Preschool–Grade 6

As for Me and My House

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: We choose to serve God, like Joshua said: "as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
Bible passage: Joshua 24:14–28. Read it before class (Joshua 24:1–13 tells what happened just before).
Memory verse: "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." *Joshua 24:15 (KJV)*. Kids learn the two parts in part 4.
You need: a Bible, masking tape, 4 index cards, a marker, paper and crayons for each child, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a line of tape across the middle of the floor. Write the memory verse parts on the 4 cards (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at Joshua 24.

1. Opening game: Pick a Side (5 minutes)

Kids stand on the tape line. Call out two choices and point to a side of the room for each: "Apples or bananas?" "Dogs or cats?" "Swing or slide?" Kids jump to the side they choose. Play a few rounds. Then say: "Those were small choices. Today we will hear about a man named Joshua who asked God's people to make the most important choice of all."

2. Bible story: Choose This Day (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Joshua 24, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Joshua was the leader of God's people, Israel. God had brought them into a new land. One day Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to a place called **Shechem** *(say it: SHEK-em)* (Joshua 24:1).

Joshua told them everything God had done. God brought them out of Egypt. When the Egyptians chased them to the Red sea, God put darkness between them and covered the Egyptians with the sea (24:6–7). God gave them a land they did not work for, cities they did not build, and vineyards and olive trees they did not plant (24:13).

Then Joshua said, "**Fear the LORD**, and serve him in **sincerity** and in truth." That means: honor God, and serve Him with a true heart, really meaning it (24:14). He told them to put away the other gods, the false gods their fathers had served long ago (24:14).

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The story continues: **Read Joshua 24:15 from your Bible.** Say: "Joshua said, 'Choose you this day whom ye will serve.' That means: choose today who you will serve. Then Joshua made his own choice first: 'As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.' **My house** means me and my family!"

The people answered, "**God forbid** that we should **forsake** the LORD!" (24:16). That means, "No way! We will never leave the LORD!" They said God had brought them out of Egypt and kept them safe all the way (24:17). "Therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God" (24:18). Joshua said, "Ye are **witnesses**." A witness is someone who sees and hears what happens, and can tell about it. The people said, "We are witnesses" (24:22). Then they said, "The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we **obey**" (24:24).

So that day Joshua made a **covenant** with the people, a big promise with God (24:25). Joshua wrote the words in the book of the law of God. Then he took a **great stone**, a big stone, and set it up under an **oak** tree (24:26). Joshua said the stone would be a witness, because "it hath heard all the words of the LORD" (24:27). Every time they saw that stone, they would remember their promise to serve God!

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Where did Joshua gather all the tribes of Israel? *(Shechem, Joshua 24:1)*
2. What did Joshua tell the people to choose? *(Whom they would serve, 24:15)*
3. What did Joshua say about his own house? *("As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD," 24:15)*
4. What did the people say they would obey? *(God's voice, 24:24)*
5. What did Joshua set up under the oak? *(A great stone, to be a witness, 24:26–27)*

4. Memory verse: Stepping Stones (5 minutes)

Read the whole verse from your Bible first. Then teach the two parts kids learn. Write one part on each card: *choose you this day / whom ye will serve; / but as for me and my house, / we will serve the LORD. Joshua 24:15.* Explain the old words: **choose you this day** means choose today, **ye** means you, and **my house** means me and my family. Lay the cards on the floor in a row, like stepping stones. Kids step on each card as the class reads it. Then turn one card over and read it again. Keep turning cards over, one each time, until the kids can say the verse with no cards showing.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Joshua chose to serve the LORD, and you can choose to serve Him too. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: choose to serve God at home. Obey the first time, help without being asked, or pray for your family.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **As for Me and My House word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/as-for-me-and-my-house-word-search), crossword (vbshq.com/puzzles/as-for-me-and-my-house-crossword), maze (vbshq.com/puzzles/as-for-me-and-my-house-maze) or worksheet (vbshq.com/worksheets/as-for-me-and-my-house-worksheet), the coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/as-for-me-and-my-house), or **My House Will Serve the LORD:** give each child a sheet of paper. They draw their house with the people who live there, and one way they can serve God at home. Ask: *What will you do this week to serve God?*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for all You have done for us. Today we choose to serve You. Help us obey Your voice at home, at school and everywhere we go. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child's family doesn't go to church: say gently, "Joshua said 'as for me' first. You can choose to serve God, and you can pray for your family every day." Never say anything that shames a child's family.

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