

Unit 31

A Time for Decision

“Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails.”

Proverbs 19:21

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 how being a Christian can influence 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. The first story in our unit shows God demonstrating His power on Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18). In the next lesson, we see God comforting Elijah in hiding and telling him that God’s work will continue (1 Kings 19). In another lesson, we learn how God answers Elisha’s request for a double portion of Elijah’s spirit (2 Kings 2:1-15). Finally, in the last lesson of our unit, we hear about God’s chariots of fire protecting Elisha from the Syrian army (2 Kings 6:8-23). These stories all teach us that we can follow God’s guidance when making decisions.

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

- We can trust God for the help we need to make decisions. When can you ask God for His help in a decision this week?
- Memorize Proverbs 19:21. As a family, talk about situations in which each family member could follow God in their decision-making this week. Then pray and ask God to help each family member 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 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 we say and do. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Unit 32

A Time for Concern

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 22:39

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 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 we can show godly care and concern for others. In our first story, we see Jonah rebelling against God’s command to help the Ninevites (Jonah 1 – 4). In another lesson, we hear about Amos the shepherd preaching against dishonest dealings (Amos 2:6-7, 10-12; 5:6-8, 12-15, 21-24; 7:10-15). The following week, we learn about Queen Esther risking her life and being identified as one of God’s people (Esther 2:17 – 9:5). In the last lesson of our unit, Ezra accepts the challenge to return to Jerusalem (Ezra 7:6-10, 21-28).

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 Matthew 22:39. Have each family member take turns saying, “I can love my neighbor by [idea for loving someone else]!” The other family members can respond back by saying, “We can love our neighbors as ourselves!”
- 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

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness.”

Titus 2:11-12

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 things they do when they need to show 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 hear how Daniel and his friends said “no” to living in a way that didn’t honor God (Daniel 1). The following week, we talk about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego choosing to worship God instead of the golden statue (Daniel 3). In another lesson, we heard how God’s hand wrote the doom of Babylon on the wall at Belshazzar’s feast (Daniel 5). In the final lesson of our unit, we learned how Daniel continued to pray, even when the king ordered him to stop (Daniel 6).

From these stories in the book of Daniel, we learn that as God’s people, we can live with courage.

- Do you know someone who lives courageously? How can you follow that person’s example of courage?
- Memorize Titus 2:11-12. 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.