

PECULIAR TREASURES LESSON – 3rd MAY 2020

WHICH WAY?

TEXT Joshua 24:13-16, 23, 24; Ezra 10:1-16

MEMORY VERSE Joshua 24:15 "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Or

"We will serve the Lord."

STORY - THE CHOICE

Emeka had several friends: Eze, Adesewa, Gbolahan, and Nifemi. The five of them used to move together, but recently it had been difficult to stay together because they could not always agree on what to talk about or things to do. Eze and Nifemi were pulling him in one direction while Adesewa and Gbolahan were pulling him in another direction.

A few weeks earlier Eze and Nifemi said that they should go to Agodi Gardens. A special program for children had been organized which included many games, bouncing castles, snacks, gifts and prizes all for the normal entry price. It promised to be an exciting time. Emeka was thinking about attending the program when Adesewa and Gbolahan reminded him that that same Saturday had been fixed for the annual children's conference and they had been registered by their church. Emeka didn't know what to do at first, but then he went for the conference. What convinced him was that registering for the conference was like making a promise and he didn't want to break his promise.

After school a week earlier, Eze said that they should play ball a little after school before going home. Nifemi supported him. Gbolahan was against it saying that they were supposed to go home immediately. Nifemi said that they wouldn't stay too long, just thirty minutes. Adesewa didn't like the idea so she and Gbolahan left. This time Emeka decided to stay with Nifemi and Eze. When he got home, his parents weren't at home, but his grandmother asked him why he returned home late. He explained and she said he should not do it again.

Emeka lay down on his bed that Friday night. He was not happy that he had to choose between one pair of friends and the other pair of friends. He had come to realize that he couldn't be very good friends with all of them. He had to choose which pair to spend more time with. He prayed about it and he realized that he had to take a choice that would keep him on the path of life. The pair of friends that he had peace with were Adesewa and Gbolahan. He made up his mind that on Monday he was going to tell Nifemi and Eze that they couldn't be close friends anymore. He was not fighting them, but since they didn't share the same values anymore, they couldn't be close again.

Emeka felt at peace as he made up his mind on what to do. That night he slept like a baby.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the names of Emeka's friends that were encouraging him to do things he shouldn't do?

2. What are the names of Emeka's friends that were encouraging him to do the things that he was supposed to do?
3. What choice did Emeka have to make the first time? What helped him to make the right choice?
4. What choice did Emeka have to make the second time? Why did you think you made that choice?
5. Although Emeka made a wrong choice the second time, what good thing did he do when his grandmother spoke with him?
6. What major decision did Emeka have to make at the end of the story?
7. Who helped Emeka and who can help you when you have a choice to make?

ACTIVITIES

1. **With younger children** – Give the children two options. They are to pick the better one. Examples.
 1. To fight, or to play with friends
 2. To pack toys after playing or to leave toys scattered around the room
 3. To obey parents or disobey parents
 4. To complain or to pray.
 5. To finish the food on your plate or to throw the remaining food away
2. **With older children** – If you were chosen to lead a team of five members including you to preach the gospel, which of the following people would you pick? Why? Your trip is for a six month period to an area of your choice. (Each child and parent will write down personal choice and then the family will discuss it.)
 1. Tolu – He sings well and he can play the guitar and the keyboard.
 2. Segun – He knows basic first aid, and he knows how to swim.
 3. Bimpe – She likes talking and is not afraid of crowds.
 4. Lanre – She likes writing all sorts of things.
 5. Adeola – She knows how to do minor electrical repairs and carpentry work
 6. Eze – He loves cooking and he's a good cook.
 7. Ighedosa – She can act well.
 8. Dan Ladi – He knows the scriptures in and out.
 9. Ruth – She is a linguist. She can speak several languages.
 10. Michael – He has good leadership qualities, but he can also be a good follower and team player.