

**THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY
CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K & K)**

Man in God's Creation

Lesson #20 Care of the Mind, Feelings, and Will (2)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how God gave man a free will, so he could choose and make decisions. As we grow up we need to learn how to make the proper decisions and to carry them out. When we are with others we need a flexible will to go along with them. We should never have a stubborn will that cannot learn to be guided. When we are tempted to do anything wrong we should have a strong will to resist, even praying and asking the Lord to help us. When we are trying to carry out a right and good decision we have made, but meet with frustration and discouragement, we should have a strong will to persevere and press on.

Memory verse: “.....I have ^efound David, the *son* of Jesse, a man according to My ^lheart, who will do all My ^dwill.” Acts 13:22

Facts to teach:

3. The Will

- a. God created man with a free will, not as a robot with no will of its own. God gave Adam the freedom to choose which tree he would eat of, the tree of life or the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- b. The plants have no mind, emotion, or will. The animals have some mind, emotion, and will. Man has the highest mind, emotion, and will of all of God's creation. Because man has a will he is able to govern his own life and even to determine his destiny.
- c. With our will we choose or refuse, we can make decisions, choices, and even determinations. Although our thoughts and feelings influence us a lot, eventually we decide and act according to our will's decision.
- d. For this reason we need to take good care of our will so that we will make the right decisions and choices, and will be strong enough to stick to them.

4. Taking care of our will:

a. We should make our decisions and choices based upon what is right and best, not on our feelings, likes, and dislikes. We know what is right because of our parents' instructions, the laws of our society, the Bible, and our conscience. (We will cover the conscience later.)

b. Our will should be flexible regarding most matters (things that are not bad, sinful, or harmful). We should be able to go along with others. When we do things with others we should learn not to have a stubborn will or a selfish will, always making others do the things we want to do, or the way we want to do them. We should allow others the same freedom of choice that we ourselves like to have. We should not make ourselves others' "boss."

c. We should have a strong will to do what is right, even if our "friends" make fun of us or try to convince us not to. After we have made a good and proper decision, we often get discouraged, tired, or bored and want to quit or give up. At these times we should not give in to our weakening thoughts or feelings. We should be strong in our will and determined to carry out our original decision. If we pray to the Lord and ask Him to help us, to strengthen us so that we will not be moved, he will meet our need and answer our prayer.

d. Because the friends we are with can influence us a lot, we need to make very careful and wise choices regarding who we have as friends. Otherwise, even if we have the desire to live rightly we may not be strong enough to overcome the influence of our friends and may eventually do things we do not really want to do.

Misc. Lesson #4

SUBJECT: Choose the right friends

SCRIPTURE: 1 Cor. 15:33, Psalms 1:1, Prov. 27:17, 13:20, Luke 16:13, James 4:4b, c

AIM: To show the children how important it is to choose the right friends.

MEMORY VERSES: 1 Cor. 15:33 "Do not be ^adeceived: ¹Evil ^{2b}companionships ^ccorrupt good morals."

Songs: 10, 11,13,17,19

CONTENT:

Last week we learned about being a good friend. This week we are going to see how important it is to pick the right friends because we usually start to act like the people we are around. If your friends lie, fight, use bad words or take things they shouldn't. You might think that it's okay to do these things. It's not. But if your friends are nice and share and are kind you will probably be the same way. Let's look at some stories from the Bible that tells us about friends.

Remember a few months ago we heard the Bible story of Samson and Delilah. (Give the

children some hints and try to have them tell the story. If they don't remember the story, briefly go over it. Stress the fact that Samson chose the wrong friend and got into a lot of trouble. If you want to go over Lesson #34 prior to teaching this one.)

The Bible shows us the right kind of friendship. We heard a Bible story about two very good friends who love God very much. (Review the story of Jonathan and David – Lesson #40. Stress the fact that they both loved God and how Jonathan kept David from getting hurt.)

From these two stories we see what happens when we choose the wrong friend and when we choose the right friend. God is not happy with people who cheat, lie, fight or use naughty words. People who love God don't act that way.

Maybe you don't think that this is important. Maybe you're a little lonely and just want someone – anyone to play with. Eventually that naughty friend will get you in trouble or you will do something you shouldn't. (Maybe some of the older children might have such an experience. Try to have them share it.) The Bible tells us “Do not be deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals.” This means do not be fooled: bad friends change your good habits.

Choose your friends carefully. The children at children's meeting love God. It is good to be friends with them. Many of you don't have children from the church in your neighborhood or in your class. You need to be a little detective to find the right friends. A good detective looks at clues and comes up with the right answer.

Here are some clues:

1. You heard him tell a lie
2. You heard him use a bad word
3. You saw him take someone's toy without asking.

Is this the right kind of friend? No!

Here are some clues:

1. You heard him asking nicely to use someone's toy
2. You never hear him use naughty words
3. You never see him starting a fight with anyone

Is this the right kind of friends? Yes!

It is best to have friends that love God and who believe in His ways. But if you are in a place and don't know anyone it is best to be a detective and find someone who doesn't use bad words or fight or cheat. Try to find someone like yourself. Someone whom God would be pleased with.