

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.

Paul at Philippi: The Philippian Jailer

Acts 16:25-28.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶ and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here."

- What quick decision does Paul make in this situation?

- Rate his decision:

UNFAITHFUL	NEUTRAL		FAITHFUL	
0	1	2	3	4

- Why do you give his decision this rating?
- Read Acts 16:29-34. What is the outcome?

- Rate the outcome:

BAD	NEUTRAL		GOOD	
0	1	2	3	4

- Why do you give the outcome this rating?
- Would you have made the same decision Paul did? Explain.