

## 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.

### Joseph

Genesis 37:5-8.

*<sup>5</sup> Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. <sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed: <sup>7</sup> Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." <sup>8</sup> His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.*

- What decision does Joseph make in this situation?

- Rate his decision:

UNFAITHFUL	NEUTRAL	FAITHFUL		
0	1	2	3	4

- Why do you give his decision this rating?
- What is the immediate 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?
- Can bad things happen to us regardless of the decisions we make? If so, what can we do about it?