NOW and LATER

LESSON 1
Power Phrase
I can choose to put God first!

Memory Verse
Proverbs 3:5, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.”

Supporting Doctrines
For supporting doctrines see Novo’s Statement of Faith at novoministries.org/statement-of-faith.

Goals
The child will...
- Understand that he has sinned and needs forgiveness.
- Realize that he has the choice to put God first or allow other things to become more important.
- Understand that what he chooses to do now will affect him later.
- Choose to ask Jesus to forgive his sins and be the Lord of his life.

Reminders
In this lesson we are teaching the importance of putting God first. We learn from Mary and Martha that it is easy to get distracted doing good things, but we should remember to not be distracted by these things. We need to make it a priority to sit at the feet of Jesus and learn from Him!

Acknowledgments
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Recommended Visuals
• Bible Story visuals*

Recommended Supplies
• Bible, Bible character costumes

Captivate #1 - Act It Out!
• Have the children dress up or pretend to be characters in the story. Have them act it out as you tell the story. Have some boys dress up as Jesus and the disciples and choose some other children to be the children who were brought to Jesus.

Captivate #2 - Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down!
• Stop at different points during the story and ask children a question that has a “yes” or “no” answer. Ask them to show their answer by putting their thumbs up for “yes,” and their thumbs down for “no.”

Introduction
• Jesus and His disciples traveled from town to town teaching people the good news and performing miracles. Jesus had just been teaching the Parable of the Good Samaritan to a crowd of people. After they were finished teaching, they traveled to the town of Bethany.

Story
• Retell the story from Luke 10:38-42.
• See Story Script.

Conclusion
• “Martha, Martha,” Jesus answered. “You are worried and upset about many things. But only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better and it will not be taken away from her.”
• Martha allowed other things to distract her from the most important thing which was putting Jesus first, sitting at His feet and learning from Him. All the other things could wait. Jesus wasn’t going to tell Mary to do things around the house instead of spending time with Him and learning from Him. He knew Mary was choosing the most important thing to do.
• Jesus tells us that our highest priority should be to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteous (Matthew 6:33). Seeking the kingdom first means putting Jesus first and everything else follows after that.

Testimony
• Share how you put God first in your life and asked Him to forgive your sins and become the Lord of your life.
• Share about a time that you had to make the choice to put God first over someone or something else.
Challenge

**Recommended Visuals**
- stop, drop and roll visual*, Key Point visuals*, Power Phrase visual*, Memory Verse visual*

**Supplies**
- Bible

**Introduction**
- Ask the children if they have ever had a firefighter come to their school and teach them about fire safety. Explain that one of the things that they will teach you is that if your clothes catch on fire, you should “Stop, Drop, and Roll.”
- Stop – The fire victim must stop so that his movement does not fan the flames or keep others from being able to help put the fire out.
- Drop – The fire victim must drop to the ground, lying down if possible, covering his face with his hands to avoid facial injury.
- Roll – The fire victim must roll on the ground in an effort to extinguish the fire by depriving it of oxygen. If the victim is on a rug or one is nearby, he can also roll the rug around himself to further extinguish the flame.
- Recruit a child to come up and demonstrate how to “Stop, Drop, and Roll.”
- Just like “Stop, Drop, and Roll” in fire safety gives you a step by step plan in case of a fire, as Christians we need a plan so that we can make the right choices and honor God in all we do.
- We need to “Stop, Drop, and Listen” to all that God has to tell us!

**Key Points**

**STOP!**
- Don’t allow the things around you to distract you such as friends, TV, or video games. Make sure spending time with Jesus is a priority. Reading your Bible, praying, and going to church or Novo Bible Club are great ways to make Jesus a priority.
- The devil wants you to be distracted; he wants you to be busy doing other things so that you don’t focus on God (1 Peter 5:8).
- The devil wants you to make the wrong choices and not put God first.

**DROP!**
- Make God your first priority. If you submit to God and resist the devil, he will have to flee from you (James 4:7).
- Take time to drop and be at Jesus’ feet! He wants you to sit and read your Bible, to grow in understanding (1 Peter 2:2), and to spend time praying (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

**LISTEN!**
- God wants to speak to you through His Word the Bible (Romans 10:17).
- When you pray, in faith believing, God will answer those prayers (Matthew 21:22).
- When we listen to God, He will help us do what is right and what honors Him.
- God speaks to us in many ways; through His Word the Bible, through our thoughts (the Holy Spirit guides us and convicts us), through our conversations with others, and through our circumstances (Romans 8:26-27). We need to be sensitive to what we hear, listening for God’s Word to us (Proverbs 2:1-5).
Challenge Continued

Conclusion

I can choose to put God first!

- There are many distractions that can keep us from putting God first in our lives. It is our choice and up to us to make the right priorities. God deserves first place in our lives. He wants to have a relationship with us where we can get to know each other and deepen our love for each other. He wants to speak to us so that He can guide us and help us to make the right choices. We need to take the time to Stop, Drop and Listen!
- Invite the unsaved child to ask Jesus to forgive him of his sins and become the Lord of his life (Acts 16:31).
- Challenge the saved child to not be distracted by the things around him and keep God first in his life.
Now, Later, And Eternal Arriving Activity

Supplies
• now, later, and eternal cards*, circumstances cards*

Instruction and Application
• As the children arrive, explain that every choice we make has consequences. Some consequences affect us now, some affect us later, and others have eternal affect. Lay the Now, Later, and Eternal cards on the table. Explain that the definition of now is anything that happens right now. The definition of later is something that may happen weeks, months or even years from now. The definition of eternal is what happens for eternity, whether we are with Jesus in Heaven or apart from Him in Hell.
• Take out the Circumstances Cards and have children volunteer to read them. After they are read, have the children decide whether they will have consequences now, later or eternal. Explain that today we are going to learn about one of the most important decisions we will ever make. This decision will affect us now, later and for eternity!
Who Is God? Gospel Presentation

Visuals

- Foundational Gospel Truths Who is God? visual*

Supplies

- a mirror, a ball, paper, writing tools

Instruction and Application

- The Bible tells us that God created all things. He created everything we see around us. Ask the children why they think God also created people. He created people because of His great love for us. God is love (1 John 4:8), and because of that love and His wonderful creativity, He made us so we can enjoy all that He is and all that He’s done. God is holy. “No one is holy like the Lord, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God” (1 Samuel 2:2). He also loves us so much that He is preparing a place in Heaven for us so we can be with Him forever (John 14:2).
- In our lesson today we learned how Mary wanted to be near Jesus. She knew who He was and that there was so much she could learn from Him and she wanted to have a relationship with Him. She made the right choice by sitting at Jesus’ feet. She didn’t put other things first but chose to spend time with Him, learning from Him. Martha allowed other things to be more important than spending time with Jesus. She had good intentions but the wrong priorities!
- Encourage the children that they also need to make that choice. They need to understand who God is, how much He loves them, and how He wants to have a relationship with them. All they have to do is put Him first. They can do that by admitting they have sinned and asking God to forgive their sins and be the Lord of their lives.

Discussion

- Older Team: Ask the children what things they might allow to become more important than spending time with God. Encourage them to come up with ways they can make their priorities right. Share examples from your own life
- Younger Team: Have the children pass around the mirror and take turns looking at themselves in the mirror. As they do, have them say “God created me, God loves me, God wants to be the Lord of my life.”
- Quiet Team: Have the children write down things that they might allow to become more important than spending time with God. Encourage them to also write down ways that they can make their priorities right. Share examples from your own life.
- Active Team: Have the children sit in a circle or around a table. Give the first child the ball. Have them spell the word holy by each saying a letter of the word as they pass the ball. At the end of the word the next child will say what he thinks the word holy means. Repeat this using the words love and heaven.
Trust Fall Memory Verse

Visuals
• Memory Verse visual*

Supplies
• Bible, ball, paper, writing tools

A.G.A.I.N. Acrostic

A — Attention Grabber
Ask the children if they have ever played the Trust Fall game, where you have someone stand behind you and you fall back, trusting that they will catch you. Ask for a volunteer who will come up and trust you to catch him. Explain that our Memory Verse today tells us that we are supposed to trust the Lord with all of our heart and not lean on our own understanding. It is like the Trust Fall game where you have to completely trust and allow yourself to fall back; there is no half way. We need to trust God completely as well; that is faith. When we put our full trust in God, He can help us make the right choices to put Him first in our lives.

G — God’s Word
Proverbs 3:5, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.”

A — Awareness

I — In Their Lives

Unsaved child (questions to ask an unsaved child)

Saved child (questions to ask a saved child)

N — Number of Times

Review Game
Play Hot Potato. Have the children sit in a circle or around the table. Each child will say a word of the verse as they pass the ball around the group. If a child misses a word, have him start the verse over. Speed up the verse to make the game more challenging.
Trust Fall Continued

Discussion

- Older Team: Ask the children why they think the Trust Fall game can be so difficult for some people. Also ask them why some people find it difficult to trust God and put Him first in their life.
- Younger Team: Have the children squat down on the floor then pop up every time they say a letter in the word trust. Remind them that God wants us to trust Him with all our heart and put Him first in all we do.
- Quiet Team: Have the children draw a word picture with the word trust. Remind them that God wants us to trust Him with all our heart and put Him first in all that we do.
- Active Team: Play the Trust Fall game again, allowing each of the children who want to have a turn playing. Remind them that God wants us to trust Him with all our heart and put Him first in all that we do.

Flashback Review Questions

Supplies

- sheet of review questions with storyboard boxes to write or draw the story (one per child)*

Story Review Questions

- What had Jesus and His disciples been doing? (Teaching the good news and performing miracles)
- What parable had Jesus just taught? (The Parable of the Good Samaritan)
- What town did they come to? (Bethany)
- Who lived in this town that they knew? (Mary, Martha, and Lazarus)
- Who greeted them and invited them to stay in her home? (Martha)
- What choice did Martha make while Jesus was there? (She let herself become distracted by all the things around the house that needed to be done.)
- What choice did Mary make? (She chose to sit at Jesus’ feet and listen to all He had to say.)
- What did Martha want Jesus to do? (Tell Mary to help her with all that needed to be done)
- What was Jesus’ response? (He said that Mary made the right choice to sit and listen to Him and He wouldn’t take that from her.)

Discussion Questions

- What are things that we might get distracted doing that aren’t bad things but aren’t the most important thing?
- What are the most important things we should be doing?
Listening Ears Craft

Visuals
• craft sample*

Supplies
• small paper plates (one per child cut in half), paper ears (one set per child)*, pipe cleaners (one per child), hole punch, coloring tools, and glue

Instruction and Application
• Remind the children that in our story today we learned how Mary chose to sit at the feet of Jesus so she could listen and learn from Him. Ask the children how we can listen and learn from God. We can listen and learn by praying and reading our Bible. God has so many things He wants us to learn about Him and how we can live for Him.
• Ask the children if their parent, teacher or other grown up has ever asked them to put on their listening ears. They are wanting you to pay attention, listen and learn.
• Today we are going to make some listening ears. These ears are going to remind us that we should put God first. We should spend time with Him, praying and reading our Bibles so we can “hear” and learn all that God wants to teach us.
• Have the children cut the plates in half, punch a hole on the top sides of the plate halves, and cut out the ears. This could be done in advance if you have younger children in your group or limited time.
• Next, have the children feed the ends of the pipe cleaner through their plates and twist to secure. Also have them cut out their ears, color them, and glue them onto the plates.
• Finally they will arch the pipe cleaner so the ears fit on either side of their heads.
• Remind the children that we need to choose to put God first. He has so much He wants to say to us and teach us; we just need to take the time to listen!
Stop, Think, Act, And Review Application Activities

Supplies
- STAR cards (one per child)*, writing tools, paper

Activity #1
- Give each child a STAR card. Explain that they are going to use the STAR card to evaluate a situation, the choices they have, and the consequences both positive and negative from those choices. Just as in football, the best offense is a good defense. It is important to STOP and THINK before they are in a situation so they can make the right choice. Once they have weighed the choices and decided which is the right one, they will ACT. Finally they will REVIEW their choice and decide if it in fact was the right choice or whether they need to make some changes and make a better choice in the future. Explain that they are now ready to start! Today they are going to pick a situation where they have to make a choice that may or may not put God first, walk through the STAR steps, and decide if it is the right choice or whether another choice needs to be made.
- Example: Your friend calls and says he has a brand new video game you’ve been dying to play and invites you over. You are about to say “yes” when you realize today is Novo Bible Club/church. You know if you tell him you’re going to Bible Club/church he’s going to make fun of you. This may be your only chance to try out that new game.

Activity #2
- Have the children take turns acting out different scenarios they encounter where they realize that they are doing something wrong and how they can correct it. If you have a group that is more quiet, you could choose to have them draw a picture instead.

Now What? Additional Activities

Supplies
- Mary and Martha Word Search*
- Coloring Page*
- The Big Take Away Key Chain*

Instruction and Application
- These activities are to be used with your team as time fillers while reinforcing the lesson concepts. The children can take these home each week or do them while they are listening to you teach during Small Group. These activities require little to no explanation and can be great for moments when you are transitioning or don’t have time to start another activity.