

Lesson Plan 5: Free Will

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Total Time: 45 minutes

Ages: 5-6

Number of Participants: 4-5

Materials:

- Deck of Cards
- The Game of Life Junior
- Paper and Markers

Goals:

Get the children to understand what free will is, and then get them to question if there really is free will at all. Incorporate different types of activities to indicate that in any sphere of life one's ability to make choices can look different.

Introduction:

3 Mins

- Go around and say names
 - If you could do anything for a day with no consequences, what would you do?
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Read-Aloud:

7 Mins

- What Should Danny Do?
 - How did Danny's choices change throughout the day? Have you ever made a choice that changed how your day went? Do we always get to choose what we want to do, why or why not? How does it feel when we get to choose something for ourselves? Do you feel you do have free will? Is freedom scary? Would you still get out of bed, be nice to your siblings, go to school, ect. If it was not for your parents making you? Do you feel some aspects of life are pre-determined?
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MOVEMENT BREAK—wiggle it out

2 Mins

Activity 1: Card Magic Tricks

5 Mins

- Have each child pick a card that will be involved in a magic trick. Manipulate the cards chosen as it goes along, showing them that in life, there may be an illusion of free will.
 - Ask: How does it feel to choose something and have it be changed without your knowledge? Did you know that you were being tricked in the moment?
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MOVEMENT BREAK—Stretch it out

2 Mins

Activity 2: Drawing “Simon Says”**10 Mins**

- Each child will have a piece of paper and pens, one of us will instruct them to draw different aspects of a scene (draw a sun, an umbrella, a sand castle ect.). Once the image is completed, have the kids show off their work.

Ask: All of your drawings look different, did you still have free will in drawing it if we told you what to make generally? If we gave you more instruction would you have less free will since there is less to interpret?

Activity 3: Game of Life Junior**15 Mins**

- Have the kids pair up, and have the partners (there are only 4 cars and 5-6 kids) operate one character when playing The Game of Life Jr. Play as usual, asking questions along the way like:
 - When you make your choices are you thinking about how you feel now or how you will feel in the future about this choice? Is it hard to come up with a choice to make when you are considering someone else's (their partner's) feelings?