

Unit 25

Good and Bad Choices

The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 27:1

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 on or after week 3 of the unit.

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 Saul and David—the first and second kings of the ancient country of Israel. Up until Saul's reign, Israel was ruled first by God and supported by judges. But the people wanted what their neighboring countries had—a human king. Saul became king. His story is intertwined with David's. When David was faced with a literal giant, he had to make a choice. David made the choice of trusting in God, and God provided deliverance for David.

- You make many choices every day. How does knowing about God's deliverance for David help you today?
- Memorize Psalm 27:1. This psalm was written by David. In it, he claims he doesn't need to be afraid. What does it mean to you that the Lord is your light and salvation? (Salvation in this verse is about being delivered from the power of sin.)
- Spend time at a meal talking about how you can trust God for salvation through Christ. David used the words *light* and *salvation* to describe God. What words would you use? Make a poster of all your family's words. Put the poster on the fridge for family members to reference.

End with a short prayer. Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our salvation. Thank You for being our light so we can trust in You to deliver us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Unit 26

Taking a Stand for God

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21

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 on or after week 1 of the unit.

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?

David was treated badly by Saul. In fact, Saul was actually hunting David to kill him. David followed what God told him to do and kept moving around. One day David had Saul trapped in a cave (1 Samuel 23—24). It would have been easy for David to embarrass or even kill Saul. But because Saul was the chosen king of God's people, David left Saul alone. David treated Saul well even when Saul had treated him badly. David's actions showed that he was following (taking a stand for) God.

- How did God factor into David's decision?
- Think about how you treat others. How does God factor into *your* decisions?
- Memorize Romans 12:21. This is really tough. How can David's story help you follow what Paul wrote in this verse?
- Work together to create a Romans 12:21 mini poster for each family member. Place the posters where they can remind family members to take a stand for God and show how important God is in their lives.

End with a short prayer. Dear God, thank You for loving and caring for us. You remind us that we can treat others well even when they treat us badly. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Unit 27

Following Wisdom

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

Proverbs 3:5

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 on or after week 1 of the unit.

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 Proverbs 3:5. Wisdom comes from God. How might studying and trusting in 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, use that type of wisdom to concentrate on growing in wisdom and God's Word. For example, how might your family serve Him?

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 act toward others. In Jesus' name. Amen.