Devoted

Lesson Introduction

Devotion is expensive. To be devoted means sacrificing something to acquire what you consider is more important. All successful people are **devoted** people. All failures are also **devoted**. **Devotion** comes natural. It seems to be built inside of us.

For some, they are devoted to a certain style of music. For others, they are devoted to pleasure, selfishness, sex, drugs, money, or perhaps to being popular.

"**Devotion** is the act of committing oneself to something or someone." God calls us to **devote** ourselves to Him. Through **devoting** our love and life to God all other desires take proper perspective.

The hero's or great people are ones that learn the secret of devoting or setting aside what is secondary for what is most important. Great golfers, artists, musicians, all have one thing in common. They are devoted to excellence.

What or to whom are you **devoted**? Is it worth the price you are paying?

Flash Point

Devoted? I am devoted to -- my best friend Jesus!

LESSON TWENTY-THREE

Flash Point

Devoted? I am devoted to -- my best friend Jesus!

PREPARATION LIST

Prepare all songs and story pictures. Trace and color the songs and pictures onto transparencies or larger pieces of paper. If any items are not available, attempt to locate acceptable substitutes.

Welcome: Mad Scientist (MS) costume
National Anthem: National flag
Game #1: Whiteboard, marker pen
Game #2: Food items, gloves, long sleeve etc.
Special Emphasis:
Offering: Containers for offering
Announcements: Flyers for next meeting
Lesson Introduction: Hot peppers etc.
Memory Verse: Transparency or posterboard
Bible Story: Sunglasses, toy, basket etc.
Object Lesson #1: Chair, crown etc.
Object Lesson #2: Photo, marker pen
Object Lesson #3: Parrot mask, cracker etc.
Object Lesson #4: Paper, water color paints, cleaning material

Kids Club Rally

Welcome:
KIDS Rules
Prayer _____
National Anthem _____
Theme Song _____
Praise Songs _____
Review Questions #1 _____
Game #1 Tic-tac-toe
Review Questions #2 _____
Game #2 In “D” Mouth
Special Emphasis
Offering _____

Worship _____
Special Ministry _____
Announcements _____
Lesson Introduction Ooow yuck!
Flash Point: Devoted?
Memory Verse I Chronicles 22:19
Bible Story A Hug
Object lesson #1 ‘D’ Throne
Object lesson #2 Celebrity
Object lesson #3 Parrots
Object lesson #4 He’s Devoted
Story Time Once On Time
Ending Prayer

DEVOTED

Welcome

Props: Mad Scientist (MS) costume. Yo-yo, and or other sports items. Paper and marker pen.
Preparation: Dress a volunteer to look like a mad scientist. (Be creative.) Make a poster that says, **"Full of basketball knowledge."** Attach the poster unseen inside his coat. Attach various pieces of sports equipment on to him.
Presentation: Leader welcomes the children. **Mad Scientist** comes out and takes over. He's playing with a yo-yo or some other toy (not a basket ball). Hi kids, how many of you like basketball? It's fun isn't it? Did you know the longest basketball shot ever made during a game was over 90 feet (about 30 meters) on July 1971? It's amazing how much money they make throwing that ball around. I've decided to make millions by playing sports too. So I'm practicing all the sports. You know what? I'm really full of basketball knowledge. Want to see? **MS** (laughing) pulls open his jacket showing the sign which says, "Full of basketball knowledge."
Leader: Interrupts the Mad Scientist. "Thank you **MS** for coming today, you just helped me to teach today's lesson. **MS:** I did? **Leader:** Yes! Today's lesson is on being, "devoted." You've just showed us how not to do it. Now... **MS** is assisted, pushed off stage, with **MS** giving a parting shout, "Just wait till I'm a millionaire. You'll be sorry!"
Leader: Can you become a basketball star by practicing with a yo-yo (or any other sport)? No! You have to play basketball. You have to be **devoted** to it. It must be your passion. The same is for your life. If you are going to be good at something you must do it your best. Let's learn more about being devoted. Let's pray.

Kids Rules
Opening Prayer

Suggested prayer: Dear Jesus, You were devoted to do what your Father God wanted you to do. Please Jesus, help us to be devoted to you. In Jesus name. Amen.

National Anthem
Praise Songs
Review Questions

Finish the Flash Points.

14. (With actions) Character: It's not there. It's not there. It's there!
15. Patience: Hard 2 find. Important 2 have.
16. Generosity gives us velocity to grow and go.
17. Tenderhearted with an open hand not a fist!
18. Faithfulness: Never leave home without Him.
19. Joy-Full: The saddest time's with Jesus, are better than the happiest time's without Him.
20. Dreamers wanted: God wants to talk to us. Young and old, boy's and girls.
21. Good: Be good, there's no law against it.
22. Determined? I am determined to follow Jesus!

Game #1
Tic-tac-toe

Props: White board, marker pen.
Preparation: Make a tic-tac-toe game, perhaps on poster paper. Prepare prizes.
Participants: Recommend two teams. Players to be selected from those who know the **Flash Points**. (Prior review is good).
Game Rules: Select the contestants one at a time from the audience. Required to finish a **Flash Point.** Take turns alternating between groups (Example: Boys vs girls.). When a contestant answers correctly they are to place an **X** or **O** depending on which team they are in. When a team has three in a row that team is declared the winner. If neither wins, the prize (candy) is given to the audience. Have fun. (Variations can be made.) **[As with any games, feel free to replace or change at your discretion.]**

LESSON TWENTY-THREE

Review Questions

Complete the Memory Verses

14. Do not be fooled: Bad company corrupts good character. I Corinthians 15:33
15. To obey the Lord is better than sacrifice, and to pay attention is better than the fat of rams. I Samuel 15:22 with an open hand not a fist.
16. There was a disciple named Dorcas, who was always doing good and helping the poor. Acts 9:36
17. Be kind and tenderhearted to each other. Forgive each other just as God forgave you in Christ. Ephesians 4:32
18. I saw heaven open, and there was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. **Revelation 19:11.**
19. A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones. Proverbs 17:22
20. In the last days, God says, "I will pour out My spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams." Acts 2:17
21. Well done good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things." Matthew 25:23
22. Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show others about the Lord's death until he returns. I Corinthians 11:26

Game #2
In 'D' Mouth

Props: Food items. Gloves, long sleeve shirt, blindfold.
Preparation: A simple meal, sandwich, drink, perhaps cookies.
Players: Four players forming two teams.
Playing: Put a long sleeve shirt on the contestant's in the front. The child in the back is to place their arms through the shirt sleeves facing the child in the front. Blindfold the child in the back (Optional: Place gloves on the blindfolded contestants).
On the signal to start the two pairs of contestants are to eat the food prepared for them.
The blindfolded child provides the hands to feed the child in the front. The pair that successfully eats their food first, is to be declared the winner.

Offering
Children in Special Ministry
Worship
Announcements

Lesson Introduction
Ooow Yuck?

Props: Hot peppers, candies and a plate.
Warning: Hot peppers should be handled carefully around children.
Preparation: In advance look for someone who enjoys hot peppers who is willing to demonstrate eating one.
Presentation: Hold up a couple pieces of candy. Ask who likes candy and what do they think of it. (Encourage an audible audience response such as yummy, mmm good, etc.) Give away a couple pieces of candy and ask them to volunteer demonstrating how much they like it. (Encourage your volunteers to act it out. Have fun.)
Many people crave candy and sweet things. Some people crave certain kinds of food. For example some people really like deep fried grasshoppers such as the ones sold on the sidewalks of Thailand, where they are fried and sold as a snack food. Some people like chocolate covered ants. (Suggest strange foods you know of.)
Hold up the hot peppers. What do you think of hot peppers. (Again encourage an audible response ("Ooow yuck!")). Many people really enjoy hot peppers just like many enjoy candy. Ask for a volunteer who would enjoy eating the hot peppers. After the volunteer demonstrates his ability of eating the peppers, thank the volunteer and ask the kids which of them have a craving for the hot peppers or if they'd rather the candy.

What you crave can be important. If you crave candy instead of regular food your body will not get the nutrients it needs. The same is true of devotion. If you are devoted to a boyfriend or a girlfriend they become more special than others. In the same way a craving for candy (hold up a piece) can replace your desire for healthy food. Devotion to a person can replace your desire for a relationship with Jesus. If we are not devoted to Jesus we are headed for trouble. Today's **Flash Point: Devoted? I am devoted to -- my best friend Jesus!**

Flash Points

#1. Character: It's not there. It's not there. It's there!
#2. Patience, hard 2 find. Important 2 have.
#3. Generosity gives us velocity to grow & go.
#4. Tenderhearted with an open hand not a fist.
#5. Faithfulness: Never leave home without Him.
#6 Joy-Full: The saddest time's with Jesus, are better than the happiest time's without Him.
#7. Flash Point: Dreamers wanted: God wants to talk to us. Young and old, boy's and girls.
#8. Good: Be good, there's no law against it.
#9. Determined? I am determined to -- follow Jesus!
#10. Devoted? I am devoted to -- my best friend Jesus!

Being devoted is something most of us are able to be naturally. It is something that is built inside of us. Some people are devoted to their jobs, some people are devoted to their wives, children, work, or even themselves.

God wants our devotion. He made a special place in our heart that is reserved just for Him. If we do not reserve that place in our heart for God, something or someone will steal that place. This week's **Flash Point: Devoted? I am devoted to -- my best friend Jesus!**

Use the flash point for a question. "Who are you devoted to?" Encourage the audience to respond with the answer. **"I am devoted to -- my best friend Jesus!" Flash Point: Devoted? I am devoted to -- my best friend Jesus!**

Quiet Seat Time

Memory Verse

Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the Lord your God.
I Chronicles 22:19

Props: Transparency or poster of today's scripture verse. It can be used as a coloring page for the class or as a take home item.
Preparation: Practice and become familiar with today's memory verse. Recommend using the music provided on the Kids Praise and Worship tape. Also as an extra reward for memorizing Scripture, consider giving special prizes to the children who memorize the verses.
Presentation: Practice the Scripture verses. Help the kids to hide them in their hearts. The Word of God hidden in a child's heart is the best life insurance available.

LESSON TWENTY-THREE

Bible Story

A Hug

Mark 10:46-52

Props: Sun glasses, toy, blanket, cup, etc. see below.

Preparation: Two parts. First have a small child prepared to enter, carrying a bottle, small blanket, or stuffed toy. **Second part:** Acting out today's Bible Story. Have one child dress up as a blind beggar. Use whatever props available such as sun glasses, walking stick, cloak, etc. A white piece of material to form a cloak for a volunteer to act the part of Jesus.

Participants: Leader, helpers and volunteers.

Presentation: Leader: Devotion is a very powerful force. It can motivate both the person who is devoted and the person who receives the devotion.

A small child enters (carrying toy, blanket or bottle). The child looks up to the leader and holds their arms out for a hug. The leader leans down and picks them up giving them a big hug. At the same time explaining that a small child is often devoted to the ones who care and loves them. When a small child reaches out to someone who loves them, and expects a hug, "What happens?" In a healthy relationship the person who cares will reach out and give attention to the child.

We are all, no matter our age, "God's children." If we reach out to God, He loves us and will reach out to us." The child getting a hug, gets ready to leave, but first says to the audience, Jesus loves you!"

Act out **Today's Bible Story.** A child comes out dressed like a blind beggar. The child sits down with a cup for collecting coins, and starts begging and saying to the audience. "Give me money." The beggar then stops, (hand cupped to his ear.) "Shh! he says, "Jesus is coming, I hear Him. He's coming!

The person acting as Jesus enters at the back of a group of his followers. The beggar asks, "Is Jesus here?" Individuals in the group tell him to be quiet, but he just get's louder. Jesus, Jesus! The group keeps trying to hush him, until finally he jumps up, dropping his cloak and stick he pushes through the group seeking Jesus.

Coming to Jesus, he is asked, "What do you want." **With great passion,** the blind child says, Jesus, I want to see." (Encourage this to be acted out very strongly.) As the actors exit the child acting the blind part should say to the audience, "Jesus is near, whatever you need He loves you."

Leader: What is your need? In the Bible we see blind Bartimaeus. He knew what he wanted. You watch a blind person. Often people are happy to give blind people money. When blind Bart wanted to get close to Jesus, what happened? Strange... People began to tell him no. Don't be surprised, when you decide to follow Jesus that people will tell you, "No! Stop! Don't do it!" Following Jesus and getting what you really need and want is important. **Flash Point: Devoted? I am devoted to -- my best friend Jesus!**

Object Lesson #1

'D' Throne

Psalm 113:5

Props: A chair, crown, etc.

Preparation: Decorate the chair to represent a throne. Various props that may be used for this lesson include a wallet, toy, clothes, Walkman, baby bottle, scepter, etc. Place these items in a bag to be removed as you demonstrate the lesson.

Presentation: Place the chair (Decorated like a throne.) in front of the audience. The leader, volunteer or helper sits on the throne. Place a crown on their head.

We all have a space in our heart that is like a throne room. Whatever or whoever we value the highest occupies the throne in the throne room of our heart. A normal child growing up has by nature a selfish heart, concerned with his wants, needs and desires. First a child may learn how to demand his bottle. Actively demonstrate a baby crying. Have your helper quickly get the baby bottle for the one on the throne. (Have fun - lessons are learned even as the audience laughs. Agreement can come with laughter.)

As we grow up, our demands as king gets bigger. Other things that can capture our attention are (pull various items out of the bag.) money, sex, drugs, etc.
We will never find happiness until we find out that the throne room in our heart was never built for us but was built for God. When we put God on the throne of our heart, then we begin to find peace and happiness. Stand up, taking off the crown place it on the throne. Jesus is the only one that should be on the throne of our heart.
Flash Point: Devoted? I am devoted to -- my best friend Jesus!

Object Lesson #2
Celebrity

Props: Photo and marker pen.
Participants: Leader and audience.
Presentation: When people go to a concert to hear a popular singer or when they meet a celebrity they will often pull out a piece of paper and ask for their autograph.
The celebrity is honored by his fans to be popular. I have a photograph of myself, would anyone like to have my autograph? Sign the photo and give it to someone in the audience.
Blind Bart (Mark 10:46) wanted Jesus' signature. Yes, not just a signature. Jesus' signature was His ability to heal the sick, raise the dead and yes to even open blinded eyes. People wanted Jesus to touch them. Just like today, people seek after the signatures of celebrities.
My signature is nothing compared to the value of the signature or touch of Jesus. If we want to please Jesus we need to be devoted to Him. We need to make Him the most important person in our life. How about it? Who is the most important person in your life?
Flash Point: Devoted? I am devoted to -- my best friend Jesus!

Object Lesson #3
Parrots

Props: Parrot mask, cracker, jewelry.
Preparation: Make a mask that represents a parrot beak. Add costume effects as desired.
Presentation: Leader to audience. Hi, kids. Have you ever seen a bird that can talk? Many birds can be trained to talk. I have a new pet, named Polly. It's a parrot and it knows a lot of words. You want to see it? (Encourage audience response.) Wait a moment I'll get him, remember his/her name is Polly Parrot. Bring out your volunteer dressed in a parrot costume. Look! Do you like my parrot. He's cute! Let's see if my parrot will talk for you. (Act it out, talk bird talk.) Bring out a cracker. Here Polly, you want a cracker. **Parrot:** Squawks. **Leader:** Come on Polly, I know you can talk. **Parrot:** Continues to squawks. **Leader:** I know I'll ask a different question. (Pull out the jewelry.) What do you think of this Polly? **Parrot:** Replies, ugly, cheap not worth a dollar (insert currency of low value). **Leader:** Shocked. Why Polly, what words!! **Polly:** What do you expect? I grew up in a pawn shop!
Leader: Helps, Polly (squawking) to exit. Kids, Polly is right. What, or who, we allow to impact our lives and heart will also determine what comes out of our mouth. Polly grew up in a pawn shop. The owner did not want to give anyone more money than necessary so he would say their things, 'like this jewelry' were of poor value. As a result Polly sounds like his owner.
If we are devoted to Jesus the words that come from our mouths will reflect His influence on us. What kind of songs have you been listening to and singing. Do they reflect Jesus? Or do they reflect the spirit of the world. Think about it.
Flash Point: Devoted? I am devoted to -- my best friend Jesus!
I wonder how many of us really do want to be devoted to Jesus. Do we really want to make Him the King of the throne of our heart?

LESSON TWENTY-THREE

Object Lesson #4
He's Devoted
I'm Devoted
Romans 8:35-39

Props: Paper, water color paints, cleaning material.
Preparation: Make a page for each one in the audience. If you have too large a group you might want to give out the paper as a homework challenge. Use water color paints to place hand prints on each page. Or they can take the pages home and trace their hands with a marker pen.
Presentation: If you ever go to the bank for a loan, one of the things the bank requires is your signature. If you do not know how to write your name they will sometimes allow the person to use their fingerprint. Each one of our fingerprints are different.
Today's lesson is about being devoted to someone. Who is the most important person that we should be devoted to? (Encourage audience participation.) Yes! Jesus is the one who loves us more than anyone. He is very devoted. Nothing! Absolutely nothing can separate us from the love of God. If you want to devote your life to Jesus let's take a moment and tell Him so. Let's pray this prayer together. **Sample prayer:**

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for being so devoted to me. Please help me to live for you. I'm sorry for the bad things I have done. Please forgive my sins. I want to devote my life to you. In Jesus name. Amen.

If you really want to devote yourself to Jesus, we have prepared a sheet of paper, similar to a bank. You can use it to place, not just your fingerprint but your whole handprint on it, to indicate that you have decided to devote your life to Jesus.
(If you have prepared watercolor paints, let each of the children place their handprint on a separate sheet of paper. If you want you can make two, one they can take home the second to hang in your classroom. Distribute papers or give out to take home.) **Flash Point: Devoted? I am devoted to -- my best friend Jesus!**

Story Time
Once On Time

Based on a story received from a friend.
Teachers note: Teachers choice to insert another child's name and location to personalize the story.

Picture 23:1 My name is Inan. My home is in the Philippines. I live on Mindanao Island. Something happened to me ten years ago that changed my life. It was during the first month, of my first year in high school. I was walking home with my basketball and saw the new kid from my class also walking home. His name was Carlos. It looked like he was carrying all of his books. I asked myself, "Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a geek (Slang word for strange)." I had a full weekend planned. First to play computer games, and then a couple basketball games with my friends on Saturday and Sunday. He obviously wasn't my type so I ignored him.

Picture 23:2 Turning the corner to go home I heard a kids laughing. Looking back I saw a bunch of kids running towards Carlos. As they ran by him they tripped him and knocked all the books out of his arms, making him fall down. His glasses fell off and I saw them land in the grass. He looked up and I saw a terrible sadness in his eyes. My stomach twisted in a knot and my heart went out to him. I ran over to him.

Picture 23:3 He was looking for his glasses, and I saw a tear in his eye. I handed him his glasses and said, "Those guys are jerks. They should get a swift kick in the seat of their pants." He looked up at me a grateful smile wiping away the tear. "Thanks!" he said. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude. I helped him pick up his books, and asked him where he lived. He lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before. He said he had gone to private school until now. I had never had a friend who attended private schools before. We talked all the way home, and I carried some of his books.

Picture 23:4 He turned out to be a pretty cool kid. I asked him if he wanted to play a little basketball with my friends. He said, "Yes." We hung out all weekend and the more I got to know Carlos, the more I liked him, and my friends thought the same of him. On Monday morning I met him at his house and here came Carlos with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, "Boy, you are gonna really build some serious muscles with this pile of books everyday! "He just laughed and handed me half the books. During the rest of our time in High School, Carlos and I were best friends.

Picture 23:5 When we were seniors, we began to think about college. Carlos decided on Ateneo, and I was going to the UM (University of Mindanao). I knew that we would always be friends, that even if we moved to different islands it would not change.

His goal was to be a doctor, My goal was an architect degree with the help of a basketball scholarship.

Picture 23:6 Carlos was valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a geek. He had to prepare a speech for graduation. I was glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak. On graduation day, Carlos looked great. He was one of those guys that really got everything together during high school. He got taller and actually looked good in glasses. He had more dates than I had and all the girls loved him. Sometimes I was jealous. It was funny to watch him blush when our classmates came and gave him a kiss of congratulations.

Picture 23:7 Graduation day, I could see that he was nervous about his speech. I gave him our familiar basketball team High Five greeting and said, "Hey, big man, you'll swish it, you'll be great! "He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled. "Thanks Inan." he said. As he started his speech, he cleared his throat, and began.

LESSON TWENTY-THREE

"Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough growing up years. Your parents, your teachers, your brothers, sisters, maybe a coach... but mostly your friends. I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I am going to tell you a story."

Picture 23:8 I just looked at my friend with shock and disbelief as he told the story of the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his Mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying his stuff home. He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile. "Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable, from killing myself."

Picture 23:9 I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. You never know what one kind deed can do to influence the life of another. Jesus came and did that for us. Then Jesus said, "Go and do it to others." My best friend showed me by his actions that someone cared for me. What you do, by being kind and friendly to others, is important.

Picture 23:10 I saw his Mom and dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile. Not until that moment did I realize the value of a thankful heart. Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture you can change a person's life. For better or for worse. God puts us all in each other's lives to impact one another in some way. Look for ways to touch others with God's love. You might change them and yourself, forever. Devotion to Jesus may not seem to make a difference today. Every day you follow Jesus, is like planting good seeds in the garden of your heart. **Flash Point: Devoted? I am devoted to -- my best friend Jesus!**

Wrap Up & Closing Prayer

Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the Lord your God.

I Chronicles 22:19

Name:_____ Nickname:_____

Birthday:_____ Age:_____

Flash Point

Devoted? I am devoted to -- my best friend Jesus!

Devoted? I am devoted to -- my best friend Jesus!

Hand print

SIGNATURE: _____ AGE: _____ BIRTH DATE: _____ DATE: _____