

Truth Detectives: Learning to Choose God's Way!

Topic: Biblical Discernment

Time: 30 Minutes

Age Group: Elementary School

Materials Needed:

- A children's Bible or age-appropriate Bible storybook.
- Two different colored objects (e.g., a green block for "God's Way," a red block for "Not God's Way," or two simple puppets, one "Wise Owl" and one "Silly Fox").
- Optional: Paper and crayons/markers for drawing.

Lesson Objectives:

- The student will be able to explain in simple terms what discernment means (choosing what is right and honoring to God).
- The student will practice identifying choices that align with God's teachings in simple scenarios.
- The student will identify one way to ask God for help when making choices (e.g., praying).

Lesson Activities:

1. Introduction: What's a Truth Detective? (5 minutes)

Hello, super student! Today, we're going to become "Truth Detectives"! Do you know what a detective does? (*Allow response - they look for clues, solve mysteries, find out what's true!*)

Being a Truth Detective for God means we learn to figure out what's the best way to act, what choices please God, and what things are true according to the Bible. This special skill is called **discernment**. It's like having spiritual super-senses to know what's good and right!

A great verse that helps us is a little like this: "Trust God with all your heart. Don't just depend on what you think you know. In everything you do, ask Him to show you the way, and He will guide you." (Simplified from Proverbs 3:5-6).

2. Main Activity: The "Good Choice_Or_Not?" Game (15 minutes)

Okay, Truth Detective, let's practice! I have two special items here (*show the green and red blocks, or Wise Owl and Silly Fox puppets*). The green block (or Wise Owl) represents choices that are "God's Way" – good, kind, and true. The red block (or Silly Fox) represents choices that are "Not God's Way" – maybe tricky, unkind, or not true.

I'm going to give you some mystery situations. Your job is to listen carefully, think like a Truth Detective, and then tell me if the choice is "God's Way" (green block/Wise Owl) or "Not God's Way" (red block/Silly Fox), and why you think so!

- **Scenario 1:** "Your friend wants you to tell a small lie to cover up something they did wrong. Your friend says, 'It's just a tiny lie, it won't hurt anyone!' What should a Truth Detective do? Is this God's Way or Not God's Way?" (*Discuss: The Bible tells us to be truthful. Even small lies can lead to bigger problems. God's way is honesty.*)

- **Scenario 2:** "You're playing a game, and you really want to win. You see a chance to secretly cheat to help yourself win. Nobody would see you. Is cheating God's Way or Not God's Way?" (*Discuss: God wants us to be fair and honest, even in games. Winning isn't as important as doing what's right.*)
- **Scenario 3:** "You see a new classmate sitting all alone at lunchtime, looking sad. Part of you wants to go play with your usual friends, but another part of you thinks about going to sit with the new classmate. Which thought is more like God's Way?" (*Discuss: God tells us to be kind and loving, especially to those who might feel left out. Showing kindness is God's Way.*)

(Adapt scenarios as needed for your child's understanding and experiences. For each scenario, affirm their thinking and gently guide them to biblical principles of honesty, kindness, love, etc.)

Great job, Truth Detective! Remember, when you're not sure, you can always ask:

- Does this choice honor God?
- Is it kind? Is it true? Is it loving?
- What does the Bible say about this? (Or what would Jesus do?)

3. Creative Reflection: My Truth Detective Moment (5 minutes)

Now, let's think about being a Truth Detective in our own lives.

If you like, you can draw a picture of yourself being a Truth Detective for God, or you can draw or tell me about one choice you can make this week that would be "God's Way."

(Provide paper and crayons if doing the drawing option. Allow time to share.)

4. Wrap-up and Prayer (5 minutes)

You did an amazing job being a Truth Detective today! What was one thing you learned about discernment or choosing God's way?

The most important thing to remember is that we don't have to figure it all out on our own. We can always ask God for help! How can we ask God for help when we need to make a good choice? (*Guide to: praying, asking for wisdom*).

Let's pray: "Dear God, thank You for loving us and for Your Word, the Bible, that helps us know what is true and good. Please help us to be good Truth Detectives, to listen for Your guidance, and to have the courage to choose Your way. Give us wisdom and help us to always honor You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Keep practicing being a Truth Detective this week!