

## 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 Slave Girl

Acts 16:16-18.

*<sup>16</sup> As we (Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke) were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." <sup>18</sup> And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.*

- What decision does Paul make after becoming annoyed?

- Rate his decision:

UNFAITHFUL	NEUTRAL	FAITHFUL		
0	1	2	3	4

- Why do you give his decision this rating?
- Read Acts 16:19-24. What is the outcome for Paul *and Silas*?

- Rate the outcome:

BAD	NEUTRAL	GOOD		
0	1	2	3	4

- Why do you give the outcome this rating?
- Is the outcome fair? Explain.