

Unit 31

A Time for Decision

“Call to me and I will answer you.”
Jeremiah 33:3

When your family sits down to share God’s Word, use this devotion on its own or go to <http://bibleinlife.com/video/> to watch “A Time for Decision” before doing the devotion together. This devotion works well in March.

The video shows children sharing about being a Christian and how that influences the way they make decisions. They share examples of praying to God and remembering God’s Word when making decisions.

- How do you make decisions? How does being a Christian influence your decisions?

The Bible stories this month all relate to making decisions. In the first story, we see that Elijah follows God’s directions and is saved from the drought (1 Kings 16:29—17:6). In the next two stories, we learn how God provided for Elijah and a widow’s family (1 Kings 17:7-16) and then how God answered Elijah’s prayer for the widow’s son (1 Kings 17:17-24). The final story in the unit shows God demonstrating His power on Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18:16-39). These stories all teach us that we can follow God’s guidance when making decisions.

Through our stories in this unit, we learn how we can follow God in our choices.

- We can trust God for the help we need to make decisions. How can you ask for His help when you need to make a decision this week?
- Memorize Jeremiah 33:3. As a family, talk about situations where each family member could follow God in their decision-making this week. Then pray and ask God to help each family member to honor Him with their choices.
- Spend time at a family meal talking about decisions you might be faced with this week. Give each person the opportunity to share a decision they might face, along with telling a way they could honor God with a right choice. (Example: “I have a choice whether to study for my test or cheat to get the answers. I can honor God by choosing to study instead of cheating.”)

End with a short prayer. God, help us to seek You when we make decisions. Help our choices to honor You in all that we say and do. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Unit 32

A Time for Concern

“Serve one another humbly in love.”

Galatians 5:13

When your family sits down to share God’s Word, use this devotion on its own or go to <http://bibleinlife.com/video/> to watch “A Time for Concern” before doing the devotion together. This devotion works well in April.

In this video, we learn that God cares for us! We also learn that as God’s people, we can show His care and concern for others. Telling other people about Jesus, praying for them, and sharing encouraging words are great ways to care for others.

- What are some ways other people show their care and concern for you?
How do their words and actions make you feel?

Our Bible stories this month show us how Christians can show godly care and concern for others. In our first story, we see God comforting Elijah when he feels discouraged (1 Kings 19:1-18). In another story, we learn how Elisha carried on Elijah’s work for God (1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:1-15). Then we hear how Elisha helped a poor widow and her sons (2 Kings 4:1-7). The next week, we talked about a captive maid and Elisha helping Naaman to know the one true God (2 Kings 5:1-15). Finally, in the last lesson, we learn how Gehazi lied to get reward money from Naaman (2 Kings 5:15-27).

From our stories in this unit, we see many ways to care for other people.

- What are some ways you can show care or concern for someone this week? How might you encourage that person with God’s Word?
- Memorize Galatians 5:13. Have each family member take turns saying, “I can serve others by [fill in the blank]!” The other family members can respond back by saying, “Serve one another humbly in love!”
- Set aside a family prayer time each day this week. Each day pray for people who need to know God cares for them. Ask God for opportunities to share His good news with those people. Let family members take turns being the prayer leader each day.

End with a short prayer. God, thank You that You care for us! Help us to show Your care and concern to the people around us. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Unit 33

A Time for Courage

“Do what is right and good in the LORD’s sight.”

Deuteronomy 6:18

When your family sits down to share God’s Word, use this devotion on its own or go to <http://bibleinlife.com/video/> to watch “A Time for Courage” before doing the devotion together. This devotion works well in May.

Throughout the video, we see children talking about ways they practice having courage. Their ideas including praying, remembering God is with them, and finding people who can encourage them to be strong.

- What does it look like to live with courage?

This unit’s Bible stories show us how God’s people live with courage. In the first lesson, we learn about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego choosing to worship God instead of the golden statue (Daniel 3). In another lesson, we learn how Daniel chose to obey God, even when everyone else disobeyed (Daniel 6). In the final lesson of our unit, we discover that Ezra received help to return to Jerusalem (Ezra 7).

From these stories, we learn that we as God’s people can live with courage.

- Do you know someone who lives courageously? How can you follow their example of courage?
- Memorize Deuteronomy 6:18. As a family, discuss ways each family member can practice living with courage. Thank God that He strengthens each family member and is always present with each one!
- Take a courage challenge. Challenge each family member to practice courage this week. They could do this by standing against the crowd to do the right thing, by sharing the gospel with someone, or by telling the truth when it’s hard. As a family, concentrate on living courageously together.

End with a short prayer. God, help us to stand strong and follow You, even when it’s difficult. Help us to live with courage! In Jesus’ name. Amen.