

Unit 25

Good and Bad Choices

Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Ephesians 6:10

When your family sits down to share God's Word, use this devotion on its own or go to <http://echoescurriculum.com/video/> to watch **Good and Bad Choices** before doing the devotion together. This devotion works well in September.

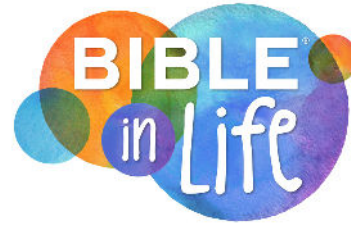
The video shows four scenes of kids at school. These scenes showcase the good and bad choices kids made throughout the day.

- How do you make good choices? What causes you to make bad choices?

The Bible stories this month talk about following God's directions as seen through the examples of Samuel and King David in the Old Testament. Samuel listens to what God says and chooses to follow God's directions. David makes the choice of trusting in God and seeking God's help when he is in the overwhelming situations of facing Goliath and running from Saul.

- You make many choices every day. What can you do to follow God's directions in making choices?
- Memorize Ephesians 6:10. Think of how God helped Samuel or David. How can God help you be strong and choose right when you are in an overwhelming situation?
- Spend time at a meal talking about symbols that help you remember to seek God's help. Give each family member a note card on which to draw a symbol that helps them to seek God. Ephesians 6:10 could be added to the card. Invite family members to put their cards in a place where they need to be reminded to be strong and seek God's help in any situation—especially overwhelming ones.

End with a short prayer. Dear God, thank You that we can trust You and turn to You in situations that seem too big for us to handle. Thank You for helping in all situations. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Unit 26

Taking a Stand for God

**Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you.
He will not fail you or forsake you.**

1 Chronicles 28:20

When your family sits down to share God's Word, use this devotion on its own or go to <http://echoescurriculum.com/video/> to watch **Taking a Stand for God** before doing the devotion together. This devotion works well in October.

In the video, kids make decisions on how to act in everyday situations. How they act shows whether they are or are not taking a stand for God.

- What do you think about when you have to make a decision?

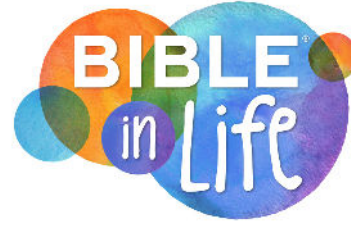
Life was super tough for David. He came back from fighting for his kingdom only to find his hometown destroyed and his family taken captive. And it wasn't just David's family. It was also the families of the entire town! Some of the men in his group wanted to hurt David because they were so upset.

- What would you have done if you were David?

David turned to God for strength. Following God's instructions, David and his men chased after the people who had destroyed their town, and they got their families back. (See 1 Samuel 30 for the entire story.)

- Your tough times in life are different from David's. How does God factor into *your* decisions?
- Memorize all or part of 1 Chronicles 28:20. God says that we can be brave and keep going because He is with us. How does that help you?
- Work together to create a 1 Chronicles 28:20 mini poster for each family member. Place the posters where they can remind family members to talk to God when life gets tough.

End with a short prayer. Dear God, thank You for loving and caring for us. You said that we can be brave and keep going because You are with us. Help us to trust in that and turn to You when life gets tough. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Unit 27

Following Wisdom

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

James 1:5

When your family sits down to share God's Word, use this devotion on its own or go to <http://echoescurriculum.com/video/> to watch **Following Wisdom** before doing the devotion together. This devotion works well in November.

Throughout the video, kids discover more about God and His wisdom through helping other people, and a girl has some issues studying for a test. The video shows that wisdom is powerful, God is honored when we serve Him, and God's wisdom helps us.

- What do you think *wisdom* means?

This month's Bible stories follow the reign of King Solomon. King Solomon is recognized as one of the wisest men in the Bible. When he became the ruler of Israel, he asked God for help in ruling wisely. As long as Solomon followed and worshiped God, God's wisdom helped Solomon know what to do. But once he started worshiping idols and turned away from God, Solomon's decisions weren't wise. They may have appeared to be the right things for a rich and powerful person to do, but they didn't honor God.

From Solomon's story we see that God's wisdom is powerful. God is honored when we serve Him.

- A definition of *wisdom* is "having a wise attitude, belief, or set of actions." How do you become wise?
- Memorize all or part of James 1:5. Wisdom comes from God. How might studying God's Word help you grow in wisdom?
- Take a wisdom challenge. Choose three nights this week to talk about wisdom. Talk about wisdom as it relates to one of the following topics: Wisdom is powerful; God is honored when we serve Him; Give thanks to God; God's wisdom helps us. As a family, concentrate on growing in wisdom and God's Word.

End with a short prayer. Dear God, all wisdom comes from You. Help us to follow Your Word and Your wisdom so we know what to do and how to treat others. In Jesus' name. Amen.