

for use as
STEP 1 **Lesson 1****Focus:**Choose to follow the
one true God.**Lesson 1****Bible Basis:**

I Kings 18

Lesson 1**Memory Verse:**The LORD is the true God; he is the living
God, the eternal King.
— Jeremiah 10:10

Students will consider the choices they face and will pledge to make choices that honor the one true God.

Materials:

- Internet access

We make choices, big or small, every day in various ways. We make some choices on the spur of the moment without considering the outcome. We agonize over other choices for days. We make some choices based on what everyone else is doing. Other choices develop after thinking from deep within. Sometimes choices are made by chance, like when a coin is tossed to settle a dispute or to determine who goes first in a game.

- **What choices are easy for you to make?** (Answers will vary but may include: what to eat, what to wear, etc.)
- **What choices are difficult for you to make?** (Answers will vary; which friend to hang out with; etc.)
- **When have you or someone you know made a choice based on following the crowd?** (Answers will vary.)
- **Have you ever faced discrimination for your faith? What was that like?** (Answers will vary.)

All choices we make matter, but some have a greater impact on our lives and the lives of others. Around the world, Christians are persecuted for their faith and decision to follow Jesus. An organization called the World Watch List publishes annual statistics on Christian persecution around the world. Let's check out some of the most persecuted countries in 2023.

Play the following video for your students [5:26; if you are short on time, stop at 1:58]:
<https://www.opendoorsus.org/en-US/persecution/countries/#:~:text=More%20than%20360m%20Christians%20suffer,very%20high%20or%20extreme%20levels>.

- **Does it surprise you to learn that Christians are being persecuted for their faith around the world?** (Answers will vary.)
- **If you faced this type of persecution for your faith, do you think you'd still choose to publicly follow Jesus? Why or why not?** (Answers will vary.)

Under the leadership of King Ahab, the Israelites chose to worship the false god, Baal. When God sent Elijah the prophet to lead them back to Him, King Ahab and the Israelites faced a life-changing choice. Let's see what happened.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

I Choose...

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STEP 4 

Lesson 1**Focus:**

Choose to follow the one true God.

Lesson 1**Bible Basis:**

I Kings 18

Lesson 1**Memory Verse:**

The LORD is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King.
— Jeremiah 10:10

Materials:

- Index cards (1 per student)
- Pens/pencils (1 per student)
- Optional: Whiteboard and marker (or screenshared document)

If your class is meeting online, invite your students to bring supplies with them to class.

We have the choice every day to choose who we will follow. We have the choice to please God or to please man. This is not a choice made on impulse or on what someone else is doing. It is our personal decision.

Today, we are making cards to encourage us and remind us of our allegiance to God. With these cards in our wallets or purses, when we are faced with choices—big or small—we can pause to read the truth and refocus before making a decision. We can pledge to make choices that honor the one true God.

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). **On one side of the card, write, “The LORD is the true God—Jeremiah 10:10.”** You may want to write this on the whiteboard (or screenshared document) for your preteens to copy.

Once they have completed the first side, have them write on the opposite side of the card: **“I choose God” (3/3/24).**

- **What choices are you facing or might you face in the weeks ahead?** (Answers will vary.)
- **How will stopping to read this verse help you with the big and small choices you make this week?** (Answers will vary but should include taking time out to stop and think about whether we are making a God-inspired choice should keep us from making quick, unthoughtful, or bad decisions.)

Optional: Take some time to review the plan of salvation (how to share the gospel with this age group can be found in your teacher's guide). Without pressuring the students, let them know that you are available to talk with them after class about their personal relationship with God if they make that choice.

Close in prayer for the strength to choose God and to make choices that honor and please Him.

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