

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.

Sergius Paulus

Acts 13:4-7.

⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they (Paul and Barnabas) went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵ When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them. ⁶ When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. ⁷ He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.

- What decision does Sergius Paulus make?

- Rate his decision:

UNFAITHFUL	NEUTRAL	FAITHFUL		
0	1	2	3	4

- Why do you give his decision this rating?
- Read Acts 13:8-12. What is the 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?