

Lesson 10 / August 8, 2010

There's an App for That

for use as

STEP 1

Lesson 10 Focus:

God's Word can guide us.

Lesson 10 Bible Basis:


Exodus 19:1-8, 20;
20:1-3

Paul the Octopus became a world-wide sensation for his amazing accuracy in picking eight out of eight winners in various matches in the 2010 World Cup, including picking Spain to be the overall champion. This lesson will help students focus on how they want to be guided in life – whether by God's Word or by other methods that can never measure up to the guidance of His Word.

Materials:





- an Internet device for watching video (optional)

Discuss:

-  A few weeks ago, the entire world seemed to be focused on the same thing – World Cup soccer. Did you watch any of the World Cup matches?

If you watched, you had a lot of company. It's estimated that just in the United States, more than 24 million people watched the final match between Spain and the Netherlands. That means about one out of every 12 people in this country watched the game. The World Cup games may have been the most-watched television event ever, and as many as 700 million people around the world may have watched the final game.

Of course, people all around the world were trying to predict who would win each match. Some people bet money that they had predicted correctly.

-  Do you ever try to predict which team or player will win a competition?
-  For what sports or events do you like to try to figure out the winner?
-  How do you pick the winner? (Possible answers: guess, flip a coin, draw straws, study the statistics of each side, follow the prediction of experts.)
-  This year, many people thought that they had found the answer to figuring out who would win World Cup matches. They thought someone named Paul had it all figured out. Does anyone know who Paul is?

Paul is better known as Paul the Psychic Octopus, and he picked the winner every time he was asked to predict the winner of a match in the 2010 World Cup. He lives in Germany, so he wasn't too popular when it turned out that he

Lesson 10
Memory Verse

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

—2 Timothy 3:16

didn't think Germany would win the championship. Paul predicted Spain would beat out the Netherlands for the title.

▶ Do you know how Paul predicted the winner of a match? (*He had to choose between two clear boxes with food inside. Each box had a flag of one of the competing teams on it. He always picked the box of the winning team – before the match took place.*)

Let's find out a bit more about Paul. Watch the video from <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=6673832n> now if you desire.)

Paul has even become so popular that a town in Spain wants to buy him. If they can't have him alive, they'd like to have him after he dies. They want to put him in an octopus museum.

(More information on Paul's life since the World Cup can be seen in a short video (less than 90 seconds) at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qUnUxT5KFQ&feature=player_embedded#!)

Let's take a look at today's story. Afterward, you can decide whether you'd like to be guided by God's Word, or whether you'd like to rely on Paul the Psychic Octopus or some other method to guide your life.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your *Middle School Teacher's Guide*; your Step 4 appears below.)

Statistics on television viewing for the World Cup is found at <http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/2010/soccer/world-cup-2010/07/12/ratings.ap/index.html>

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Lesson 10 Focus:

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Lesson 10 Bible Basis:

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20:1-3

Discuss:

- ▶ **Let's play a game. I will give you two choices for a problem or situation that needs a decision, and you will choose one answer. Instead of using God's guidance, we're going to rely on some other methods.** *(You can divide the class up into pairs and give each pair one of the devices listed above, or you can take turns designating someone to provide the answer, whether by flipping a coin, drawing straws, or whatever you have available. Be sure to set some guidelines for the objects as needed. For example, heads always means yes, the short straw always signifies no, or heads means choose the first answer, etc.)*

Feel free to make up your own questions based on your knowledge of your students. Here are some possibilities:

- Should I go to movie A or movie B?
- Should I hit my sister when she bugs me?
- Should I read tonight or play on my computer?
- Should I tell my parents I walked the dog when I really didn't?
- Should I save my allowance?
- When my friend wants to go into a store and take something, should I tell my friend it's wrong to steal?
- If I then get dared to steal something, what should I do?
- Should I tell my parents that my sibling didn't do his/her chores?
- Should I have a snack after school?
- Should I eat an apple or an orange?
- French fries or onion rings?
- What should I wear to school on the first day of school?
- Should I tell my friend I like her new haircut, even though I think it looks terrible?
- Who should I sit by on the bus?
- What songs should I buy for my MP3/Ipod?
- Should I buy the blue shirt or the yellow one?
- Colgate or Crest toothpaste?

- ▶ **Did you like the answers that you got? Why or why not?**
- ▶ **How trustworthy are these methods of making choices?**

Every day we're faced with dozens of choices. Some of them are minor ones and some of them are quite important. Some decisions are easy to make and others are extremely difficult. Believe it or not, now you can have Paul the Psychic

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Octopus decide – not the real Paul, because he's retired. Now, there's an app for that. (Show students the printout or show them the page on the Internet now.)

The app for how to live our lives has actually been around for years. In fact, the app is thousands of years older than iPhones or Smartphones or Droids or any kind of modern technology. The answer isn't always as obvious as Paul the Psychic Octopus makes it seem, but the answers are there. This week, anytime you have a difficult decision to make, think about which app you want to use – the one with the octopus or the one of God's Word.

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