



## Who Is On the Throne?

By Deborah Wassenberg

*Our children are sold the advice: 'What is your heart telling you?' Jesus talked about the state of our hearts in Mark 7:21-23 and it's not good. Instead of letting their hearts rule, children will learn to put Jesus on the throne of their heart. Allowing Him to reign and rule their hearts will bring them a life of blessing and joy even when times are tough.*

### You Tube Song Suggestions:

- Put God First (AllstarsGO)
- Step By Step (Jana Alayra)
- Echo (chapelhill kids)

### Bible Lesson: The Rich Young Ruler

Bible References: Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31;  
Luke 18:18-30

*You'll find illustrations for the Bible story at [Free Bible Images](#). I've suggested additional visuals for your PowerPoint presentation or flashcards.*

### Visual Aid Suggestions:

1. Throne
2. Child showing any emotion
3. King David
4. Child on throne
5. Child and money
6. Black heart
7. White heart
8. Rich young ruler
9. Throne with riches on the seat
10. Jesus on the throne of your heart

### Words:

1. Do you know what a throne is?  
A throne is a special chair.  
A seat where a king or queen sits.  
It is a seat of power.  
A place to sit when they rule over people,

make laws and judgements, or decide  
who will live and who will die.  
Only the king or queen can sit on a throne.  
Throughout history wars have been fought over  
who would sit on a throne.  
People who were born to sit on the throne were  
even killed so someone else could take their place.  
What if I told you there is a war for *your* throne?  
'I have a throne?'  
Yes! You have a throne.  
A place of power that is being fought over.  
That throne is in your heart.

2. Not the organ that beats in your chest.  
The heart that is the very centre of you that rules you.  
Your heart can think (and talk: it's called self-talk)  
Your heart has will power (it decides).  
Your heart can feel (emotions).  
Your heart has a conscience (senses right from wrong),  
personality and character.  
Your heart is the real you that can be hidden from  
everyone but not from God.  
He sees every human heart.
3. There's a lot in the Bible about the heart.  
There are people with good hearts.  
There are people with bad hearts.  
There are people with proud hearts and  
people with humble hearts.  
There are people with hardened hearts and  
people with tender hearts.  
There are people with clean hearts and  
people who have turned their hearts away from God.  
The Bible talks about the heart so much because it is a powerful place.  
Whoever sits on the throne of your heart rules!  
Whoever sits on the throne of your heart is the one you will worship and serve.  
No wonder there is a battle for your heart.
4. So, who sits on the throne of your heart?  
Before you become a Christian...you do.  
This is called 'self'.  
From the throne you please yourself.  
Do what you want to do.  
Say what you want to say.

Feel what you want to feel.  
Think what you want to think.

This is how a lot of the world lives.  
'Be true to yourself,' they say.  
'Follow your heart.'  
'Your truth is your truth.'  
'You have everything you need inside yourself.'  
Even though these words sound pleasing to hear, and even wise,  
they are not the truth. They are lies.  
They are not what the Bible teaches.

5. What if a kid thinks in their heart:  
'I want money so I can buy something from the school tuckshop.  
I'm tired of the same lunch every day.  
I feel like something else.  
But I have no money.  
Dad has money. Loose change in the car.  
He won't notice if I take some of it.'  
That kid is just following their heart aren't they?  
What could possibly go wrong?  
*(Discuss with the children)*  
That's the trouble if 'self' is on the throne.
6. The Bible says, 'The human heart is the most deceitful of all things,  
and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?  
But I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives.  
I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve.'  
*(Jeremiah 17:9)*  
Oh-oh! God knows exactly what is in your heart.  
There is no hiding anything from Him.  
God knows your heart can deceive you.  
Your heart can deliberately cause you to think something that is not true.  
Your heart will do anything to get its own way or even want something  
it doesn't need.  
So you see, following your heart can be dangerous.
7. When you give your life to Jesus you take yourself off the throne of your heart.  
You ask Jesus to be your Lord and to rule you.  
Jesus now sits on the throne of your heart.  
We have to make Him feel right at home. *(Ephesians 3:17)*  
Instead of asking yourself, 'What do I want?'  
A Christian asks, 'Jesus, what do you want?'  
It can be hard.

Sometimes your sneaky 'self' will want to rule again.  
Whenever you realise you've put yourself back on the throne,  
ask Jesus to forgive you, thank Him, and ask Him to sit on the  
throne of your heart again.

8. One day as Jesus was walking down the road on His way to Jerusalem,  
a rich, young ruler came running up to Him and knelt down, and asked,  
'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?'

Jesus said, 'You know the Commandments: You must not murder.  
You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not  
lie. You must not cheat anyone. Honour your father and mother.'  
(*Exodus 20:1-17*)

'Teacher,' the man replied, 'I've obeyed all these Commandments  
since I was young.'

Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine compassion for him.

'There is still one thing you haven't done,' He told him.

'Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor,  
And you will have treasure in Heaven. Then come, follow Me.'

At this the man's face fell, and he went away sad,  
for he had many possessions.

9. Who was on the throne of that young man's heart?  
He was and all his wealth and treasure was on his lap!  
He was a rich young man used to ruling.  
He would not give those things up.  
He chose to stay on the throne instead of putting Jesus  
on the throne and living for Him...even though Jesus promised  
him treasure in Heaven.

10. Remember to keep Jesus on the throne of your life.  
Let Him reign and rule. Worship and serve Him.  
Listen to Him. You can trust Him because He loves you  
and will always know what is best for you.

## Ministry to the Children:

Jesus says our hearts are full of some very bad things. Evil thoughts, pride and foolishness to name a few. (*Mark 7:21-23*) That's why following your heart is not wise and can even lead you into dangerous situations. Jesus gives us a new heart when we give our life to Him. (*Ezekiel 36:26*) It's a heart where Jesus is welcome and at home. Then you must give Him the throne. If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (*Romans 10:9*) *Altar call.*

## Memory Verse: Ezekiel 36:26 (NLT)

And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.

### **A Memory Verse Relay** (To get the heart pumping!)

1. Print the Memory Verse on a large piece of paper. Read the verse aloud together, then cover the words.
2. Divide the children into teams. Give each team a Bible and a marker. Attach one piece of paper per team to the wall. The first child runs to the paper, writes the first word of the verse and runs back. He or she hands the marker to the second child who writes the second word.
3. Continue until the verse and reference are written. If a team member needs to look at the verse, the whole team must look up the Bible verse together. The first team to finish wins.

## Game: Capture the Throne

### **You will need:**

- A large group of children
- 2 flags with a different coloured throne drawn on each
- A large area, which can be roughly divided into two

### **How to play:**

Split the children into two teams and allocate each team with one half of the area. Each team chooses a base position, where they keep their 'throne flag', and a jail position, where they will keep their prisoners.

Each team now tries to capture the other team's throne flag. Whenever a team member ventures onto the other team's territory, he is at risk of being tagged by the enemy team. When caught he is taken to that team's jail, where he must remain until he is freed (touched) by one of his team members.

When someone manages to capture the other team's throne flag and return it to their own territory, their team wins.

## Craft: Make a Throne for Jesus

*Make a chair and turn it into a Throne using colour and jewels. Don't forget to add the name of JESUS! I found a couple of ideas on the internet.*

- Origami chairs
- Paddlepop stick chairs