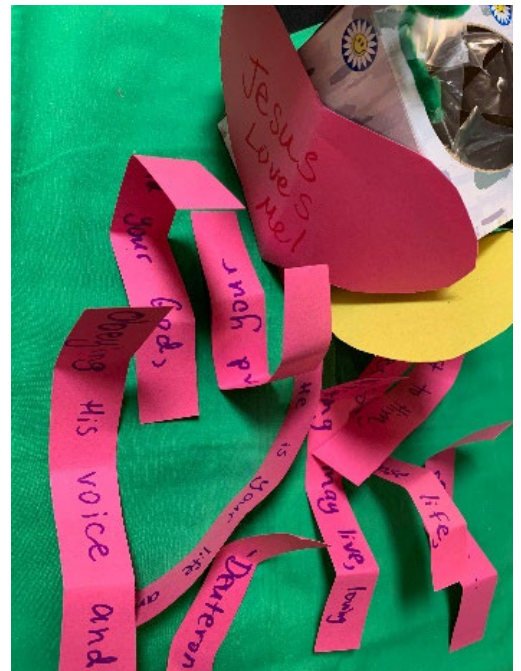
### You will need:

- Markers/crayons
- Construction paper or card stock
- Decorations (stickers, glitter, etc.)
- Scissors
- Plastic bags
- Tape or glue
- Pipe cleaners (if desired)
- Small container (empty tissue box, coffee or oatmeal container, cup or cardboard box, etc.)



### Procedure:

1. Decorate the container as desired, using “curly” pipe cleaners or string, stickers, glitter, and more.
2. Add verses and/or captions.
3. Cut out hearts (or other shapes) from construction paper, cardstock, cardboard, or wrapping paper. Write additional verses or captions on these.
4. Glue or tape the hearts around the outside of the container.
5. If you wish to use the container for verse memorization, write a verse or phrase on paper, and cut it into strips. Place them within the box, shake the components around, and put them together again as a complete verse. Alternatively, place reminders or individual verses within the container. Use it as a memory tool or table decoration!





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## Deuteronomy 30:15 NIV

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*See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.*





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## Deuteronomy 30:15 NIV

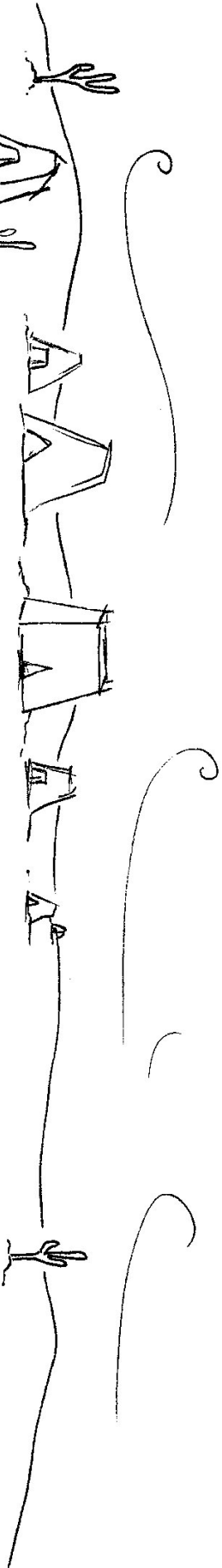
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*See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.*



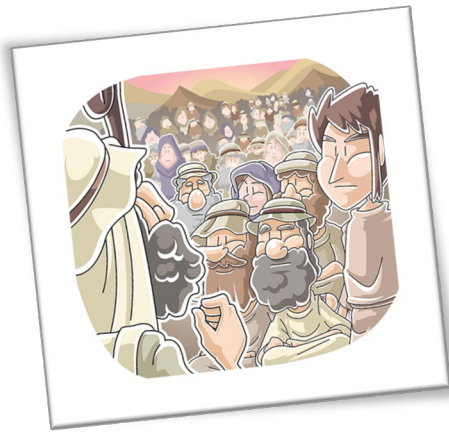
# Deuteronomy

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## Word Search Puzzle: Deut. 30

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BLESS – CHOOSE – COMMANDS – DEATH – GOD – GOOD  
LAND – LAWS – LIFE – LIVE – LORD – LOVE – MOSES – OBEY – WALK

N	K	Z	B	A	T	D	A	C	O	O
C	H	O	O	S	E	X	W	A	L	K
W	F	L	I	F	E	A	H	N	A	F
X	C	W	P	X	Y	J	G	U	W	J
S	X	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	S	D
U	V	Q	Z	W	L	O	V	E	I	E
G	Y	X	B	V	I	F	M	N	D	A
Y	M	L	R	L	V	G	O	O	D	T
C	V	A	O	B	E	Y	S	Y	I	H
P	K	N	L	R	E	S	E	E	X	N
A	R	D	G	O	D	T	S	Y	T	H

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## Word Search Answers

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