



Pray Before Making Choices



THE MISSION AIM

We should ask God for his advice when making important decisions.



KEY VERSE

Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."



Pre-Mission Activity



Supplies Needed

- Large open space

Directions

SAY: We are going to begin by playing a game today. This game is called, "stop lights." Each of you will try to move from one end of the room to the other. As you are moving, I will call out a stop light colour. If I yell, "red light", you must stop moving and freeze like a statue. If I yell, "green light", you must stay in one place and hop on one foot.

SAY: Okay, ready to play?

DO: Begin the game and stop the recruits frequently by calling out, "red light" and "green light." After you have called these out a couple of times each, call out, "yellow light." The recruits do not have an action for this. Tell them they are doing it wrong and have them sit down because they are not following your instructions.

SAY: I don't understand. You didn't sit on the floor when I called out yellow light. You didn't follow the rules of the game.

DO: Encourage one of the recruits to tell you that you didn't explain that instruction.

SAY: Oh, I think you are right. It is hard to play a game without all of the instructions. Sorry I left that one out.

SAY: I think it's time to check in with the Recon Team.



Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 2 – Making The Best Choices Episode 2: Pray Before Making Choices"

Play "Making The Best Choices (S2) Episode 2 (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_2-Pray_Before_Making_Choices.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

- Five small items per pair of recruits. You can use the same five items for each pair, i.e., hide five erasers, five bouncy balls, etc. or have different items hidden for each pair of recruits.
- List each of those five items that you have hidden for each pair of recruits
- On a separate piece of paper, print very small, simple instructions of where to locate the items that each pair of recruits is to find. Fold these instructions and staple closed to the back of the list of items the recruits are to find.



Mission Assignment

SAY: Well recruits, we have our first mission for today. Let's read it (reading mission card from satellite uplink). "Recruits, why is it important to be careful when making choices? How do we trust God and seek His direction?"

DO: Begin this mission with a Scavenger Hunt Activity. Put the recruits into pairs and present them with the items they are to find. The instructions are right there for them but do not mention these. Simply explain that they must locate all of their items within 60 seconds. Give them the list and say, "go." The idea is that the recruits will be so anxious to locate the items on their lists; they will not even look at the second piece of paper. Hide the items prior to the recruits entering.

SAY: Before we get into our mission I'm going to send you on a scavenger hunt. I am going to give each pair of you a list of five items that you must attempt to locate within the next 60 seconds.

DO: Explain the boundaries of where they can look and give them their list. When 60 seconds have passed, call them to join you again.

SAY: How many of you located all of the items on your list? How come you couldn't find your items? Each of you had a list as well as instructions on where to find your items that would have helped you with the short period of time I gave you to complete the scavenger hunt. Did you not read your instructions? Why didn't you look at the second page? How does it make you feel that you were not able to complete the scavenger hunt?



DO: Allow the recruits the opportunity to answer these.

SAY: We often do this with choices we have to make each day. We know we have to get something done so we rush to do it. We forget to seek advice and direction about the choices we need to make.

SAY: Proverbs 3:5-6 reads, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight." This verse tells us that we can trust God but we need to talk to Him, ask Him for help and listen to what He is telling us. How do we ask God for help?

DO: Allow time for the recruits to say, "We pray to Him."

SAY: Right, we need to pray to God and seek His direction BEFORE we make our choice or decision. We need to Trust God and allow Him to direct our paths. When we forget to do this, we often are not able to complete our challenge, just as you were not able to complete the scavenger hunt. Things don't work out well when we forget to seek God's direction in our choices.

SAY: Let's report back to the Recon Team and see if they have made any sense of the items from the box.



Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "Making The Best Choices (S2) Episode 2 (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

- Bibles
- Chart paper
- Markers



Mission Assignment

SAY: Are you ready for mission #2? Let's check it out (reading mission card from satellite uplink). "Recruits, we have learned that we should seek God's direction before we make a decision. Why is this so important?"



SAY: Christie has asked us why it is important to seek God's help before making a decision. I think the best way to answer that question is to look into God's Word. There is a story of a man who does not wait on God's direction and there is a story of another man that does wait for God to tell him what to do.

SAY: I would like to have half of us look at the story of the man that doesn't wait on God and the other half of us to look at the story of the man that does wait on God. On the chart paper, each group will record, who the story is about, where he is, what he does and how it worked out for the man. Decide as a group whether you think the man you read about waited for God's direction or did not.

DO: Separate the group into two groups. Be sure to have a leader or a strong reader in each group and encourage that person to read the scripture. If you are not able to do this, be prepared to read the scripture to the groups.

SAY: Group #1, you will look at 1 Samuel 10:8 and 1 Samuel 13:1-14, and Group #2, you will look at Luke 6:12-13

DO: Provide time for both groups to look up the scripture and to fill in the chart as they are able. It may be helpful to set the chart up for them with: Who, Where, What and How written down the left hand side.

DO: Allow the two groups to share the information found. Here's what they should discover:

Group 1 is reading the story of Saul. Saul is preparing for battle and has been told to wait seven days for Samuel to come. When Samuel didn't come in the allotted time, Saul couldn't wait any longer and rushes ahead. Saul didn't trust Samuel and in fact he was not trusting God's ways. Saul thought he could do it on his own and was told that he had disobeyed God and that God has chosen someone else to replace him as leader of his people.

Group 2 is reading the story of how Jesus chose His disciples. Jesus prayed all night long until He knew His Father's will.

SAY: Saul did not seek God's direction before rushing to do what he wanted to do. Because of this, he lost the kingdom. Jesus prayed to God. He sought God's will. He prayed all night long and only when He knew what God wanted Him to do, did Jesus make His decision.

SAY: As we have discovered from these stories it is better to seek God's direction before we make a decision.

SAY: I think we should send this to the Recon Team and see if there is anything else we can help with. Thank you recruits.





Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play “Making The Best Choices (S2) Episode 2 (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

- Chart Paper (This chart will be used again in Lesson Three. Be sure to save it)
- Markers
- Small sticker (stars or dots will work)

Mission Project

SAY: How about a drumroll for our last mission of the day? (Reading mission card from satellite uplink). “What decisions do we make every day? Which ones should we stop and pray about before making?”

SAY: Every day we make many decisions. Let’s make a list of all the decisions we make.

DO: As the recruits call them out, write them on the chart paper. When you have a good list of decisions, give each recruit five to 10 small stickers. Ask them to place a sticker beside the decisions that they should stop and pray about first.

SAY: We have a great list here. Let’s look over the ones that have stickers beside them. (Read through these.) Can you think of a decision that you need to make this week? Is it one you should pray about first? Remember the verse we read earlier from Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.”

SAY: God knows everything. We can trust him to help us make the right decision. We just need to pray to Him and to seek His direction.



NOTE Squad Leader be sure to save this Decision Chart to use in the next lesson.





Prayer Huddle



YouTube: Play “Making The Best Choices (S2) Episode 2 (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

- Numbered slips of paper each with a different example of choices we may have to make this week such as: how to treat our parents; how we play with friends, how we treat people who aren't our friends; how we behave at school; what we do when someone is mean to us; how we treat our brothers and sisters, how we react when we are upset with someone, etc. Try to have at least one slip of paper for every two recruits.
- Small box to hold the slips of paper
- Piece of paper with choice number the recruits are to look for, i.e. Choice No. 1 (how to treat our parents)
- Second slip of paper with instructions on where to find the items they are searching for. i.e., “Go to the box that is sitting on the counter in this room and pull out your slip of paper. Talk about how you would choose to act in this situation.” Fold this slip of paper and staple it closed to the paper with the scavenger hunt items on it.

Directions

SAY: We are going to spend some time in prayer together but before we do I have one more scavenger hunt to send you on. I'm going to give you and your partner a piece of paper with a list of what I want you to find. Again you only have 60 seconds to find the item.

DO: Divide the recruits into partners and hand out the slips of paper with the item on it they are to find. Give them boundaries as to where in the building they will find their item.

SAY: Everyone ready? Go!

DO: Send recruits out to find their item. Hopefully this time they will stop and look at the instruction sheet you have stapled to the back and follow through with the instructions. For those who don't discover and read the instructions call them back after 60 seconds and direct them to your box with the slips of paper in it.

SAY: What was different for you with the scavenger hunt this time? *(We knew to look at the instructions stapled to our paper.)*

SAY: That's right, this time you knew there might be something important on the second piece of paper. You knew to stop and get some advice before you made a decision about where to look during our scavenger hunt.

SAY: Let's all gather in a circle and spend some time in prayer about decisions we may face this week. Each set of partners was to pull out a different slip of paper from our box. So each



of you have a different choice we may make and should pray about. This is what we are going to do right now. I'm going to begin our prayer and then I'll pause as each pair takes a turn reading the choice on their slip of paper. Starting with No. 1 and then we'll all respond to them with "Help us make the best choice."

DO: Begin your prayer time similar to this, "Dear God, this week each of us has to make choices. Help us to make good choices about..." Encourage each set of partners to read their choice and then lead all recruits in responding to each choice with "Help us make the best choice." When finished conclude with something like: "Father God, help each of us to remember to talk to you when we are faced with choices this week."

DO: Be sure that as the recruits are leaving, that you remind them to trust in God and to talk to Him before making decisions. Remind the recruits that they can share their prayer request on your "My Squad" Page of the RTS recruits website.

NOTES:

