

Unit 31

A Time for Decision

“Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.”
Jeremiah 29:12

When your family sits down to share God’s Word, use this devotion on its own or go to www.21stcc.com, click on Downloads, then LifeLINKS to God Videos 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 back to making decisions. In the first story, we see Elijah telling King Ahab about the consequences of his sin (1 Kings 16:29—17:2). The next story teaches us that Elijah follows God’s directions and is saved from the drought (1 Kings 17:2-16). We later see God provides food for Elijah and a widow’s family (1 Kings 17:7-16). In another story, we see that God answers Elijah’s prayer for the widow’s son (1 Kings 17:17-24). Finally, the last story shows God demonstrating His power on Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18:16-40). 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. How can you ask for His help in a decision this week?
- Memorize Jeremiah 29:12. As a family, talk about situations where each family member could ask God for His help 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 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

“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 www.21stcc.com, click on Downloads, then LifeLINKS to God Videos 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 things other people do to 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 prepared to carry on Elijah’s work for God (1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:1-15). Then we hear how a couple from Shunem shares with Elisha, and he heals their son (2 Kings 4:8-37). The next lesson is about a captive maid and Elisha helping Naaman to know the one true God (2 Kings 5:1-15). Finally, we learn that 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 1 Peter 5:7. Have each family member take turns saying, “I can cast [insert problem, worry, or challenge here] on God!” The other family members can respond by saying, “He cares for you!”
- Set aside a family prayer time each day this week. Each day, pray for people who need to know that 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

“Trust in the LORD and do good.”
Psalm 37:3

When your family sits down to share God’s Word, use this devotion on its own or go to www.21stcc.com, click on Downloads, then LifeLINKS to God Videos 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 that 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 talked about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego choosing to worship God instead of the golden statue (Daniel 3). In another lesson, we learned how Daniel chose to obey God, even when everyone else disobeyed (Daniel 6). In the final lesson of our unit, we discovered that Ezra returned to give spiritual leadership to God’s people in 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 that person’s example of courage?
- Memorize Psalm 37:3. As a family, discuss ways that 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 in courage! In Jesus’ name. Amen.