

adult

real life
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Sunday School That Clicks

Lesson 13 / August 30, 2009

Making a Wise Choice

for use as

STEP 1 

Lesson 13

Focus:

Accepting God's wisdom is a choice.

Lesson 13

Bible Basis:

Proverbs 8:1-11, 33-36

Students will discuss why we need God's wisdom in our lives and how we can find that wisdom in His Son, Jesus.

OPENING ACTIVITY My Wisest Decision

On a board or on newsprint write out the following statements for your class to finish and then discuss:
One of the wisest decisions I have made was . . .
One of the worst decisions I have made was . . .

Some of the wise decisions they may mention could include things like the person they married, the job or career they chose, the way they handled a wayward child, etc. Some of the worst decisions they may mention could be dropping out of school or college, choosing the wrong friends, or not buying Apple stock when it first came out, for example.

OPENING STORY [read it aloud to your class, or make copies and pass it around]:

ATOMIC BOMB DECISION STILL DEBATED ON 64TH ANNIVERSARY

HIROSHIMA, Japan—Japan marked 64 years Thursday, August 6, since Hiroshima was hit in the world's first atomic bomb attack.

According to the China Post, the mayor of Hiroshima, the city where 140,000 people died from the blast, renewed his call for the abolition of what he said are 24,000 remaining nuclear warheads over the next decade as he led the solemn ceremony.

About 50,000 people, including hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors), politicians, and envoys from 59 countries and the United Nations, gathered near the A-bomb Dome, the skeleton of a hall burned by the bomb's intense heat.

Those at the memorial ceremony offered their silent prayers at 8:15 a.m. (2315 Greenwich Mean Time, Wednesday), the exact moment the bomb was dropped in 1945.

Lesson 13
Memory Verse

For whoever finds me
finds life and receives
favor from the LORD.

—Proverbs 8:35

The blinding blast of “Little Boy” and the fallout from its mushroom cloud killed some 140,000 people, either instantly or in the days and weeks that followed as radiation or horrific burns took their toll.

Three days after the attack, the United States dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki, which killed 70,000 people in the southern port city.

Japan surrendered on August 15, ending World War II in the Pacific. The nation has since been officially pacifist, while also becoming one of the United States’ closest allies, hosting some 47,000 U.S. troops.

Japan’s Prime Minister Taro Aso told the ceremony, “I pledge anew today that Japan will be the frontrunner in the international community in abolishing nuclear weapons and realizing eternal peace.”

Speaking to reporters about two hours later, Aso, however, voiced doubt that the goal of a nuclear-weapons-free world was realistic.

“It might be possible . . . if they were abolished suddenly, on one day in one go,” he said. “But under normal circumstances it is unimaginable.”

Aso, who faces elections this month, also promised more help for more than 300 ailing survivors of the nuclear bombings who have fought court battles to win recognition as hibakusha as well as financial relief.

Debate, meanwhile, continues over the merit of the atom bombings.

Many have argued the attacks brought a quick end to the war and prevented the greater bloodshed of a land invasion of Japan. Others have said the bombings were an unnecessary, and perhaps experimental, atrocity.

Washington has never apologized, and a new U.S. opinion poll showed that nearly two-thirds of Americans think dropping the bombs was the right decision.

Sixty-one percent of Americans believe the United States did the right thing by dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki 64 years ago, according to the new poll. Older voters, men, and Republicans favored the attacks more than younger people, women, and Democrats, the survey of 2,409 registered voters by Quinnipiac University showed.

Morris Jeppson, 87, one of the crew members of the B-29 Superfortress plane that dropped the bomb on Hiroshima, told the Mainichi Shimbun daily this week that he believed then-U.S. president Harry Truman had made the right decision.

[Now form small groups and have your class discuss the following questions.]

- ▶ Do you think that President Truman made a wise decision to drop the atomic bombs to end World War II?
- ▶ What have been some of the consequences of his decision—good and bad?
- ▶ Who do you think Truman consulted with in making this decision? [He likely consulted with high-level military officials, State Department officials, and others who were in a position to tell him what a landing on the Japanese mainland would be like and how the Japanese would react to the bombs.]
- ▶ Usually our decisions do not affect as many people as Truman's did, but has anyone suffered because of one of your decisions? If so, how did that make you feel?
- ▶ Have you ever decided not to follow someone's "wise advice"? Explain whether that was a good or bad decision.
- ▶ Who do you usually consult for wise advice on big decisions in your own life, and why?

When you are finished with the questions, go on to Step 2 in your *Adult Teacher's Guide*, where you will read the Scripture and begin to discuss it. Your Step 4 appears below.

News Sources:

<http://www.chinapost.com.tw/asia/japan/2009/08/07/219536/Anniversary-of.htm>

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=8257450>

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STEP 4

Lesson 13 Focus:

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Lesson 13 Bible Basis:

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FINDING WISDOM

In our search for true wisdom, many of us will look in all of the wrong places. Some of us will try and solve our problems by ourselves, and create more problems. Some of us will try to ignore the situation, and sink deeper in trouble. Some of us will ask everyone we know for advice, and then not even follow what we are told.

James tells us, "If any of you lack wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault and it will be given to him" (Jas. 1:5).

When we have God's wisdom, the apostle Paul tells us we can speak, "not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths and spiritual words" (1 Cor. 2:13).

If we want to have the wisdom of God, the first thing we need to do is to come to Him through His Son, Jesus Christ. Paul confirms that in Christ "are hidden all treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3). Therefore, to find Christ is to find wisdom.

[Activity]

Return to the small groups you had in Step 1, and discuss the following.

- ▶ Are you guilty of trying to solve your problems or situations by ways other than asking God for help? *Explain.*
- ▶ If you have asked Jesus Christ into life, relate a time when you did turn to God and felt His help and wisdom guide you.
- ▶ If you have not yet trusted in Jesus Christ as your Savior, are you open to asking Him for His advice and wisdom for what you should do next? *Explain.*
- ▶ Life continually brings us challenges that require great wisdom. What you can do to follow God's wisdom the next time challenges happen?

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If there is someone in your class who is trusting in Christ for the first time, pray with that person and encourage him or her to further talk with you, a member of your class, or the pastor. Let the person know that choosing to trust in Christ is the wisest decision he or she will ever make.

Close your class with prayer, thanking God for the blessing He has given each of us through His Son, who is the greatest expression of His wisdom.

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