

(1.2) The Ultimate Gamble

Series: Salvation in Christ

Topic: The Ultimate Gamble

Lesson Focus:

To help students critically analyze their beliefs about God, eternity, and life’s meaning while presenting the Gospel as the ultimate secure choice over the gamble of disbelief.

Materials Needed:

- Bible
- Whiteboard and markers
- Free Christian illustration “The Ultimate Gamble”
- Handouts with key scriptures (Acts 16:31, Romans 5:8, Matthew 16:26)
- Dice or coins

Activity

Resources

Introduction

Introduction: (10 minutes)

- **Opening Prayer:** Open with a prayer to help students critically analyze their beliefs about God, eternity, and life’s meaning while presenting the Gospel as the ultimate secure choice over the gamble of disbelief.
- **Opening Activity: The Gamble of Life**
 - Begin with a simple game using dice or coins.
 - Example: Ask a student to roll a die. If they roll a 6, they “win”; otherwise, they “lose.”
 - Discuss: How does it feel to leave the outcome to chance?
- **Illustration:** Read Free Christian illustration “*The Ultimate Gamble*” to students

Dice/ Coin

Free Christian illustration “*The Ultimate Gamble*”

Body

The “What If” Questions (15 minutes)

- Introduce the three "What If" questions:
 - What if death isn’t the end?
 - What if you have a soul that continues into eternity?
 - What if life has a deeper meaning?
 - Ask students how they might answer these questions.
 - Present the idea that ignoring these questions is itself a gamble.
- **Interactive Element:**
 - Think, Pair, Share "If you had to gamble your life savings on one outcome, would you bet everything on there being nothing after death? Why or why not?"



What the Bible Says About Eternity (15 minutes)

Scriptural Insights:

- Romans 5:8: *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
- Acts 16:31: *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."*
- John 3:16: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."*

Teaching Points:

- Explain that Christianity is not based on chance but on the certainty of God's promises.
- Emphasize free will and how rejecting God is a choice with eternal consequences.
- Contrast salvation through Christ with the futility of relying on good works or chance.

Activity: The Scale of Belief (15 minutes)

Draw a Spectrum:

- On one side of the board, write "Strongly Believe in God." On the other side, write "Don't Believe in God at All."
 - Ask students to place themselves mentally on this spectrum and consider why they stand where they do.

Discuss:

- Brainstorm "What are the risks and rewards of believing in God?" "What are the risks and rewards of rejecting God?"

Reflection Question:

- What would it take for you to move closer to the "Strongly Believe" side of the spectrum?

Application (10 minutes)

Personal Reflection:

- Ask: Are you gambling on "nothing" after death, or are you seeking the truth about God and eternity?
- Challenge students to evaluate what they're risking with their current beliefs.

Prayer or Invitation:

- For those who are ready, invite them to consider Acts 16:31 seriously: *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."*
- Lead a prayer for those who want to place their faith in Jesus or seek clarity about belief.

Conclusion

Conclusion: (5 minutes)

Key Takeaway:

- Belief in Jesus Christ offers everything to gain and nothing to lose. Unbelief is the ultimate gamble with infinite stakes.

Closing Prayer:

- Pray for wisdom, courage, and clarity for each student as they consider the most important gamble of their life.

Challenge:

- This week, take 10 minutes to write down what you are currently betting your life on —what you believe about eternity and why. Then, reflect on what you might need to do to move toward a stronger belief in God and Jesus Christ. Share your thoughts with a trusted mentor, parent, or friend.

