

# “Choices of Life”

## Family Bible Study Series – Vol. 2 - Quarter 3

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Dear Family,

As you know, Satan has a strong foothold on our society. He is attacking from all angles in all types of ways. His arsenal is heavily equipped with alcohol, drugs, violence, TV, negative peer pressure, complacency, busy-ness and many other tools he has at his disposal.

The only way we can truly overcome Satan and the arsenal that he uses is by our faith in Jesus Christ. In John 14:6, Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except through me.” Romans 10:17 states it like this, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing comes by the Word of God.” If we want our family to withstand the pressures of the world, we must be in the Word.

Unfortunately, many families are too busy and have decided to put spiritual development low on the priority list. We spend large amounts of time in activities such as work, sports, school, and recreation, but devote little time to spend developing our relationship with God. Some families have left it to the church to provide their only spiritual food on Sundays and Wednesdays. Because of that, many of us are spiritually malnourished. We need to be in God’s word more! We need to teach our children the importance of Bible study!

To assist with this dilemma, we try to supply our church family here with tools that can help make our homes the hub of spiritual development. These lessons are designed to be very simple, basic and applicable to the entire family. They are written so that someone unfamiliar with the Bible could use these outlines. They can also be used as a starting point for a family that may be older. Just take these lessons and add more depth to them. The most important thing is for us to begin to open the Word of God as a family. This is where we can develop a spiritual life that can withstand the storms of Satan! How is your family spiritually?

You can NEVER start too young or too old!

May God bless your efforts to develop a strong God-centered home.

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Youth & Family Minister

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## **Keys to Having a Good Home Bible Study**

- ?? Have a family meeting and discuss what night and time of the week would be best to have the study.
- ?? Stick to the time that is agreed upon and start and finish on time!
- ?? Make a decision that this will be a family priority.
- ?? Start with a prayer.
- ?? Give each family member time to discuss what has happened during their day.
- ?? Do not allow the discussion time to become a place for family gripes and arguments.
- ?? Give each family member an opportunity to share how he or she was able to work on last week's lesson.
- ?? Always remember what the purpose of this study is...
  - To develop a closer relationship with God.
  - To develop a closer relationship with each other.
  - To unite as a godly family.
- ?? Take time to work on your family project. (*See back page for a list of suggested projects.*)
- ?? End with a prayer.

## **Choose God Week # 1**

**OBJECTIVE:** To discuss who God is and the blessings of choosing to follow God.

### **Feasting on the Word:**

Genesis 1:1-28

Mark 10:18 and 1 John 4:16

1 John 1:5 and Psalm 31:5

Psalm 89:5-8

Joshua 24:14-15

Psalms 37:3-6

### **Family Discussion:**

As you study this lesson, develop a list of words that describe God. Begin with The Creation, reading Genesis 1:1-28.

What word does Jesus use to describe God in Mark 10:18?

What word does the apostle John use in 1 John 4:16.

What word describes God in 1 John 1:5? Psalms 31:5 says that He is the God of what?

Read Psalms 89:5-8. What do you learn about God in this passage? Discuss how each member of your family “pictures” God.

When the children of Israel entered the Promised Land, the practice of idol worship was all around them. What did Joshua say about choosing God, in Joshua 24:14-15?

In Psalm 37:3-6, the Psalmist gives very good advice about choosing God. Why is it so important to choose to live God’s way?

### **Challenge:**

Name as many Bible stories as you can think of in which a person or group of people chose to follow God and were blessed for making that decision.

**Family Project:** Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

## **Satan...A Bad Choice**

### **Week # 2**

**OBJECTIVE:** To discuss who Satan is and the consequences of choosing to follow him.

#### **Feasting on the Word:**

Genesis 3:1-13

James 4:7

Matthew 4:1-11 and 1 Peter 5:8-9

Ephesians 6:10-18

Revelation 20:10 and Revelation 12:9

Matthew 13:47-50 and Matthew 25:41

#### **Family Discussion:**

We first learn about Satan in the Garden of Eden. He presented himself in the form of a serpent. He lied to Eve and deceived her. Read the account in Genesis 3:1-13. What should Eve have done differently? What should we do when Satan tempts us? (James 4:7)

Satan even tempted Jesus! Read about it in Matthew 4:1-11. If Satan is so bold as to tempt the Son of God, don't you think he will surely tempt us, too? How does Peter describe Satan in 1 Peter 5:8-9? What does Peter say to do when Satan attacks?

Paul tells us to put on Christian "armor" to protect ourselves from the devil's schemes. Read Ephesians 6:10-18 and discuss each piece of armor and what it means.

What will be the devil's punishment, as we read in Revelation 20:10 and Revelation 12:9? What will happen to people who choose to follow the devil? Discuss Matthew 13:47-50 and Matthew 25:41.

#### **Challenge:**

Everything concerning God is described as good, and to live eternally in Heaven with God will be wonderful. Everything written about Satan is bad, and to live eternally in hell with him will be the most horrible thing that could happen. Why, then, do some people choose to follow Satan instead of God? How can you keep that from happening to you?

**Family Project:** Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

## Christ Chose Us Week # 3

**OBJECTIVE:** To discuss why Christ chose us, and what it cost him.

### **Feasting on the Word:**

John 17:1-5

Mark 14:32-40

Matthew 27:26-31

Mark 15:21-37

Revelation 17:14

### **Family Discussion:**

Jesus came to earth on a mission. What was it? Read Jesus' prayer to God when it was almost time for Jesus to die on the cross. (John 17:1-5)

In the Garden of Gethsemane, the night before Jesus died, he struggled with the dread of the cross and separation from God. He felt the weight of the sins of all people for all time. Think of the how much Jesus must love us as you read about that night in Mark 14:32-40.

After Jesus' trial, before Pilate, what did Pilate order to be done to Jesus, in Matthew 27:26? Discuss what it means to be "flogged" or "scourged." Look it up in a dictionary, if possible. What other pain and injustice was inflicted on Jesus by the soldiers in verses 27-31. Did Jesus deserve this kind of treatment?

What is crucifixion? Make pictures in your mind as you read about Jesus' death on the cross in Mark 15:21-37. Pretend you were there to watch. Then discuss: Jesus was sentenced to death like a criminal, yet he never sinned. He took our sins on himself, and took our punishment. Jesus paid a very high price to choose us!

Jesus overcame the power of death, sin, and Satan. And who else will be victorious, invited to live in the presence of Jesus forever? His chosen, faithful followers! (Read Revelation 17:14.) You see, he chose you!

### **Challenge:**

This week, you choose someone...to share the gospel with, to invite to church, to pray for, to do a kind deed for, to encourage with a hug or a card. Who will you choose?

**Family Project:** Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

## Why Choose Christ? Week # 4

**OBJECTIVE:** To discuss the reasons why we need Christ as our Savior.

### **Feasting on the Word:**

Romans 5:6-10

### **Family Discussion:**

What three conditions does Paul tell us we are in when we are in sin? (*Powerless – verse 6, ungodly – verse 6, enemies – verse 10*)

Sin is a very serious thing. What is sin? (I John 3:4)

Who has sinned? (Romans 3:23)

What does sin do to us? (Romans 6:23, Isaiah 59:2)

Who is the answer to our sin? (Matthew 1:21, Luke 19:10, John 14:6)

*Going back to Romans 5:6-10...*

Paul told us there are three conditions we are in when we are sinners. He also tells us three things that come through Jesus Christ. What are those three things? (*Justified – verse 9, saved from His wrath – verse 9, reconciled – verse 10*)

In verse 9, Paul tells us we can be justified. What does justified mean? (*Brought back in a relationship with God - just as if you had never sinned.*)

Through what are we justified? (*The blood of Jesus Christ*)

So, how important is it for us to choose Christ?

### **Challenge:**

Take time to discuss how much God must love us to send Jesus to die for us so that we could have the hope of eternal life with Him. Share some things that you will do this week to show God you love Him. If you have younger children, sing *Jesus Loves Me* or *Jesus Loves the Little Children*.

**Family Project:** Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

# How to Choose Christ

## Week # 5

**OBJECTIVE:** To identify the way that we can choose salvation through Christ.

### **Feasting on the Word:**

I Timothy 2:1-6

Romans 5:6-10

### **Family Discussion:**

Who does God want to be saved? (I Tim. 2:4)

Looking back at Romans 5:9, through what can we be justified? (*Christ's blood*)

How do we come in contact with the blood of Christ so that we can wash away our sins?

1<sup>st</sup> we must HEAR

- Romans 10:17 – Faith comes through hearing the word of God.
- John 6:45 – It is God's Word, not man's, that we need to listen to.

2<sup>nd</sup> we must BELIEVE (Have faith)

- John 8:24 – If we do not believe, we die in our sins.
- Hebrews 11:6 – Belief is required to please God.

3<sup>rd</sup> we must REPENT (Repentance means to turn and go a different direction. We must turn from the ways of sin and move toward God.)

- Acts 3:19 – Repentance is needed, so the Lord can wipe out our sins.
- Acts 17:30 – God commands that all people repent.
- Luke 13:3,5 – Repentance is essential for all men.

4<sup>th</sup> we must CONFESS

- Romans 10:9-10 – We need to confess with our mouth that “Jesus is Lord.”

5<sup>th</sup> we must be BAPTIZED

- Acts 2:38 – The results are (1) forgiveness of sins and (2) the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Mark 16:16 – Baptism in faith is a response to the Gospel.
- Romans 6:3-7 – Baptism is when we come in contact with the blood of Christ.
- Acts 10:48 – We must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

### **Challenge:**

List the major ingredients of a chocolate cake: flour, eggs, sugar, and chocolate. What would happen if you decided to leave out one of the ingredients? Would the cake truly be a chocolate cake? Are all the above ingredients required to make a Christian? What would happen if you tried to leave one out? Conclude by thanking God for the gracious gift of Jesus Christ and the recipe for salvation.

**Family Project:** Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

## **Blessing for Choosing Wisely**

### **Week # 6**

**OBJECTIVE:** To discuss some of the blessings you receive by being a part of Christ's Body.

#### **Feasting on the Word:**

John 16:31-33

Philippians 4:6-7

Psalms 46:1

II Samuel 22:1-4

Romans 8:31

#### **Family Discussion:**

Looking at John 16:33, what is a blessing that we can receive by living in Christ Jesus?

What is peace?

According to Philippians 4:6-7, what will the peace of God do for us? (*It will guard our hearts and minds.*)

God wants us to be at peace with our salvation. Can we truly know we are saved? (I John 5:13)

Do you have the peace of knowing you are saved?

Looking at Psalm 46:1, what does God want to be for us?

Looking at II Samuel 22:1-4, how did David describe what God had done for him?

Looking at Romans 8:31, who is God for?

How do we know that God wants to be a help and support to us to change the way we live our lives?

#### **Challenge:**

Take time to allow each person to share some ways in which following Christ has provided peace in their lives. Share how knowing God is always there for you allows you to walk through life with more confidence.

**Family Project:** Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

## **The Eternal Reward... Your Choice**

### **Week # 7**

**OBJECTIVE:** To discuss the facts about heaven and hell, and that God gives us the freedom to choose where we spend eternity.

#### **Feasting on the Word:**

Scriptures listed below

#### **Family Discussion:**

1. What does the Bible tell us about heaven? Find the answers to these questions:

What word is used here instead of "heaven?" Rev. 2:7

Who will be there? Rev. 21:1-3

What will cease to exist? Rev. 21: 4

What will heaven look like? Rev. 21:10-12 and verse 21

Will it be light there? Revelation 21:22-25

Will we see God face to face? Revelation 22:1-5

How can we know that heaven is real? John 14:1-3

2. What does the Bible tell us about hell? Find the answers to these questions:

Is there really fire there? Mark 9:43-49; Revelation 20:14-15

Who will be there? Matthew 25:41

Who else will be there? Rev. 21:8; 2 Thess. 1:8-9

What will happen there? Matthew 13:40-42

Will it be dark there? Matthew 22:13 and 25:30 (Some wonder how it can be dark if there is fire. Imagine a blind man in burning building.)

Once in hell, will a person be given a second chance? Luke 16:19-31

Now that you have read what the Bible says about heaven and hell, where will you choose to spend eternity? God has done his part. (John 3:16) The choice is *yours* to make. (Mark 16:15, 16)

**Challenge:** Try to imagine eternity. Everything we know here on earth has an ending. But eternity has no end. It goes on and on forever. Discuss this concept. How can you describe eternity? Try to comprehend what it means. Read Luke 1:32-33

**Family Project:** Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

## Choose to Be Prepared Week # 8

**OBJECTIVE:** To identify the need to prepare yourself for the storms of life before the storms come crashing in.

### **Feasting on the Word:**

Matthew 26:36-56

### **Family Discussion:**

What was Jesus preparing Himself for? (*His death on the cross*)

What did Jesus do to prepare Himself? (*Talked to God*)

What did Jesus ask His disciples to do? (*Get ready by watching and praying*)

What did they do? (*Slept*)

How did Jesus respond when the mob came? (*Jesus was at peace and prepared. He knew what He had to do.*)

How did the disciples respond? (*Verse 56 – they fled*)

When did Jesus prepare himself, before or after the “storm” came? (*Before*)

Read Matthew 7:24-27. Who are the two men in this parable? (*Wise man, foolish man*)

When did they build their house, before or after the storm came? (*Before*)

?? *Even the foolish man understood the importance of building the house before the storm came. The problem is he built on the wrong foundation.*

Have you built your house on Jesus Christ?

Are you ready for the storms of life?

### **Challenge:**

Take some time to discuss how you can prepare your life for the challenges that are coming. Allow each person to share the things that they are doing to prepare themselves for the storms of life.

**Family Project:** Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

## **God Chose to Forgive Us Week # 9**

**OBJECTIVE:** To identify the way a Christian can be forgiven of sin.

### **Feasting on the Word:**

I John 2:1-2

Acts 8:22

I John 1:8-10

### **Family Discussion:**

Who is the propitiation for our sins? (*Jesus*)

What does propitiation mean? (*Something that appeases, satisfies a debt*)

What “covers” our sins? (*Rom. 5:6-10 – the blood of Christ*)

In Acts 8:22, what did Peter tell Simon to do when he sinned? (*Repent and pray*)

What does repent mean? (*Refer to lesson #5, Acts 3:19*)

What are we told to do with our sins in I John 1:9? (*Confess our sins*)

Who do we confess our sins to? (*God - Acts 8:22*)

Read James 5:16, why would it be good to confess our sins to one another? (*It helps us hold each other accountable. It gives us support when we are weak.*)

### **Challenge:**

If you are a Christian, take time to evaluate your life and see if there are sins that you need to repent of and ask God to forgive. Conclude with a prayer of repentance and thanksgiving for God giving us a way to be forgiven from the sins that separate us from Him.

**Family Project:** Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

## Choose to Forgive Others Week # 10

**OBJECTIVE:** To discuss the need to forgive others when they do wrong against us.

### **Feasting on the Word:**

Ephesians 4:31-32

Colossians 3:12-13

Matthew 6:14-15

### **Family Discussion:**

What does it mean to forgive someone? (*To excuse a mistake done to you and not hold it against the perpetrator.*)

Why should we be willing to forgive others? (*Because God forgave us*)

Read Matthew 18:21-35. How much money did the 1<sup>st</sup> servant owe the master? (*Verse 24 - 10,000 talents – 1 talent = 6 denarii. 1 denarii = 1 days wage. If we use the sum of \$50 earned a day, it would equal \$3,000,000,000.00. The point is, he could have NEVER repaid that sum.*)

What did the master do with the debt the 1<sup>st</sup> servant owed? (*Verse 27*)

What did the 2<sup>nd</sup> servant owe the 1<sup>st</sup> servant? (*Verse 28*)

How much would that have been today? (*Roughly \$5000.00*)

What did the 1<sup>st</sup> servant do to the 2<sup>nd</sup> servant? (*Verse 30*)

What did the master do when he heard what had happened? (*Verse 32-34*)

What will our heavenly Father do to us if we do not forgive from the heart? (*Verse 35*)

Looking back at Matthew 6:14-15, how important is it to forgive others?

**Challenge:** Is there someone in your life that gets on your nerves? Is there someone that you allow to make you mad? If so, pray for that person every day this week. Ask God to help you forgive that person as He has forgiven you!

**Family Project:** Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

## Choose Your Priorities Week # 11

**OBJECTIVE:** To discuss the need to put God first in your life.

### **Feasting on the Word:**

Matthew 6:33

Psalms 34:10

Psalms 105:3-4

Hebrews 11:6

### **Family Discussion:**

What word links all of these verses together? (*Seek*)

What does it mean to “seek”? (*To endeavor to obtain, to go towards*)

What position should God hold in our lives?

Read Matthew 14:22-32. When Peter stepped out of the boat, where do you believe his eyes were focused?

What enabled Peter to actually walk on water?

What caused Peter to sink?

Where should our spiritual eyes be focused?

What will enable us to successfully walk on this earth and make it to heaven?

What will cause us to sink?

**Challenge:** Take a few minutes to list your top five priorities in life. Now identify how much time you spend doing the following: talking on the phone, playing games, sports, school/work, eating, sleeping, watching T.V. Now identify how much time you spend doing the following: studying the Bible, praying, talking to people about Jesus, serving others for the cause of Christ. Is God truly #1 in your life? Conclude by discussing how you as a family can encourage each other to put God first.

**Family Project:** Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

## **Choose Your Support Group Week # 12**

**OBJECTIVE:** To discuss and identify the need to have a Christian support group to help us through life.

### **Feasting on the Word:**

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Galatians 6:1-2

Hebrews 10:24-25

I Corinthians 15:33

### **Family Discussion:**

In what ways would two people helping each other be better than one person working alone? (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

In what ways would two Christians helping each other make it better than one Christian trying to make it on "his own"?

What should a Christian do when he sees another Christian doing something he should not be doing? (Galatians 6:1)

How would having Christians who would actually come talk to you when things are going wrong help you as a Christian?

What is one purpose of the church? (Hebrews 10:24)

Where would a good place be to get our support group?

Are the people that you are relying on to help you people that are going to help you make it to heaven? (I Corinthians 15:33)

### **Challenge:**

Take a few minutes to identify your personal support group. Who are the people who you spend most of your time with? Are they people who will help you with your Christian walk? If not, then what should you do? Read I Corinthians 6:14-18. How will this verse affect whom you have as a support group? Conclude with a prayer of thanksgiving of having a Christian family that will support each other.

**Family Project:** Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

## **Choose God's Word as the Guide**

### **Week # 13**

**OBJECTIVE:** To discuss the need to follow God's Word as our guide to navigate life on this earth.

#### **Feasting on the Word:**

Hebrews 4:12

James 1:22-25

Psalm 119:9-10, 105

II Timothy 2:15

Acts 17:10-11

#### **Family Discussion:**

How powerful is the Word of God? (Hebrews 4:12)

Should we just hear the powerful message of God? (James 1:22)

James compares the Bible to what in James 1:23-24? (*A mirror*)

How is the Bible our spiritual mirror? (*When we look in it we should see ourselves in the way we are living.*)

How can a young man keep his life pure? (Psalm 119:9)

How should we seek God? (Psalm 119:10)

How will we know God and what He wants for our lives? (II Timothy 2:15) (*By spending time studying about Him and what He wants for us.*)

How did the Bereans receive the Word of God? (Acts 10-11)

How often did they study the Word of God? (*Daily*)

What would be the benefits of studying God's Word daily?

**Challenge:** Talk about your daily Bible study. If you do not study your Bible daily, work on developing a support group within your family to encourage each other in their daily study. Turn to page 18 and review a simple way to study. This may help get you started.

**Family Project:** Take time to work on your family project. (Refer to list.)

## **Suggestions for Family Projects**

?? Memorize the books of the New Testament.

?? Memorize the books of the Old Testament.

?? Develop an outreach of service that you and your family can do.

- Write cards to the missionaries.
- Write cards to the shut-ins, widows or widowers.
- Write notes of appreciation to your Bible class teachers.
- Mow someone's yard.
- Plant some flowers for someone.
- Put together a care package for someone in need.
- Spend a day working at the Barely Used Resale Shop in Tyler. (See Tony for more information.)
- Visit the nursing home.
- Sponsor an orphan in our outreach in China. (See Greg Taylor on how to reach Ron Brown, the missionary for China.)

?? Memorize I Corinthians 13.

?? Memorize the 12 Apostles.

?? Memorize the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.

?? Memorize the 12 sons of Jacob.

?? Memorize the verses that teach us the plan of salvation.

As you can see there are unlimited opportunities to develop your family. Take time to come up with some of your own ideas to put Christianity to work in your family! I know God will bless you!

# Spending Time with God

A suggested plan for 15 minutes a day

## Relax (1 minute)

?? Take one minute to focus your mind on God. (Psalm 46:10)

## Read (4 minutes)

?? Take four minutes to read from the Word of God. Focus on listening to God as He speaks to YOU. Have an open mind and an open heart.

## Reflect (4 minutes)

?? Think through what you just read. How does this passage apply to your life? How does this apply to your relationship with God, your family, the church, and the world in which you live?

## Record (2 minutes)

?? Write down important questions, observations and personal applications from your reading. Decide on at least one action step to take based on what you learned today.

## Request (4 minutes)

?? Pray to God with thanksgiving and express your needs to Him and your dependence on Him.

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