

Unit 25

Good and Bad Choices

The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
Hebrews 13:6

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 September 20.

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 situation of facing Goliath.

- You make many choices every day. What can you do to follow God's directions in making choices?
- Memorize Hebrews 13:6. Think of how David sought God's help when he came up against Goliath. How can you seek God's help when you are in an overwhelming situation?
- Spend time at a meal tomorrow 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. Hebrews 13:6 could be added to the card. Invite family members to put their cards in a place where they need to be reminded to 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. Amen.

Unit 26

Taking a Stand for God

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7

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 October 18.

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. It was also the families of the entire town! What should happen? Some of the men in his group wanted to hurt David because they were so upset.

- What do you think David should do?

David turned to God for strength. Following God's instructions, David and his men chased after the people who had destroyed their town and 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 1 Peter 5:7. God says that we can give Him all our fears because He cares for us. How does that help you?
- Work together to create a 1 Peter 5:7 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 give you all our fears because You care for us. Help us to trust in that and turn to You when life gets tough. Amen.

Unit 27

Following Wisdom

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all.

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 on or after November 8.

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 videos 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 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 act toward others. Amen.