

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’s Brothers

Genesis 37:25-28.

²⁵ ... And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt.

²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him.

²⁸ Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.

- What decision do Joseph’s brothers make?

- Rate their decision:

UNFAITHFUL	NEUTRAL		FAITHFUL	
0	1	2	3	4

- Why do you give their decision this rating?
- Read Genesis 50:20. What is the ultimate outcome of their decision?

- Rate this outcome:

BAD	NEUTRAL		GOOD	
0	1	2	3	4

- Why do you give the outcome this rating?
- Is it alright to do bad things as long as something good happens as a result? Explain.