



# Children's Christmas Resources 2017

## Week Four – Responding to God

### Children's Message – Responding to God

For this message you will need:

- \* Two willing volunteers
- \* Four Christmas Boxes
- \* Two boring gifts (two wooden spoons)
- \* Two exciting gifts (Chocolate or new textas or a new ball)

The key words in this message are '**CHOOSE AND CHOICES.**'

*Ask for two volunteers to come down the front. Choose children if you can.*

*[SAY] 'Today I thought we could play a quick game called "**Would you rather?**" I'm going to say two words and you have to **CHOOSE** which word you prefer. Now you have to answer as quickly as possible. You will have 5 seconds. Let's practice.'*

- Cereal or Toast?
- Inside or Outside?
- Dogs or Cats?

*'Do you get the picture, ok let's start?'*

- McDonalds or KFC?
- School or Home?
- AFL or Soccer?
- The City or the Country?
- Walking or Running?
- Movies or TV shows?
- Maths or English?
- Mickey Mouse or Donald Duck?
- Skipping or Hopping?
- Fish or Birds?
- Melbourne or Sydney?
- Beach or Pool?
- Vegemite or Jam?
- Chocolate or Lollies?
- Pasta or Rice?
- Music or Art?
- Girls or Boys?
- Pepsi or Coke?
- Batman or Spiderman?
- Beach or Bush?



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- Milo or Hot Chocolate?
- Grass or Sand?
- Winter or Summer?
- Play station or X Box?
- Ford or Holden?
- Camping or Hotels?
- Orange or Green?
- Pencils or Textas?
- Easter or Christmas?
- Shower or Bath?

*'Ok that was quite a few **CHOICES** you had to make. Some were easy but some were a bit harder – yes?'*

*'Ok because you have been such good sports I have two boxes here each with special prizes in them. Now I can't show you what's in them because that would ruin the surprise. But you have to **CHOOSE only one box** to keep. Now you need to know that in one box is something great and in the other box is something not so great. You can't touch the boxes; you just have to look at the box and try to work out which box is best to choose. I'll give you 10 seconds of thinking music.'*

Start singing your football theme song or ask the pianist to play a Christmas carol on the piano for 10 seconds.

Ask the child to **CHOOSE** which box they want. Get them to open the box and show everyone. It will either be the good **CHOICE** or bad **CHOICE**. Make a fuss either way!

Ask the next child to make their **CHOICE** and do the same thing.

If they have both **CHOSEN** the bad box, give them the good box for being good sports and show everyone what was inside the box.

If they have both **CHOSEN** the good box, show them what they missed out on in the bad box. Make sure both children walk away with the good box no matter what they **CHOICE**.

*'We all have **CHOICES** that we have to make in life, some are really easy and some are quite hard to make.'*

Tell a story about a food **CHOICE** that you have had to make at a restaurant.

*'The **CHOICES** that (insert the volunteer names) were quite easy compared to some of the **CHOICES** that we have to make in life.'*

*'Today we are going to explore the **CHOICE** of 'worshipping Jesus' or 'rejecting Him'.*



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### Children's Activity

For this activity you will need:

- ✳ A variety of table games for the children to play.
- ✳ An A4 sign that says WORSHIP
- ✳ An A4 sign that says REJECT
- ✳ Bible
- ✳ Butchers Paper
- ✳ Sharpies

### Let's Get Started

#### Play Games

Ask the children to choose which games they want to play and give them 10-15 minutes to play together.

Mention that some of the games were really fun so you were wondering if they found it hard to choose which game to play.

- *I wonder if you find it hard to make decisions when you have to choose between something.*

Chat with the children about these moments.

Tell them a story about a time when you had to choose between something such as which theme park to go to, what gift to buy a friend or what to wear to a party.

Explain that in life we have easy choices to decide BUT sometimes we have harder choices to decide.

### God's Big Idea

On one side of the wall place the sign WORSHIP.

On one side of the wall place the sign REJECT.

Every time you ask the question – Did they **WORSHIP** or **REJECT** Jesus? The children need to run to the side of the wall that they think is the correct answer.

#### Read Luke 2:8-14

*'In verse 9 it says that the shepherds were terrified when the angel of the Lord appeared before them. Could you imagine sitting in a dark field with the sheep and all of a sudden out of nowhere arrives an angel and then even more angels arrive singing!*

- *I wonder what you would do if an angel appeared to you. (Spend time discussing this)*



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#### Read Luke 2:15-20

Remind the children that they need to run to a wall that they think is the correct answer.

- *Did the shepherds worship or reject Jesus?*

*That's correct they worshipped Him.*

#### Read Matthew 2:1-12

- *Did the Wise Men worship or reject Jesus?*
- *Did King Herod worship or reject Jesus?*

*'The Wise Men and the Shepherds were all given a choice to go and visit Jesus and worship Him. They didn't have to go, they could have refused. The Wise Men could have just kept on doing their astronomy/star gazing stuff but God revealed Himself by a star and guided them to Jesus. They brought gifts and worshipped Him.'*

*'The shepherds were busy watching over their sheep. When angels appeared, they could have turned their backs and hid their faces in fear, but they chose not to. They chose to go and visit Jesus and worship Him.'*

*'King Herod, did he make the right choice?' (No)*

- *'I wonder if you noticed in these stories that both the shepherds and Wise Men had to **search** for Jesus. The Wise Men had help with the star guiding them and it says that the shepherds hurried off and found Mary, Joseph and the baby. That meant that they were searching.'*

#### What's the point?

- *For us 2,000 years later, how do we search for God? (Allow time for answers)*

*'A great way to search for God is in the Bible. When we read the bible it will tell us so many stories about God and describes how other people discovered Him along the way.'*

*'Another great way is to pray and ask God to show Himself to you. He probably won't physically show himself to you but He will show Himself by things that He does to help and guide you. Certain times during the day you may think to yourself, "wow that was God looking after me". You may even feel His presence with you.'*

*'We have many choices in life. We can choose to worship Jesus or reject Him.'*

On butcher's paper, make a list together of the benefits of worshipping Jesus.



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Now make a list of the downfalls of rejecting Jesus.

- *I am curious from the looks of these lists which would be the better choice – to worship Jesus or reject Jesus.*
- *What are some ways that we can worship God?*

*'We can worship God through our words. We can use words to describe how great God is.'*

*'We can worship God through our actions also. The way we live our lives can be worship to God. If we follow Him, love Him and obey Him this is a form of worship.'*

Encourage the children to choose to worship God and to love Jesus.

### Remember this!

#### The Psalms

*'In the Bible the Psalms are great to read to help you worship God. In Psalm 100 verse 1-2, it says, 'Shout praises to the Lord, everyone on this earth. <sup>2</sup> Be joyful and sing as you come in to worship the Lord!' (CEV)*

Encourage the kids to shout out words that could be used to worship God. Wonderful, awesome, amazing etc. See how many words the kids can come up with.

### Chat with God

Chat to the children about the physical side of worshipping Jesus. Suggest that when people worship idols that they bow or kneel to the idols (they may have seen this done in movies.) When the Wise Men saw Jesus it says that they bowed down and worshipped Him.

Suggest that we can bow and kneel to God and that sometimes is part of our worship to him. Sometimes we kneel by our beds and pray. Sometimes you may find people kneeling in Church. Kneeling helps us feel humble before God. It helps us understand that God is big, awesome and powerful and that we are small.

Encourage the children to kneel and bow their heads. Ask a leader or yourself to pray on behalf of the group just using words or worship.



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### Home and Beyond

Print out the following 'Home and Beyond' cards for each child to take home and do with their family.

#### Home and Beyond Cards

Share the message of 'Searching for God' by giving a friend a *Kidzone* Christmas magazine. Ask your leader for an extra *Kidzone*.

This week when you pray you may wish to kneel by your bed and as your prayer use words that worship God. God you are awesome, mighty, loving, kind etc.

**On Christmas Eve, suggest to your family that you spend time chatting about words that can be used to worship Jesus.**

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