



RCCG OCEANIA

Character & Holiness

DECISIONS AND CONSEQUENCES IN GENESIS

AT A GLANCE

BIG IDEA

Decisions shape our lives and communities, and their consequences can be profound. By examining biblical narratives, we learn the importance of understanding the potential outcomes of our choices. This study delves into the role of laws, personal responsibility, and leadership in decision-making, using Genesis as a foundational text.

PRIMARY PASSAGES

Genesis 1

Genesis 3

Exodus 20

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Decisions lead to consequences; understanding this is crucial.
- Laws are designed to curb vices, not accommodate them.
- Personal sin is judged individually, not as a national transgression.
- Leaders have a responsibility to make informed decisions.
- Studying historical outcomes helps in making better choices.

INTRODUCTION

Biblical narratives provide a rich tapestry of stories that illustrate the profound impact of decisions and their consequences. By exploring these stories, we gain insight into the importance of laws, personal responsibility, and leadership in shaping our lives and communities.

SCRIPTURE READING

- **Genesis 3** — Illustrates the first human decision and its lasting consequences.
- **Exodus 20** — Introduces the Ten Commandments, emphasizing the role of laws in guiding behavior.

KEY POINTS

1. UNDERSTANDING CONSEQUENCES — Decisions should never be prioritized over their consequences. In Genesis 3, we see the first human decision that led to profound and lasting consequences. This narrative teaches us the importance of considering the potential outcomes of our choices, both personally and within our communities.

- Reflect on a recent decision and its consequences.
- Consider how your choices affect those around you.
- Discuss with a friend the potential outcomes of a decision you are facing.

Scripture: Genesis 3

2. ROLE OF LAWS — Laws are established to prevent vices and maintain order. The Ten Commandments, introduced in Exodus 20, serve as a foundational guide for behavior, demonstrating that laws are not meant to accommodate harmful behaviors but to curb them.

- Identify a law or rule that guides your daily life.
- Consider how laws protect communities from harmful behaviors.
- Discuss the importance of laws in maintaining order with a group.

Scripture: Exodus 20

3. PERSONAL VS. COMMUNITY SIN — While personal sin is judged individually, it can have broader implications. Genesis 3 illustrates how one decision affected all of humanity. Understanding this distinction is crucial for personal accountability and recognizing the ripple effects of our actions.

- Reflect on how your actions might impact your community.
- Consider the broader implications of a personal decision.
- Discuss with a group the importance of personal accountability.

Scripture: Genesis 3

4. LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY — Leaders must make informed decisions and cannot shift the burden of their choices onto others. This is a key aspect of responsible leadership, as seen throughout biblical narratives. Leaders are called to guide with wisdom and integrity.

- Identify a leader you admire and consider their decision-making process.
- Reflect on a time you had to make a leadership decision.
- Discuss the qualities of responsible leadership with a group.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

OBSERVATION

- What was the first decision made by humans in Genesis?
- How are the Ten Commandments introduced in Exodus 20?
- What are some examples of consequences seen in Genesis?

INTERPRETATION

- Why do you think the consequences of decisions are emphasized in Genesis?
- How do the Ten Commandments guide behavior according to Exodus 20?
- What does Genesis 3 teach us about personal responsibility?

APPLICATION

- How can you apply the lessons from Genesis 3 to your own decision-making?
- In what ways do the Ten Commandments influence your daily life?
- What steps can you take to ensure your decisions positively impact your community?

PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray for wisdom in making decisions that honor God and benefit the community.
- Ask for guidance in understanding the consequences of our choices.
- Seek strength to uphold personal responsibility and integrity in leadership.

NEXT STEP

Reflect on a recent decision and consider its impact on yourself and those around you.

CONCLUSION

The narratives in Genesis and the laws in Exodus provide timeless lessons on the importance of decisions and their consequences. By understanding these biblical teachings, we can make more informed choices that positively impact our lives and communities.

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For personal and small-group study.