

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.

David and Bathsheba

2 Samuel 11:1-5.

¹ In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. ² It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. ³ And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴ So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵ And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

- What decision does David make in v.1?
- What decision does David make in v.2?
- What decision does David make in v.3?
- What decision does David make in v.4?
- Rate David's decisions:

UNFAITHFUL	NEUTRAL	FAITHFUL		
0	1	2	3	4

- Why do you give his decisions this rating?
- What is the outcome of David's decisions?

- Note: the real outcome is *not found* in the passage above. It is found in 2 Samuel 12:13a and Psalm 51:4 (also notice the title of Psalm 51). Read these and then rate the outcome.

BAD	NEUTRAL			GOOD
0	1	2	3	4

- Why do you give the outcome this rating?
- When we sin, are we likely to make just one unfaithful decision? Explain.
- Can faithful people do wrong things? If so, does God hold it against them? Explain.