



Choose Today Who You Will Serve



THE MISSION AIM

The first and biggest choice we make is to become children of God.



KEY VERSE

Joshua 24:14-15: "Now fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."



Pre-Mission Activity



Supplies Needed

- Masking tape or painters tape
- Two covered boxes – filled as follows
- One box filled with treats for each recruit (candy, eraser, pencil etc.)
- One box filled with garbage (scraps of paper, small rocks, candy wrappers etc.)
- Cotton balls
- Straws

Directions

Before the recruits arrive Do: Using the tape, make a path along the floor. Begin with a straight path and then create a fork in the path. To the left, the path should continue to be straight but to the right, the path should become wiggly with lots of turns. At the end of both paths, place the filled, covered boxes. The recruits will not know what is in the boxes.

If you have a large group of recruits, you may want to create two paths with four boxes and then split the recruits into two teams. The winning team would be the one to get all of their members to the end and the majority of their members at the box containing the treat.

SAY: Today we will be learning about making decisions. We are going to begin by playing a game. On the floor, I have created a path. The path looks easy and straight but as you go along the path you will notice that the path has a fork in it. This is the place where you need to decide which way to go. Will you go to the left, where the path is straight and looks easy to follow or will you go to the right, where the path becomes full of turns? At the end of both paths there is a box. One box contains a treat for those of you that get there. The other box contains garbage, things you probably don't want to have.

SAY: Now it wouldn't be fun to just walk the path so instead, each of you will have a straw and a cotton ball. You need to blow your cotton ball down the path, choosing the direction you need to go and when you get to the box at the end, wait there for the other recruits. Each of you should encourage the other recruits to follow the path that you took. Now, no looking in the box until everyone has arrived. Ready, Set, Go!

DO: Cheer on the recruits and when each recruit has made a decision and has completed the task, open the boxes and reveal who made the "right" decision.

SAY: Well done, recruits. It looks like some of you knew which way to go. How did you know? Was it just by chance? I think in this case, it was a guessing game. There was no one or no evidence to point you in the right direction. However, today we are going to learn that God's commands should lead us to making right decisions.

SAY: Let's check in with the Recon Team. It appears to be loud in there today. Maybe they can help us look more closely at decision making.



Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 2 – Making The Best Choices Episode 1: Choose Today Who You Will Serve"

Play "Making The Best Choices (S2) Episode 1 (1/4)". Episode begins with the Ready to Serve theme song, followed automatically by the MISSION # 1 VIDEO. Pause the video when the MISSION # 1 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 1.

If using PPT for video, have MBC-Episode_1-Choose_Who_You_Will_Serve.pptx ready and play slide one. Pause on the MISSION # 1 CARD so you and your recruits can complete Mission # 1.



Mission #1



Supplies Needed

- Sand or brown sugar
- Brick or flat rock
- Sugar cubes or small blocks for building houses
- Two garbage bags or plastic containers
- Water guns or spray bottles (Be sure that it shoots a strong stream of water) (This activity may best be done outside or in an area that water could easily be cleaned up)
- Have towels or cloths ready for this purpose



Mission Assignment

DO: Prior to recruits arriving, place the sand or brown sugar in a plastic container or on a garbage bag. Be sure to make the pile of sand or sugar thick and loose. (Do not pack down the sugar). Place the brick or rock in a plastic container or on a garbage bag. Fill the water guns or spray bottles.



SAY: Michael has given us another assignment. Let's read our Mission together, (reading mission card from satellite uplink), "In the Book of Matthew we read about two builders. One is foolish but one is wise. What can we learn from these two? Why do we need a firm foundation? Why is this important?"

SAY: To understand what the foolish and wise men actually did, let's reconstruct the event. The Bible tells us that one man, the wise man, built his house on rock but the foolish man, he built his house on sand. I am going to separate you into two groups. Half of you will build your house on the sand and half of you will build your house on the rock/brick.

DO: Explain the materials they have to use and allow them three to five minutes to build their house. When time is up, ask them to step back from their homes. Spend a minute inspecting them and commenting on the structure of each home.

SAY: We have some nice houses here. However, the scripture didn't just tell us that these two men built their homes. It tells us that then a storm came. We need to have a storm.

DO: Give the recruits the water guns or spray bottles and have them spray at the foundation of each house. Watch to see the house built on the sand as it will fall down first.

SAY: The house built on sand did not stand up to the storm. In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus tells us about these two men. He says, "... the house did not fall because it had been founded on the rock." The house built on rock was strong because its foundation was strong. What the house stood on held it up. Without a firm foundation everything begins to fall. We too need a firm foundation. Jesus tells us that if we act on His words, we will be like the house built on the rock. In other words, if we believe what he tells us and follow His commands, we too will have a firm foundation.

SAY: That was a lot of fun, wasn't it recruits? Let's head back to the Recon Team and see if Sarai has made any decisions about joining the performance band.



Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "Making The Best Choices (S2) Episode 1 (2/4)". Pause the video when the MISSION # 2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when MISSION #2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.





Mission #2



Supplies Needed

- Two sets of Timeline events on cards
- Write each of the following on individual cards (do not include numbers on the cards)
 1. God led Abraham through the land of Canaan
 2. God multiplies Abraham's descendants. Isaac is born
 3. Isaac has two sons, Jacob and Esau
 4. God gives Esau Mount Seir
 5. Jacob and his sons go to Egypt
 6. God speaks through Moses and Aaron
 7. Plagues are sent upon Egypt
 8. God brought the Israelites out of Egypt
 9. God parted the Red Sea for the Israelites to cross
 10. The Red Sea covers over the Egyptians
 11. The Israelites wander in the wilderness
 12. God brought the Amorites into the hands of the Israelites and the Israelites take their land
 13. God allows the Israelites to succeed against the King of Moab
 14. The Israelites come to Jericho
 15. God allows the Israelites to enter into the Promised Land
- String or tape to make timeline
- Tape



Mission Assignment

SAY: Christie has asked us to look at another assignment. Recruits, are you ready to serve? Okay, let's read the assignment (reading mission card from satellite uplink). "We know that we need a firm foundation but why is God our firm foundation? Read Joshua 24:1-15 to see the many promises God has kept. Can we trust Him to be a firm foundation?"

DO: Fasten the timeline on the wall or place the timeline across the floor. Distribute the two sets of cards evenly to the recruits. Be sure not to give the same recruit the same two cards. Be sure that the recruits know what their cards say but instruct them not to let the other recruits know which cards they have.

SAY: We are going to look into the Scripture and read how God kept his promises. I have given each of you cards that need to be placed along our timeline. As I read the scripture verses to you, you need to listen for the event that is on your card. When you hear it, you need to run to the timeline and place your card along the line. However, there are two cards for each event. None of you know which recruit has the matching card of yours. Therefore, you want to listen carefully and get your card in place first. The first recruit to have their card on the timeline gets to leave it in place. The other recruit must keep their card.



SAY: Okay recruits. Are you ready to go? Does everyone know what their cards say? (help as needed) I am going to read Joshua 24:1-15. Listen carefully and try and get your card out along the timeline first.

DO: Read Joshua 24:1-15. Read directly from your Bible. You may need to change the wording on your timeline cards to suit the version of scripture that you are reading from. Be slow when reading and stop when necessary to allow the recruits to race to the timeline.

SAY: Let's look over the timeline. Are the events all in order? Look how many times God provided for the Israelites and kept his promises to them. In the end, they entered the Promised Land just as God had told them they would. Would one of you like to turn to Joshua 21: 43-45 and read it for the rest of us?

DO: Allow for this to be done, or read it yourself.

SAY: God kept His promises and protected the Israelites. This helps us to see how He is our firm foundation and we can trust him. Let's report back to the Recon Team. I certainly hope Sarai has stopped her daydreaming. Maybe the rest of the team is helping her in her decision making.



Squad Leader you might find it easier to print out Joshua 24:1-15 on half of a piece of paper and the 15 timeline events down the other half of the page so that both are in front of you at the same time.



Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play "Making The Best Choices (S2) Episode 1 (3/4)". Pause the video when the FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.



Field Mission Project



Supplies Needed

- Bibles

Mission Project

SAY: Recruits we have one last mission for today, and it is a very important one for each of us. Let's read it together. (Reading mission card from satellite uplink) "We all have choices to make but first we must choose who we are going to serve. Who are you going to serve?"

SAY: Christie and Michael are trying to help Sarai make a decision. They began by giving her some clear advice. Her first decision has to be, "who she will serve." All of us must choose first, who we will serve. We have already seen that God keeps His promises and that He is a trustworthy, firm foundation. Do you trust Him to be your firm foundation? Will you serve God? When you choose to serve God, you will find that His commands will help you to make all of your decisions.



SAY: In the book of Psalms, chapter 145 verses 14 to 20, we read how God cares for his people.

DO: READ these verses.

SAY: Does one of these lines stand out to you? READ these lines again.

The LORD upholds all who fall
 Lifts up all who are bowed down
 Give them food at the proper time
 Opens His hand
 Satisfies the desires of every living thing
 The Lord is near all who call
 Will hear their cry and saves them
 The Lord watches over all who love Him

DO: Allow recruits the opportunity to share what line stands out to them and encourage them to share why.



Prayer Huddle



YouTube: Play "Making The Best Choices (S2) Episode 1 (4/4)". Pause the video when the PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.



Supplies Needed

- A brick for each recruit or a Kleenex box made to look like a brick (Have these bricks placed in a stack at the front of the area where you meet)
- Sand or brown sugar from mission # 1 on display along with your bricks or sugar cubes

Directions

DO: Have on display the sand/brown sugar and bricks from Mission #1 as a visual reminder that we need a firm foundation for life.

SAY: Joshua 24:15 reminds us that we have an important decision to make and that is choosing to serve the Lord. If you haven't already, will you make this first and biggest choice today?

SAY: We are going to pray together. As I pray, if you want to make the decision to live for God and to serve God, then I invite you to take a brick from the stack. This brick will help you to remember your choice to serve God; God who is our trustworthy and firm foundation.

DO: Lead the recruits in a decision time/commitment prayer (when you are finished praying offer to stay behind for any recruit that may wish to talk to you further about their commitment).

