

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: Lydia

Acts 16:12-13.

¹² ... We remained in this city (Philippi) some days. ¹³ And on the Sabbath day we (Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke) went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.

- What decision do Paul and his companions make?

- Rate their decision:

UNFAITHFUL	NEUTRAL	FAITHFUL		
0	1	2	3	4

- Why do you give their decision this rating?
- Read Acts 16:14-15. What is the outcome of this decision?

- Rate the outcome:

BAD	NEUTRAL	GOOD		
0	1	2	3	4

- Why do you give the outcome this rating?
- Does life always work this way? Explain.