YOU CANNOT SERVE two MASTERS
A few weeks ago, I was standing in front of our church when a car pulled up with two young men inside. One of the young men called my name and said, “Do you remember me?” I looked at him for a moment, but did not recognize who this young man was. Then he said, “I used to come to Sunday School. You were one of my teachers.” My heart instantly warmed to see one of the kids who came to our Sunday School all grown up. I walked over to the car and asked him how he was doing. He said he was fine. Then I leaned into the car a little. I could see beer in the car and I could smell marijuana in his breath, so I got ready to ask him my next question, “Are you serving God?” He looked at me and said, “You know I have God in my heart.” I said to him, “That’s not what I asked. I asked are you serving God?” He put his head down and said, “It was nice to see you again.” Then the car sped off.

It broke my heart to see that this young man had not made a decision to serve God as his master. Today we will be teaching the kids the importance of choosing God as their master. In life, there are two kingdoms: God's kingdom and Satan's kingdom. You can serve God as your master, or you can serve Satan as your master. There is no "in between." The kids must be shown, in a clear way, that even if they decide not to choose, they are still choosing Satan as their master. Satan wants these kids more than anything to choose to serve him, or worse still, to try and stand in the middle, where they will be choosing him as their master anyway. Satan knows he can trap them within that place, and he can ruin their lives.

Today if the children want to serve God as their master, they must make a choice. It is not enough for them to say they have God in their hearts or for them to just assume that everyone is serving God. Serving God is a choice that needs to be made. You choose God just like you choose anything else. The children also need to know that if they decide not to make a choice, then they are choosing Satan as their master.

I wish this young man understood that by not choosing to serve God as his master, he was really choosing Satan as his master. You cannot serve two masters. You are either serving Satan or you are serving God. Today, the children in your Kids’ Church must choose.
PRE-OPENING ACTIVITY: Shout Outs

Participants: Microphone, a “runner” to pick kids with Shout Outs, someone to screen Shout Outs.

Props: Jelly beans and a container.

Preparation: Tell the runner to choose boys and girls who are sitting down with their hand up.

Playing: Shout Outs” are positive announcements that someone gives about someone else, such as God, a friend, family, Kids’ Church teacher, etc. To start off, give the kids an example of a Shout Out. Some examples are: “I want to shout out God for always looking out for my family,” “I want to shout out Pastor Bill for loving me and teaching me about God,” or “I want to shout out my friend Kevin for inviting me here to Kids’ Church.” The runner will go back and forth to the boys and girls teams picking kids to come up to the stage to give a “Shout Out”. When the kids get to the front, have them line up at the microphone. Make sure you have someone to screen what the kids are going to say before they project it into the microphone. This is to prevent the possibility of an inappropriate “Shout Out”. (For example: a girl making an inappropriate comment about a boy or a boy bashing the girl's team.) This is meant to be a positive activity.

OPENING

Welcome
Rules
Opening Prayer
Pledges
Songs of your Choosing
4 Reasons

GAME TIME

1. Watermelon Seed Spit
Props: A watermelon, two wastebaskets, and a table.

2. Name That Tune
Props: An instrumental Praise and Worship CD of songs that you sing in your Kids’ Church (you could use a musician from your praise and worship team instead of the CD).
LESSON TIME

Short Overview of the Lesson
Quiet Seats Explanation
Props: 4 red balloons, 4 blue balloons, a whistle, and quiet seat prizes.

Lesson Introduction
Props: Long piece of wood 2x4 supported by two chairs and three actors - God, Satan, and a person.

Power Point: You cannot serve two masters.
Sub points:
1. When you do not choose, the choice is made for you
2. When you choose Satan you will fall
3. When you choose God you will rise

Memory Verse
“Today I am giving you a choice. You can choose life and success or death and disaster.”
(Deuteronomy 30:15)
Props: Overhead projector, blank transparency or posterboards.

Bible Lesson: “Satan’s kingdom vs. God’s Kingdom” (Job)
Props: A toy snake as the serpent, three Bible costumes and three actors: God, Satan, and Job

Object Lesson #1: “When you do not choose, the choice is made for you.”
Props: A baby doll

Object Lesson #2: “When you choose Satan you will fall.”
Props: Four medium sized stones or bricks, six large empty boxes, and a volunteer

Object Lesson #3: “When you choose God you will rise”
Props: A clear container, ten hollow plastic eggs, five of one color and 5 of a different color, and sand.

Life Lesson: “Angela Apple and Orlando the Orange”
Props: Illustrated Story

NEXT WEEK
Satan Will Tempt you
Director’s Note
Taming a Lion
Hey kids. Praise God! You know what? I am so excited to be at Sunday School today. You know why? Because God is here and He's going to show us some things about Himself today. I love when God makes Himself real to me, but I love it even more when I see Him do it for you guys. That is why I am excited and glad to be here today.

Have any of you ever played “Simon Says”? What do you do when Simon says to do something? You just do it, right? Well, that is what you do with any kind of master that you have; you do whatever they tell you to do. In life we need to choose who our master is going to be and that is what we are going to talk about today. We are going to help you choose one master. It is going to be a good day. So, I want to get started. I want everybody to put up two hands and we are going to count down from 10. Ready? 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

**RULES**

Kids’ Church always works best when we work together. When we follow rules, things run smoothly. There are many children here today. In order for us all to have fun and learn, we all have to follow the same rules. We do not play favorites in Kids’ Church and we do not allow bullies either. We all follow the same rules. Today we have a shortcut to help us remember the rules. The shortcut is the word “SOW.” Let us sow a good seed today by obeying the rules. *Keep the rules posted or write them on the chalkboard or on poster board.*

Let us review the rules:
- S- Stay in your seat.
- O- Obey your leaders.
- W- Whistle means quiet.
OPENING

OPENING PRAYER

God,
Thank You so much for being so good to us. Thank You for wanting to meet with us. We love You God. Please fill us up and help us have fun today. Please teach us about You and help us choose you as our master. Thank You so much, In Jesus’ name, Amen.

PLEDGES

Graphics are included in the power point presentation.

SONGS OF YOUR CHOOSING

If you have a Praise and Worship team, it would be great to implement them for this part of your service. If you do not have a Praise and Worship team, then use CDs. Try to play songs that the kids will know. Have the songs written on transparencies or posterboards so the entire audience can see the words and participate in your Praise and Worship time.
THE FOUR REASONS WHY WE COME TO KIDS’ CHURCH

Props: Posterboard or overhead projector so everyone can see the “Four Reasons.”

Every week, always take time to teach the kids why they come to Kids’ Church. “Spaced Repetition” is the name of the teaching technique that we employ at this point in the lesson. The concept is simple; by reinforcing and repeating these four key truths every week, it becomes ingrained in our children. Have the kids repeat “The Four Reasons Why We Come to Kids’ Church.” You can even give rewards to kids who can say them correctly without help. Pick two boys and two girls, and have them say the “Four Reasons” without looking at them. Doing this every week can be a great start for your kids to always know why they are doing the things we tell them to do every week.

1. To love God first
2. To learn His word
3. To lead others to Jesus
4. To live right every day

Graphics are included in the Powerpoint Presentation.

Before you pick the two boys and girls to say the four reasons, teach them to everyone as a group. You can start off by saying to the kids, “If you are in school and someone asks you why you go to church, what will you say?”
Lesson 5

**Leader’s Notes**

1. Use your game time as a review time.
2. Make sure you have two opposing teams.
3. Assign runners.
4. Assign someone to operate your CD player.
5. Put someone in charge of organizing and cleaning up games.
6. Put someone in charge of giving out prizes.
7. Ask simple questions.
8. Explain the game well.
10. Make sure you rehearse the games with your workers.

**GAME TIME**

Games are fun and exciting. I do not know one single kid who does not like to play games. I do not know one single kid who does not like to win cool prizes after playing a game. Let’s face it, kids are bored at church. They want to laugh, play, and have fun. Teachers want them to learn the Word of God. Is it not possible to have both? Who says Sunday School has to be dry and boring? There is a middle ground. Include games in your Sunday School.

Game Time should be:

- A review of last week’s lesson
- Fun
- Organized

**A review of last week’s lesson**

The only way that kids can play a game, is if they answer a question from last week’s lesson. Instantaneously, kids are going to start listening to your teaching every week because they want to play a game.

**Fun**

Game time must be fun! Make sure your games are exciting and unpredictable not get in a rut with your games. You need to keep the kids guessing as to what will happen next.

**Organized**

We call game time, “controlled chaos.” We want the kids to have the most fun they can have in a controlled environment. There is a lot of organization required for game time. For instance, someone has to:

- **Set-up and clean-up the game**
- **Pick kids to answer the review question**
- **Operate the CD player**
- **Help the kids pick a prize**
REVIEW QUESTIONS
Select one child from each team who can answer their review question correctly to play in this first game. Allow each child to choose one partner of the same sex to play this game with them.

1. Trust in God when ______ times come? Answer-Hard.
2. The memory verse said, “Trust in the Lord with all your _______? Answer-Heart

GAME #1
Watermelon Seed Spit
Participants: Two boys and two girls

Props: A watermelon, 2 wastebaskets, and a table.

Preparation: Slice the watermelon into many pieces and set it on the table. The participants will stand on either side of the table with a wastebasket about 7 feet away.

Playing: When you say “Go,” all of the participants will grab a slice of watermelon from the table. They will take a bite, trying to get watermelon seeds in their mouth. Once they have a seed in their mouth, they will spit the seed into their wastebasket. If the seed goes in it is one point. If their watermelon does not have any more seeds, they may take another watermelon slice from the table. The team with the most watermelon seeds in their wastebasket is the winner.
Lesson 5

1. Use your game time as a review time.
2. Make sure you have two opposing teams.
3. Assign runners.
4. Assign someone to operate your CD player.
5. Put someone in charge of organizing and cleaning up games.
6. Put someone in charge of giving out prizes.
7. Ask simple questions.
8. Explain the game well.
10. Make sure you rehearse the games with your workers.

Leader's Notes

Review Questions

Select one child from each team who can answer their review question correctly to play in this second game. Allow each child to choose five partners of the same sex to play this game with them.

1. When King Nebuchadnezzar threatened to throw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace did they trust in their God? Answer-Yes.
2. In the story Penny Pigeon was stuck on a thin small branch, when she leaped off who caught her? Answer-Her father.

Game #2

Name That Tune

Participants: Six girls and six boys.

Props: An instrumental Praise and Worship CD of songs that you sing in your Kids' Church (you can use a musician from your Praise and Worship team instead of playing the CD).

Preparation: Prepare at least eight selections of music for the game. Make sure they are songs that the children will be able to recognize.

Playing: The object is to guess the praise tunes as the instrumental (only) portion is played. Each team lines up facing the audience. They may only guess or speak when they have been called on. Participants raise their hands to make guesses. The correct answer is rewarded with a prize. Participants must sit down if their guesses are wrong. However, consider awarding a consolation prize such as a bag of candy.
LESSON TIME

SHORT OVERVIEW OF THE LESSON

Power Point
You cannot serve two masters

Direction
You have to choose

Memory Verse
“Today I am giving you a choice. You can choose life and success or death and disaster” (Deuteronomy 30:15)

Sub Points
• When you do not choose, the choice is made for you
• When you choose Satan, you will fall
• When you choose God, you will rise

KEY WORDS AND KEY PHRASES

Key words and Key phrases that should be used throughout the lesson.

You cannot serve two masters
You have to choose
Serve
Choice
Master
Choice (Object Lesson #1)
Fall (Object Lesson #2)
Rise (Object Lesson #3)
You cannot serve two masters

QUIET SEAT

Props: You will need a loud whistle, four blue balloons for the boys’ side, and four red balloons for the girls’ side. You will also need helpers on the boys’ side and helpers on the girls’ side to pass out the “Quiet Seat” prizes. Prizes like candy, snacks, or Bibles are all effective prizes. The prizes are given only to the kids who are the quietest during the teaching time. The “Quiet Seat” time officially starts after the whistle has been blown.

Presentation: Boys, I have four balloons on your side. If I see you talking to your friends or playing with your neighbor, I am going to pop a balloon. If I pop all four of your balloons, I am going to give all of the candy to the girls. Girls, you also have four balloons. If I see any type of distraction on the girls’ side, I am going to pop a balloon. If I pop all four of your balloons, I am going to give all of the candy to the boys. I have quiet seat watchers walking around looking for the perfect kids. A perfect kid is a kid who is sitting up straight, feet on the floor, hands in your laps, and whose eyes are on the teachers. If the quiet seat watchers see a perfect kid, they will slip a piece of candy into your hand. You are not to eat that candy until you are outside of the building. Everyone should be sitting up straight with your feet flat on the floor. No one should be moving around at this time. The bathrooms are now closed. The only ones who will be moving around in here are the quiet seat watchers. Their job is to watch you, not us. If I see anyone talking, I will pop a balloon. You know what happens if we pop all of your balloons; you go home today with nothing. We are now ready for the most important time of the day. It is now time for the preaching of the Word of God. On the count of three, I will blow my whistle, and quiet seat time will officially began. One, two, and three. (Blow the whistle.)

Leader’s Notes

Props: You will need a loud whistle, four blue balloons for the boys’ side, and four red balloons for the girls’ side. You will also need helpers on the boys’ side and helpers on the girls’ side to pass out the “Quiet Seat” prizes. Prizes like candy, snacks, or Bibles are all effective prizes. The prizes are given only to the kids who are the quietest during the teaching time. The “Quiet Seat” time officially starts after the whistle has been blown.

Tips

1. Use pauses
2. Look at the kids when you are talking to them.
3. Do not pace. (Stand strong and make purposeful movements.)
4. Make sure you speak with authority. (This does not mean yelling; it means having a clear, strong and stern voice.)
5. “Quiet Seat” time does not officially begin until you blow the whistle. (You can not pop a balloon until you blow the whistle.)
**Lesson Notes**

Props: Long piece of wood (2x4) supported by two chairs.  
1 character dressed as God.  
1 character dressed as Satan.  
1 person to walk the 2x4

Presentation: You cannot serve two masters. On this earth and in this universe, there are only two kingdoms. First, there is the kingdom of light which is God's kingdom. *(God enters.)* God is Lord. He is the master of this kingdom. Secondly, there is the kingdom of darkness which is Satan's kingdom. *(Satan enters.)* Satan has set himself up as Lord. He is the master of this kingdom.

You need to know that there are not three kingdoms; it is not God's Kingdom, Satan's Kingdom, and your kingdom. You are either serving God or you're serving Satan. You cannot serve two masters. You have to choose.

Some people try to walk in the middle. They live their lives on a fence. *(Illustration 1—Volunteer stands on the 2x4 piece of wood)* and they try to enjoy both worlds. In church, they serve God, *(Illustration 2—Volunteer reaches for God character)* but at school and home, they ignore God and live how they want to live. *(Illustration 3—Volunteer reaches for Satan.)* They fight, curse, lie, steal: knowing that God asks us not to do these things and to live differently.

Instead of fighting, God wants us to love one another. Instead of cursing, God wants us to speak kind words to people. Instead of lying, God wants us to tell the truth. Instead of stealing, God wants us to live for Him. God wants us to seek His face, and no other.
(Illustration 4--person tries to balance in the middle.)

Anybody who thinks they can live in the middle is deceived. This middle line does not exist. The Bible says, “You cannot serve two masters.” You have to choose.

- When you do not choose, the choice is made for you
- When you choose Satan, you will fall
- When you choose God, you will rise
Today I am giving you a choice. You can either choose life and success or death and disaster. Deuteronomy 30:15 (CEV)

Props: Overhead projector and a transparency with the scripture verse written on it. If you do not have an overhead projector then use posterboard with the verse written in markers large enough so everyone can read it.

Preparation: Set the overhead before the lesson begins so all you have to do is turn the projector on. Or if you have a posterboard with the verse written on it, make sure it is ready to be carried out.

Presentation: Today’s memory verse is found in the Old Testament part of the Bible. It is found in the book of Deuteronomy. It says, “Today I am giving you a choice. You can choose life and success or death and disaster.” This means, that today you have a choice to make. On this side, if you choose God as your master, then you will get life and success. On this side, if you choose Satan as your master, you will get death and disaster. It's as simple as that. You cannot live in the middle. You cannot serve two masters. You have to make a choice.

To prepare for this lesson, meditate on these scriptures;

Luke 19:10
For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Romans 1:16a
I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.

Romans 10:10
For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Corinthians 7:10
Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

Romans 10:13
All who call out to the Lord will be saved.

Joel 2:32a
Then anyone who calls on the LORD will be saved.

Acts 4:12
Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

Preacher helper

Pr. 15:4
A gentle tongue is a tree of life...a bad teacher’s words will fall on his students as hail; and a good teacher’s, as gentle as the dew.
SATAN’S KINGDOM VS. GOD’S KINGDOM

Job

Props: A toy snake as the serpent, three Bible costumes and three actors: God, Satan, and Job.

Point: Deal with the issues in your heart.

Preparation: The actors that play God and Satan in the intro should remain to show the two masters. They will stand on opposite sides of the stage.

Point: Today, you have to choose which master you will serve.

Presentation: Satan wants to be your master. He is a liar, a deceiver, someone who wants to crush you and ruin your life. (Point to Satan.) At the very beginning, the Bible says that Satan appeared as a serpent to the first man and woman: Adam and Eve. (Illustration 5—Teacher holds up the snake for children to see.) Satan came to them, and tempted them to eat of the fruit that God told them not to eat. Because they ate the fruit, evil spread throughout the whole world. This is who you are choosing to serve if you choose Satan as your master. He will tempt you. He will try to stop you from doing what God wants you to do. Throughout the whole Bible, Satan is shown as a liar, someone who wants to hurt you, your worst enemy. In the Bible there was a man named Job.

(Illustration 6—Job enters stage and stands near Satan.)
Job was persecuted, crushed and broken apart. He thought that God was causing him to suffer, but in fact he was suffering at the hands of Satan. This is the torment that you will suffer with Satan as your master. God knows exactly who Satan is and He knows the torment he wants to inflict upon you. God does not want you to choose Satan as your master. He does not want you to suffer. For that reason God gave a message to an apostle named Paul to give to all mankind. This is what God said to Paul.

God: I want you to open their eyes, so that they will turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then their sins will be forgiven, and by faith in me, they will become part of God's holy kingdom.

Teacher: Listen, there are two kingdoms:The first, Satan's kingdom, is the kingdom of darkness where the master Satan is a liar, a deceiver, someone who wants to crush you and ruin your life. The second, God's kingdom, is the kingdom of light where the Master loves you, He will never lie to you. Has an amazing plan for your life.

You cannot serve two masters. You've seen what Satan wants for your life, and you've seen what God wants for your life. You have to choose which master you will serve.
OBJECT LESSON 1
You have Made your Choice

Props: A baby doll

Point: When you do not choose the choice is made for you.

Preparation: Place the fish on the hook of the fishing pole.

Presentation: How many of you remember when you were a baby as tiny as this one in my hand? *(Illustration 6--Hold the baby in your arms and allow kids to respond.)* I do not remember being a tiny baby like this. I do not remember being born in a hospital. I do not remember taking my first breath. I do not remember my mom's first words to me. I also do not remember having a choice of what city I would be born into, or what neighborhood I would live in. That choice was already made for me. I had to live wherever my parents lived. I was born into whatever situation my parents were living in. The choices my parents made determined the conditions I would be born into. Who chose the city you were born into? Your parents did!

It is the same with our very first parents. Adam and Eve were the very first people created. They sinned against God, darkness ruled the earth, and Satan became the master. Then, they had their first child. He was born into sin, because that was the condition of the world his parents created. The choice had already been made for him. Then, Adam and Eve's children had children, and they were born into sin. Everyone is born into sin. Who is the master of this kingdom? Satan is! That is how everyone is born under the rule of the kingdom of darkness. When you were born, you were born into Satan's kingdom, the choice has already been made for you.
This is why you have to choose to live in God's kingdom, so that God can be your master. Because of our first parents, Adam and Eve, you were automatically born into sin. If you do not ask God to become your new master, you will remain serving the other master—Satan. You have to make the choice to make God your Master. If you do not choose the choice is made for you, Satan is your master. Today you must choose who you will serve. You cannot serve two masters.

**OBJECT LESSON 2**

I've Fallen and I Can't Get Up

**Props:** Four medium-sized stones or bricks, six large empty boxes, and a volunteer.

**Point:** When you choose Satan, you will fall.

**Presentation:** (Teacher enters talking to a volunteer)

Teacher: Ok, if you are going to help build the kingdom of God, it will be hard work. You must first build a solid foundation. You see those stones? (Point to the medium size stone at the back of the stage.) We will build with these kinds of stones. These are the kinds of things that will help you build a solid foundation in the kingdom of God.

Knowing God's Word
Loving God
Telling others about Jesus
Living for God

But look at these boxes. (Point to the boxes.) These boxes represent the stones God has rejected. You cannot build a solid foundation on these stones because they represent these things:

Stealing candy from the store
Bullying kids in school
Listening to bad music
Telling lies to your mom
We cannot build anything for God using those stones. *(Point to the boxes.)* These stones were given by Satan. Those who serve Satan build with these stones. You will build for one of the two masters. You have to choose which one. *(Teacher exits)*

**Boy: (Thinking out loud)** God's kingdom, Satan's kingdom, knowing God's Word *(Illustration — Barely moves the stone)*... Loving God *(Barely moves the stone)* Telling others about Jesus *(Barely moves the stone)* Living for God *(Barely moves the stone)*

**Satan: (Enters, but remains in background)** That's a lot of hard work. I can help you get the job done faster, if you choose to serve me. I mean it's your choice.

**Boy:** No! My master said I should...

**Satan: (Interrupts)** Let me guess, build a solid foundation using those heavy stones that you can barely move.

**Boy:** Yeah, how did you know that?

Satan: If I were your master, I would definitely make your work easier.

**Boy:** How?

**Satan:** I would allow you to build with these stones. *(He points to the boxes.)* They are much better to build with. But it's up to you.

**Boy:** *(Takes 5 seconds to think about it)* umm, uhh, well...

**Satan:** Try one more time. *(Illustration 7—Boy pushes but barely moves the stone)* Choose my way. This could go much faster. The choice is yours.
Boy: I choose to build with your blocks. *(Illustration 8—Satan exits and the boy starts stacking the empty boxes on top of each other.)*

Teacher: *(Illustration 9—Enters)* What are you doing?

Boy: I found an easier way to do the work. Look at these blocks. I’ll be finished in no time. *(He puts on the last block.)*

Teacher: You have chosen the wrong master. Everything you build for Satan will one day fall. *(Knock over the first box.)*

Stealing candy from the store. *(Knock over the second box.)*

Bullying kids in school. *(Knock over the third box.)*

Listening to bad music. *(Knock over the fourth box.)*

Telling lies to your mom. *(Illustration 10--Knock over the fifth box.)*

You will fall just like Satan. The Bible says, “How you have fallen from Heaven, Satan…” *When you choose Satan, you will fall.*

You cannot serve two masters. You have to choose.

**OBJECT LESSON 3**

*When Jesus is your Master, you will rise.*

**Props:** A fish bowl, or a clear container filled with water, 10 hollow plastic eggs, five of one color, and five of the other color. Leave five empty and fill the other five with sand.

**Point:** *When you choose God, you will rise.*

**Presentation:** So, why should you choose God? Why not just choose Satan as your master? This is why: because God is the one who cares for you. *When you choose God, you will rise.*
When you do not choose God as your master, you are not prepared to handle difficult situations. This egg represents you. *(Illustration 11—Take one of the sand eggs and hold it up for everyone to see.)*

When, that kid in school picks on you, you will get angry, lash out and get in big trouble at school. *(Take one of the sand eggs, and place it in the water. It will sink.)* Without God as your master, you will sink. When your parents are fighting and you feel unloved, without God as your master, you will sink and start to find love in other places. *(Take another one of the sand eggs, and repeat the process.)*When you feel all alone and overwhelmed with the problems in your life, without God as your master, you sink into depression. *(Take another sand egg, and repeat again.)* When you go through these difficult situations without God as your master, you will sink.

*But when you choose God you will rise* above these situations. When that kid in school picks on you, God will help you to get through it. He will help you turn and walk away. *(Illustration 12—Take one of the empty eggs, push to the bottom of the water, let go, and watch it rise.)* With God as your master, you will rise above that situation. When your parents are fighting and you feel unloved, God will show you that He loves you with an everlasting love. *(Take another empty egg, and repeat again.)* With God as your master, you will rise above that situation. When you feel all alone and overwhelmed, you will know that God is with you and that He will never leave you or forsake you. *(Illustration 13—Take another empty egg, and repeat again.)* With God as your master, you will rise above that situation. The only difference between you sinking and rising, is which master you choose to serve. When you choose God, you will rise.
Special note:
Whenever you see quotations in the story, that means one of the characters is talking. This would be a good time to create a voice for that character. Voices create a wonderful dynamic to your story. Don’t create a voice for all the characters. Pick the two main characters.

The root of the vine
The love of God must clearly be expressed in this lesson. People get involved in all kinds of stuff because they really don’t believe that God loves them.

Lesson 5
Leader’s Notes

Today’s Life Story

Angela the Apple and Orlando the Orange

Frame 1
Franklin Porter had a farm in West Haven, Tennessee. In the back of the farm was a small vineyard. Franklin really loved his vineyard and all the grapes in it. Franklin had one rule for the grapes. He told them all the time, “Stay connected to the vine.” Franklin was not an ordinary farmer; he was their master.

Frame 2
There was one grape name Gretta. She was the baby of the group. She would always get bored listening to the older grapes talk. She didn’t have sisters or brothers. She wished she had friends her own age to talk to. It was hard for Gretta to imagine having friends because she was always connected to the vine.

Frame 3
One night as the grapes were sleeping, two other fruits came over to the vineyard. They were running around playing silly games. Gretta saw them and wanted to play with them. “Hey! Over here. Come over here you guys,” she yelled.
Frame 4

Angela the apple and Orlando the orange went over to see who was calling them. “Hi, my name is Gretta. Can you guys stay over here and play with me?” she asked. Angela and Orlando had big plans. They weren’t going to spend the whole night in a vineyard. They asked Gretta to come with them. Gretta told them that the farmer told all the grapes to stay connected to the vine. Angela and Orlando looked at Gretta and said, “Don’t worry. The master told us to stay on the tree, but nothing bad has happened to us since we left. Gretta really wanted to go with them but she kept thinking, “There has to be a good reason the farmer told us to stay connected to the vine”. She didn’t know what to do. She was confused.

Preaching Point
There was no need for Gretta to be confused. The only thing for her to do was obey what the farmer told her to do. The farmer is Gretta’s master. She should serve him and not those other fruits. You cannot serve two masters. There is constantly a battle that goes on in your brain. “Should I lie? Should I disobey my mom? Should I steal money from my mom’s purse?” You know the answer to all these questions. You should not do these things because God says these things are wrong. When you decide to serve God you should never think twice about these things. You should never be confused about what to do. Your decisions are clear. Serve God and do what He wants you to do. The confusion happens when you have not decided that God and only God, will be your master. One minute you will do what is right, and the next minute you will do what you want. You are confused because you do not know which master to serve. You cannot serve two masters.
Gretta knew her decision was clear and easy to make. “The farmer said stay connected to the vine and that’s what I’m going to do.”

Frame 5
All night Angela and Orlando ran around the farm doing wild and crazy things. They went to the barn and woke up the animals. There was one Hen name Harriet who was very mean. She did not like it when people woke her up. She was so mad, she chased Angela and Orlando all around the farm. She kept screaming at them, “When I catch you, I’m going to peck a hole in you! What are you doing out here anyway? The master told you to stay on your tree!”

Frame 6
They saw a ladder attached to the side of the house and climbed it to the roof. When they finally got to the safety of the roof they started to think about the next crazy thing they would do. Angela had a great idea, “Why don't we go over to the other side of the farm and wake up the weeds?” She thought that would be funny, but Orlando thought about what Harriet said. “Maybe we should go back to our tree. Maybe we should listen to the Master”. Angela laughed at him and said, “That won't be any fun. Come on, let's go wake up the weeds.”
Frame 7

They ran all the way to the other side of the farm where the weeds were and snuck very, very close to the weeds. The plan was to count to three, scream, and run as fast as they could. “One, two three, WAKE UP!” Angela and Orlando began to run, but before he could run away the weeds grabbed Orlando and wouldn’t let go.

Preaching Point

The weeds do not like the fruit. Every time the weeds see fruit they try to grow with them so they can destroy them. The Master knew this. He always chopped the weeds down when they grew near the fruit. If Orlando had made a clear decision to obey the farmer and only the farmer he would not be in this mess. He thought he could do whatever was fun to do and forget about the farmer. I want you to know, there is nothing wrong with having fun and playing with your friends, but if your friends try to get you to do something God says not to do, you have to choose to serve God every time. You cannot serve two masters. We will get into trouble when we start to think we know how to live our own lives and we do not have to serve God. We are just like Orlando and Angela; none of us know what we are doing.

Frame 8

Angela tried and tried to pull Orlando away from the weed but she couldn't. The weeds had a tight grip. She yelled at the weeds. She begged the weeds, but they would not let her friend go. Finally, she started to yell for help. “Help! Someone help me! I need help!”
TODAY’S LIFE STORY

Frame 9
The only person who could hear her was Gretta. Gretta started to cry for Angela and Orlando, but she knew, no matter what, she was supposed to stay on the vine. Gretta started to yell, “Angela, quick, run back to the tree.” But, Angela could not get back to the tree. She was so weak; she could barely stand. She tried to run away but she slipped and fell.

Preaching Point
Angela had never been separated from the tree before. The tree was her source of life. It gave her strength. Now that she was separated from the branches she was very weak. Everything in your life is different when you become separated from the one who gives you life. We have a tree that gives us life and that is God. God is our Master. If we are not serving him we will fall every time. We take two steps in life and the devil knocks us down again. He does not care about us. The devil is like the weeds. He wants you to serve him so he can destroy you. You cannot serve two masters. If God is your master he is the only one you should serve. Angela learned this lesson but it was too late.

Frame 10
Once she fell and was on the ground the weeds grabbed her. They started to squeeze her so tightly she could barely breathe. She screamed one last time for help, but no one could save her. The weeds destroyed her. You would think the weeds were her problem, but they were not. Her real problem was that she tried to serve two masters.
**POINT OF DECISION**

You cannot serve two masters. You must make a choice. You never know how one decision will affect the rest of your life. If you choose to serve the devil you will eventually fall and maybe take people with you. The decision you need to make today is, that no matter what is going on in your life, you will only serve one master and that is God. It is a tough decision, but one everyone must make. Are you ready to make the decision today to serve God and make him your only master? If you are, raise you hand. I want to pray for you.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Repeat this prayer after me.

Dear God, I choose you today as my master. I realize that I do not want Satan as my master, and that I have to choose. Today I choose You because I know that You have what is best for me. God please help me to serve You everyday. You are my master.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.
This is a fast-paced and confusing world, especially for our kids. They are bombarded with media of every type from every side. As we do our best to reach them, realize that we can not teach them everything. Concentrate on what is really important. Focus on what God desires in the time you have. This is why: Do you know how much time a faithful kid spends learning in Sunday School? I found one report that figured that after subtracting time for taking attendance, getting organized and all the stuff of doing Sunday School, the learning boils down to about 17 hours a year. We do not have time to waste!

If our concept of passing the eternal Word of God to the next generation is putting a Christian video in the VCR and eating donut’s while the kids watch television, then we are missing our mission. Do not major in the minors. Value the time with the kids as though it is life or death every time that you are together. Build the foundation. Repeat the essentials. Know the kids and make sure they know the Lord. Do not assume anything. Pray and help the kids move into ministry today. Help them live the lessons by reaching others.

Our job is likened to taking a lion out of the jungle for an hour every week to tame him, and then sending him back into the jungle until the next time. Although it may seem like an impossible task, we must remember that the Word of God is the most powerful tool, and it is a tool that must be used wisely. John wrote that his job was not so much to give us something new, but more to remind us of what we already know (see 1 John 2:7). Jesus preached the foundational and essential things over and over. That is our model for teaching. Ask God to help you focus on the children He has put in front of you. What is He asking You to do? For example, in our inner-city ministry we know we are to persuade our kids to think about their tomorrow’s and not live for today, so I focus on that every chance I get. It happens during the songs. Sometimes I will interject it as we conclude a game. Most often it happens during the lesson segments. Realize you need to follow the Spirit during your service, not the curriculum or what your lesson plan says. Know your kids, and know what God wants you to focus on. Take advantage of every opportunity to teach them the keys to eternal life.