

Decisions & Outcomes

It is easy to read – or teach – a Bible story and not take time to think about the decisions that people are making throughout the story. “Decisions & Outcomes” activities force us to stop and do this. They focus on single decisions that people make in the Bible and ask students to evaluate the decision and its outcome. Activities of this kind give lots of room to talk about what is meant by the terms “faithful” and “unfaithful” when it comes to making decisions, and what is meant by the terms “good” and “bad” when we think about the outcomes that follow.

This kind of activity can give students practice weighing decisions without immediately rushing to judgment on the people who make them. It can also equip the students to better evaluate their own decisions.

Jesus in Gethsemane

Matthew 26:37-39.

37 And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." 39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."



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- What decision does Jesus make while he is praying?

- Rate his decision:

| UNFAITHFUL | NEUTRAL | FAITHFUL | | |
|------------|---------|----------|---|---|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

- Why do you give his decision this rating?
- Read Matthew 27:35. What is the outcome of his decision?

- Rate the outcome of his decision:

| BAD | NEUTRAL | GOOD | | |
|-----|---------|------|---|---|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

- Why do you give the outcome this rating?
- Could Jesus have made an easier decision in Gethsemane? Why didn't he do it? Wouldn't the outcome have been better for him?
- Why is prayer time a good time to make important decisions?