

## Primary Lesson

# Making Good Choices



***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not." Proverbs 3:5-6***

### **Objectives:**

#### **The children will:**

- Understand that each of us makes choices.
- Know that choices have consequences.
- Learn that it is important to stop and think before making a choice.
- Know that it is important to make good choices.
- Be able to identify a good choice or a bad choice.
- Tell about a good choice that they have made.
- Be able to describe how they feel after making a good or bad choice.
- Be able to say, "I'm sorry" after making a bad choice.
- Know that trusting God is a good choice.

### **Materials Needed:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yarn   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils                | <input type="checkbox"/> Ribbon   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crayons                | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Scraps   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stapler                | <input type="checkbox"/> CD with Song – "Love One Another" by Rob Glover                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Staples                | <input type="checkbox"/> CD with Song "Lord We Trust in You" by Paul Inwood                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wide Tongue Depressors | <input type="checkbox"/> Storybook – "Ruthie and the (Not So) Teeny Tiny Lie" by Laura Rankin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paper plates           |   |

1. **Story time:**

Children will listen to the story; “**Ruthie and the (Not So) Teeny Tiny Lie**” (Laura Rankin, Bloomsbury USA Children's Books, June 26, 2007. Available at [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com))

2. **Talk about it:**

This is an excellent story for discussing right and wrong. Talk with the children about the choices they make every day. Do they think Ruthie stopped to think before lying? Did Ruthie think about what would happen when she chose to lie?

How does Ruthie feel about her choice? In the story, Ruthie experiences many emotions including happiness, sadness, denial, worry and guilt to the point where she can no longer eat.

Ask them to tell about a good choice they have made. Invite the children to talk about their feelings after making good or bad choices. Help them understand the importance of stopping and thinking before making choices. Talk about trusting in God to help them make choices. Let them know that many adults pray to God to help them make choices.

3. **Paper plate craft activity:**

Children will make happy & sad face masks with paper plates, yarn, ribbon, paper scraps, glue and crayons. (Prior to the lesson, the catechist/teacher will staple a wide tongue depressor on the back of the plate to make a handle.)

**The children will:**

1. Decorate the front of the plate to look like them with a happy face.
2. Decorate the back of the plate to look like them with a sad face.
3. Write their name on the front of the handle.

4. **Making choices activity:**

Using pictures of children engaged in various activities, when asked, the children will hold up their paper plate to identify if it is a good choice or a bad choice. Ask one child to describe what happened because of the choice made by the child in the picture. (Pictures are attached.)

5. **Closing Prayer:**

**Catechist/Teacher:** "Dear Lord, you are all knowing and all forgiving. We want to trust in you with all our hearts. May we always remember not to rely only on our own understanding. We are sorry for the times we have made bad choices. Guide us to make good choices. We ask this in your name."

**All:** Amen.

6. **Song:** “**Lord We Trust in You**” by Paul Inwood (Children at Heart CD, #10635 Available at [www.ocp.org](http://www.ocp.org))

7. **Take Home Activity:**

Children will take home their plates. Parents will complete the activity on page 3 with their child during the week.

## Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your child is bringing home a special project that they made today. We are asking you to use this face plate during the week to talk to your children about the “real” choices they are making in school and at home. They should be able to show you the happy face for the good choices they made and the sad face for bad choices. Talk to them about the consequences of their choices.

### For example:

- During recess, your child wants to use a swing so they push another child off of the swing. The child falls down and scrapes their knees and hands. What kind of choice was that? What happened because of this choice?
- You got home late and you are in a hurry to get dinner on the table. Your child volunteers to set the table. What kind of choice was that? What happened because of this choice?
- In the cafeteria, your child notices the child sitting next to him isn't eating because he forgot his lunch. Your child offers to share his lunch with them. What kind of choice was that? What happened because of this choice?
- Your children want to play a game on the Wii. They both want to be the first. Both children are arguing and tugging on the remote control. The remote falls to the floor and breaks. What kind of choice was that? What happened because of this choice?























