

“24” - LESSON 5

“Tough Choices”

Main Focus:

God loved us so much,
He sent Jesus



Power Verse:

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

- John 3:16



Watt's Up:

“God Loves Everyone In The World!”

LEADER'S INFO

Life is full of choices. Some are easy - like what color of socks to put on in the morning or which type of cereal to eat for breakfast. Some are tough - like where to go to College or who to marry.

Choices are just part of being a human being. The choices we make can make or break our futures. But, we are not the only ones who have had to make some tough choices.

God made an extremely tough choice when He chose to send His one and only Son, Jesus, to Earth. Jesus made a tough choice when He chose to leave Heaven to come to Earth. Most of all, Jesus made an excruciatingly tough choice when He chose to die on the cross.

In this lesson, your kids are going to learn about those tough choices and how they impacted the world.



“The Spark” Intro Video

Special Agent Jack Bowow



“Watt's Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt's Up?”



Character Skit

“Tic Toc”



Offering Time



Game On!

“You Make The Choice”



Bible Story

“Jesus Is Crucified”



Power Verse Video

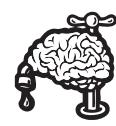
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Call To Action

“Tough Choices”



Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game



Small Group Experience

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Call To Action

“Tough Choices”

Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game

Small Group Experience**ORDER OF SERVICE**

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CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Tic Toc” (or Theadora Tocopolous, is obsessed with time. She knows the precise amount of time it takes to do anything, as well as many important events and people throughout history. She claims to be a time traveler & adventurer, but most people thinks she's a little crazy.)

TIC TOC: (comes twirling out onstage waving long colorful streamers in her hands) Goooooood MORNING!

Leader: Wow, good morning Tic-Toc! You look like you're ESPECIALLY happy today.

TIC TOC: Let me check. (looks at all of the watches on her arm) Yup! You're right. According to my calculations, now is a SPLENDID time to be happy! I love time, but I ESPECIALLY love (does a twirl, then jazz hands) Happy Time!

Leader: What's with the streamers?

TIC TOC: Oh these aren't streamers. They're souvenirs from my LATEST Time Travel journey!

Leader: Good grief, here we go again. (to the kids) Boys and girls, Time Travel is NOT real.

TIC TOC: That's JUST what Xenon-12 said to me almost 150 years from now. Yeah, in the future this super computer tries to take over America and make itself president. I talked him out of it by showing him funny pictures of cats. AAAAANYway, like I said these are NOT streamers. They're going to help with today's lesson!

Leader: Good grief. I'm going to ignore all of that “super computer” stuff. If they aren't streamers then what are they? (examines them) Goliath's sandal straps??

TIC TOC: (laughs) No silly, he liked to be barefoot. This is ancient Chinese dental floss from the year 1213 B.C.

Leader: Dental floss?? How is something THAT big dental floss??

TIC TOC: It's just a prototype! I want to see if it works. (puts the streamers in the leader's face) Could you perhaps unhinge your jaw, like a snake?

Leader: (grabs the streamers and throws them everywhere) You've gone BONKERS! How could today's lesson be helped by giant ancient Chinese DENTAL FLOSS?! I don't want to sound rude, but if you're done with your silliness – we still have just a little bit of time left to talk about today's lesson.

TIC TOC: Oh I already know ALL about it! You're going to be telling the kids about CHOICES! Most specifically, God's choice! We know just how much God loves us because He CHOSE to send us Jesus - His one and only Son. And Jesus didn't HAVE to come here— but He saw that we truly needed His
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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

help, so he CHOSE to leave Heaven and come down to Earth!

Leader: Those are BOTH true, Tic-Toc. And part of what makes the cross so powerful is -

TIC TOC: (interrupts) Jesus CHOSE to die on a cross! Nobody FORCED Him to do it! He could have sent an army of angels to rescue Him, but Jesus loved the world so much that He CHOSE to die for us!

Leader: Once again, you're absolutely right. I've just got one thing left to say. Pumpkin weasels.

TIC TOC: Pumpkin weasels??

Leader: HA!! I've got you, you so called “Time Traveler!” If you really already know EVERYTHING I'm about to say, you would have seen that coming! But I surprised you, didn't I? DIDN'T I?? (does a silly little victory dance while Tic Toc pulls out her cell phone and starts to “record” it on video)

TIC TOC: (records the dance with her phone) I knew you were going to say that. I just wanted to get your silly dance on video so I could show it to all of my friends (pause) throughout History.

Leader: (stops, embarrassed) What?

TIC TOC: Whatever THAT dance was? It's about to be in all of the history books! Congratulations!

Leader: Oh come on! Time Travel isn't real! If it is, where's your time machine??

TIC TOC: I couldn't POSSIBLY tell you that! But I'll give you a clue...it involves green pea soup...and a broken escalator.

Leader: That doesn't make ANY sense!!

TIC TOC: Who says it has to? I'll see you later boys and girls! I'm Tic-Toc and I'm OUTTA TIME! SEE YA! (yanks the leader next to her and takes a picture) SELFIE!! (then skips away as her theme music plays)



GAME ON! “You Make The Choice”

Items Needed For Game:

“Lesson 5 Game Intro” Video; twelve different envelopes; twelve pieces of copy paper

Preparation:

Play Agent Bowow’s “Lesson 5 Game Intro” video. Choose 3 boys and 3 girls to compete in this game. BEFORE THE GAME, write a letter “A” on six of the envelopes and a letter “B” on the other six. Write the following point values on the twelve pieces of copy paper (one value on each piece of paper): 25, 50, 75, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 1000, then fold them and stick them individually AT RANDOM in the envelopes and seal them (don’t pay attention to which envelopes get which points).

How To Play:

Have a stack of “A” envelopes and a stack of “B” envelopes that are sealed. Decide whether the boys or the girls will go first, then alternate each round. One at a time, display an “A” envelope and a “B” envelope and have the contestant choose which of the two they want to open. Once they have chosen (between A or B), read aloud the point total that is written on the piece of paper they chose. Each round, add the amount revealed to the team’s total score.

To make the game more interesting, offer for a player to “make a tough choice” by trading their envelope for 100 points. There’s not a definite advantage to doing this (it might, but it might not). But, it helps reinforce the “CHOICES” concept of the game.

The team to have the most total points at the end of the game is declared the winner!

After the game, say:

“You all had to make some interesting choices in order to play this game. Sometimes it paid off, and sometimes it didn’t. Well, today you are going to learn about several TOUGH choices that were made that REALLY paid off for you and me.”



Bible Story

“Jesus Is Crucified”

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; the PowerPoint presentation for Lesson 5; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (as shown)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself w/the story in Luke 22:47-23:49; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Well, we have learned a lot from the last 24 hours of Jesus’ life on Earth so far. So much has happened already. Jesus and the disciples had The Last Supper together. It was there that Jesus revealed that times were about to get very hard for the disciples, but that He would give them peace throughout the tough times. The disciples didn’t understand what Jesus was talking about. They wondered, “What could be about to happen?”



Jesus took the disciples to the Garden to pray. After He had prayed for quite a while, suddenly the disciples heard the sound of marching boots. (show pic) It was a group of Roman soldiers. With them was Judas, one of the disciples. Judas had taken a payment of thirty pieces of silver in order to betray Jesus and turn Him over to the Romans.



The Roman soldiers arrested Jesus and took Him to face the religious leaders. (show pic) The religious leaders were jealous of Jesus. They thought Jesus was becoming too popular among the people, so they made up things about Him and claimed He had broken laws that He actually hadn’t. But, Jesus didn’t defend Himself. He kept silent and let them accuse Him of these terrible things.



What happened next was horrible. (show pic) The soldiers beat Jesus with a whip. They punched Him and kicked Him. Then, they created a crown made out of thorns and jammed it into His head. He began to bleed terribly. The whole time, Jesus just kept silent and didn’t fight against them.



Jesus was brought before Pilate, a judge of that time. Pilate couldn’t find that Jesus had done anything wrong, but the religious leaders insisted that Jesus was guilty. So, Pilate let the crowd decide. Pilate asked the crowd what they wanted to do with Jesus. Sadly, the crowd yelled, “Crucify Him!” To “crucify” someone meant to nail them to a wooden cross. And, that is what happened to Jesus. (show pic)

Jesus was led to the top of a hill outside of the city. It is there that the soldiers nailed His hands and feet to a cross. The soldiers laughed at Him and made fun of Him. Instead of getting angry, Jesus actually prayed, “Father, forgive them. They don’t realize what they are doing.” Jesus died on the cross that day. But, there were a series of choices that happened that led up to His death. You’re going to learn all about those tough choices today in your lesson. So, pay close attention. It could change your life!



Call To Action “Tough Choices”

Materials Needed:

The Data CD; The DVD; two boxes of breakfast cereal (different brands); a blue sock; a black sock; two different brands of video game system

Preparation:

Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson Five,” begin with the slide titled “Tough Choices”; play the “Lesson 5 Call To Action Intro” Video before you begin



The Message: (title slide)

Life is full of choices. Some are easy - like what color of socks to put on in the morning (*hold up the blue sock and the black sock - let the kids choose which color they like best*). Or there is the easy choice of which type of cereal to eat for breakfast (*hold up the two boxes of cereal and let the kids choose which one they like best*). Even when playing, there are some choices to make that aren't too hard - like which video game system is better? (*hold up the two game systems - let the kids choose which they like best*).

Those choices are easy. But, some choices we have to make in life are really tough. Choices like where to go to College, what job or career we want, or even who we will marry. Those aren't easy choices at all. Choices are just part of being a human being. The choices we make can make or break our futures. But, we are not the only ones who have had to make some tough choices.

For the next few minutes, I want to show you some **tough** choices that had to be made that affected ALL of us. We learned in our Bible Story that Jesus died on the cross. But, I want to tell you the story behind the story and show you some **tough choices** that had to be made.

God CHOSE To Send Jesus (slide)



God is the Creator of the entire universe. He is the ruler of all. He is the greatest power that ever was or ever will be. He doesn't *have* to do anything, does He? Nobody can *make* God do anything. He does what He pleases.

God is our Heavenly Father. He created us to be in relationship with Him. Adam and Eve, the first humans created, walked with God in the Garden of Eden. However, when they chose to sin they were separated from God. Sin is anything that goes against God's commands that we find in the Bible. *Romans 6:23* says, “The payment for sin is death” (separation from the life God has planned for us).

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Call To Action (Continued)

So, God made one of the toughest choices of all. Our Power Verse teaches us about that tough choice. It says, “*For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*” God chose to send His one and only Son, Jesus to come to Earth and die in our place. That’s a tough choice. Can you imagine being a parent and choosing to let your child die in someone else’s place when they were innocent? That is a **tough** choice. But, that’s how much God loved us. He **chose** to send Jesus to Earth. Not only that, but...

Jesus CHOSE To Leave Heaven (slide)



Jesus lived in Heaven, the most perfect place in the Universe. He had the perfect life as the Son of the Creator of all things. However, Jesus chose to leave all of that to come to Earth and be born as a baby. If you remember, Jesus was born in a stable with a bunch of animals around. That’s not exactly a birth fit for a King, is it? That’s why Jesus’ choice to leave Heaven is so amazing! He left a perfect home to come be a human being just like us. But, the toughest choice of all was...

Jesus CHOSE To Die On A Cross (slide)

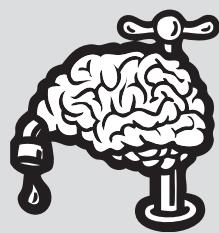


Jesus let the men arrest Him. He didn’t say a word. Jesus let the religious leaders accuse Him, even though He was innocent. Jesus let the soldiers beat Him and nail Him to a cross. He didn’t fight them. As the Son of God, Jesus could have called 10,000 angels at any time to come and destroy the soldiers who were mistreating Him. But, He didn’t. He chose to die on a cross. Why? Because of you. Because of me. Jesus knew that this was the only way we could ever receive eternal life and forgiveness of our sin.

Jesus chose to die in your place. Most of us can’t imagine choosing to take someone else’s punishment when we are innocent. Can you imagine if your brother or sister disobeyed your parents, then you chose to take their punishment **for** them? Most of us would probably never make that choice, but Jesus chose exactly that just for you and me. Today, we are going to thank Him for making that tough choice. As we remember what Jesus did for us, let’s thank Him and worship Him together.

ALTAR RESPONSE: (play soft music)

OPTIONAL This would be a good time to receive communion together. Our recommendation is that you talk to your pastor and follow the guidelines he gives you. It is wise to let parents know that you will be receiving communion together beforehand so that they can choose whether or not they want to have their children in the service or not. Explain what the bread represents (*Jesus’ body that was broken for us*) and what the juice represents (*Jesus’ blood that He chose to shed for our sins*). We recommend that you use white grape juice instead of purple (*kids tend to spill*). After communion, spend some time worshipping God and thanking Jesus for the tough choices that enabled us to have eternal life!



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; The DVD

Preparation:

Play the “Brain Drain” Video Intro off the DVD; Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson Five,” begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt's Up today?

Answer: “God Loves Everyone In The World!”

2. Who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver?

Answer: Judas

3. Why were the religious leaders jealous of Jesus?

Answer: He was becoming too popular

4. What did the soldiers make the crown out of that they put on Jesus' head?

Answer: thorns

5. What did the crowd yell when Pilate asked what should be done with Jesus?

Answer: “Crucify Him!”

6. Did Jesus ever fight back against the soldiers?

Answer: No

7. According to our lesson today, “God CHOSE To _____.”

Answer: Send Jesus

8. According to our lesson today, “Jesus CHOSE To Leave _____.”

Answer: Heaven

9. According to our lesson today, “Jesus Chose To _____ On A Cross.”

Answer: Die

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: John 3:16

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