

# Choose Life

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Wednesday Plan

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 30

MEMORY VERSE

Deuteronomy 30:19

OPTIONAL VIDEO

Remember to Obey

**<https://southside.cc/112-149>**

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*Choosing to love and obey God is choosing life.*

## For the Teacher

Wednesday night reinforces what the kids learned on Sunday. Don't re-teach the whole "Moses' last sermon" framing — they heard it. Tonight is about *practicing* what it actually looks like for a kid to choose the life path in their real week.

### KEY TRUTH

Choosing to love and obey God is choosing life.

**Same bottom line as Sunday, by design.** Wednesday uses the exact same sentence the kids heard on Sunday. Repeat it. Have them say it back. Don't paraphrase or soften it — the repetition is the point.

**Choosing life is small and daily.** Sunday gave the kids the big picture — Moses pleading with God's people to pick the life path before they entered the Promised Land. Tonight you take that picture and shrink it down to Tuesday afternoon. Truth-telling is a choice. Helping is a choice. Praying is a choice. Forgiving is a choice. Each one is a tiny "choose life" moment. The kids should leave understanding that obedience isn't a one-time event — it's hundreds of small choices that all point the same direction.

**What to skip.** Don't re-read all of Deuteronomy 30. The kids did that Sunday. Tonight you'll re-touch verses 19 and 20 (the famous "choose life" line) and spend the rest of the time playing the path game and sending the kids home with a prayer card. If a kid wasn't there Sunday, give them a one-sentence catch-up: "Moses gave God's people his very last sermon, and he begged them to pick the path of loving and obeying God — because that path leads to life."

**Energy management.** Wednesday is built around two activities — a high-energy path game and a quieter "build the blessing" tower — plus a small-group debrief and a take-home prayer card. The path game gets loud. Let it. Then bring the energy down for the prayer card and closing. A kid who ran around the room shouting "life path!" and then sat quietly to write a prayer card will remember both.

### MATERIALS

- Bibles for every student
- Whiteboard or large paper, markers
- Painter's tape (or two long strips of paper) to mark two paths on the floor — one labeled **LIFE PATH (Love and Obey God)**, one labeled **OTHER PATH (Turn Away)**
- A stack of index cards with everyday scenarios written on them (one per card — see The Path Game section)
- Small wooden blocks or paper cups for the **Blessing Tower** game (enough for two or three teams of five or six blocks each)
- **I Choose Life** prayer cards (printed in advance from this week's activities)
- Pencils

## 1. Gather

Welcome the kids back. Tell them:

### SAY

*On Sunday we learned one big idea, and we're going to learn it again tonight. Say it with me: Choosing to love and obey God is choosing life.*

Have them say it back. Then again, louder. Then in a whisper.

Write it on the board.

Tell them tonight is going to be different from Sunday — they're going to play a path game, build a

tower, and figure out what “choose life” actually looks like in their real week. But first, a quick review.

## 2. The Story

### Quick Review

ASK

*On Sunday, what did Moses tell God’s people to choose?*

You’re looking for: *life*. If they say “obey God” or “love God,” that’s the right answer too — choosing *life* is loving and obeying God. Push them until somebody finds the word “life.”

### Re-Read the Famous Verse

Have them open to Deuteronomy 30:19. Pick a confident reader.

#### Deuteronomy 30:19–20

Tell them to listen for what choosing life actually looks like in verse 20. Then ask:

ASK

*According to verse 20, what does it look like to choose life?*

*Loving the LORD, obeying his voice, holding fast to him. Choosing life isn’t picking a path one time and then forgetting about it. It means staying close to God, every day, in every choice.*

Say the bottom line again, with the kids:

SAY

*Choosing to love and obey God is choosing life.*

## 3. The Work

### The Path Game

Tape two long lines on the floor — one labeled **LIFE PATH (Love and Obey God)** and one labeled **OTHER PATH (Turn Away)**. Set them up so kids can move between them easily.

Tell the kids: “I’m going to read a real-life scenario. If you think that choice would be choosing life — loving God and obeying him — stand on the LIFE PATH. If it would be turning away from God, stand on the OTHER PATH.”

Read these one at a time. After kids pick, have one or two of them explain *why* they chose that path, and what blessing comes from choosing life in that moment.

1. *You see your little brother struggling to carry something. You help him.*
2. *Your friend wants to copy your homework. You let her.*
3. *You’re really tired and you don’t feel like praying before bed. You pray anyway.*
4. *You’re mad at your mom, so you ignore her when she calls you.*
5. *Your friend is being made fun of. You stand up for him.*
6. *You take something from a store without paying.*
7. *You forgive your sister even though she said something mean.*
8. *You tell the truth even though it means you’ll get in trouble.*

Read them quickly enough that the game stays fun, but stop after each one to let one or two kids

answer. If kids run to the OTHER PATH, ask: “What would the LIFE PATH look like instead?” Don’t shame — just redirect. Sometimes the honest answer is “I’d probably mess that up,” and that’s okay. Choosing life is a thing we keep practicing.

### Blessing Tower

Divide the kids into two or three groups. Give each group five or six blocks (or paper cups). On the side of each block, have them write a word or short phrase that names a “life path” choice — *Pray. Forgive. Help. Tell the Truth. Be Kind. Obey.*

Tell them: every block is one of those small choices that adds up to choosing life. Have each group stack their blocks into a tower as high as they can, naming the word on each block as they go. When the towers are built, walk over and read them out loud together.

Then ask:

#### ASK

*What happens to the tower if we keep adding “life path” choices?*

*It gets taller. It gets stronger. The tower is what a life looks like that keeps choosing God, day after day. One block isn’t much. But hundreds of them, stacked over years, becomes the kind of life Moses was begging for.*

### Small-Group Debrief

Bring the kids back together and have them sit in groups of three or four.

#### DISCUSSION

1. What’s something small you do almost every day that’s actually a “choose life” choice — even if it doesn’t feel like one?

→ *Push them past “go to church.” Listen for: praying before bed, being kind to a sibling, telling the truth when nobody would know, sharing, helping clean up. The point is naming the small moves they’re already making.*

2. What’s a moment in this past week where you picked the OTHER PATH? What would picking the LIFE PATH have looked like?

→ *Don’t push for confessions. Honest answers are the goal: a moment of yelling, a small lie, a refusal to help, an unkind word. Then ask gently: what would loving and obeying God have looked like in that moment?*

3. Why is choosing life sometimes hard, even when we know it’s the right path?

→ *Because the other path often looks easier or feels better in the moment. The life path takes trust — trusting that God’s way is actually better, even when our feelings say otherwise.*

## 4. The Point

### I Choose Life Prayer Card

Hand out the **I Choose Life** prayer cards. Have each student fill in the prompt:

*God, this week I will choose life by \_\_\_\_\_.*

Tell them to pick *one* specific choice they want to make this week. Not “everything.” Not “being good.” A specific choice. *Telling the truth. Helping my mom. Praying before school. Including the new kid at recess. Forgiving my brother.*

**NOTE**

While they fill out the cards, walk around. If a kid is stuck, ask them: “What’s one place this week where you usually pick the other path? What would the life path look like there?” Help them turn it into a sentence they can put on the card.

**Memory Verse and Closing**

When they’re done, have everyone come back together. Read together one more time:

**SCRIPTURE**

*Deuteronomy 30:19*

*I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live.*

Then say the bottom line one final time, with the kids:

**SAY**

*Choosing to love and obey God is choosing life.*

Close in prayer:

**PRAY**

*God, thank you for the choice. Thank you that loving you and obeying you isn’t too hard, isn’t too far away — it’s close enough that we can actually do it. This week, when we come to a moment with two paths, help us choose you. Help us choose life. Amen.*