

# Making choices: Adam & Eve



Key Verse:  
**“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

Romans 6:23

**Extra:** Think of a good and a bad choice that you have made. How have your decisions affected other people?

**Level 3 lesson 37**

## Read Genesis 1 and Genesis 3

### BAD CHOICES!

**We know it is important to think hard about the choices we make especially if they can affect other people, as well as ourselves. Today we're going to read about one bad choice that changed the whole world!**

Have you ever seen someone playing dominos? They stand all these little black blocks up in a long, twisting, turning line. Then they simply knock the first one over, and it knocks over the second, which knocks over the third, and before you know it, all the dominos are lying down! There may be hundreds of dominos, but all you have to do is knock over the first one to knock them all down!

The Bible tells us that like 'dominos,' one bad choice can have a 'flow-on' effect and lead to other bad choices. Look what happened with Adam and Eve. When God made the world, He looked at everything that He had made - the sea, land, plants, animals, and especially Adam and Eve - and said, "It is all GOOD!" He told Adam and Eve they were allowed to eat from all the trees of the Garden of Eden, except one, the 'Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.' If they ate the fruit of that tree, God warned, they would surely die!

But then the serpent (Satan) came along and deceived Eve into thinking that God was just trying to spoil their fun. "You won't die" he lied. "In fact, the fruit will make you wise, like God!" That thought appealed to Eve and the fruit sure looked GOOD! The serpent seemed friendly enough, so maybe God was just being mean to them, she may have thought.

Finally, Eve made a bad choice: she trusted Satan and doubted God. Taking some fruit from the tree, she ate it, and gave some to Adam who decided to eat it too. "So they ate a piece of fruit" - you might say, "Big deal!" However, eating fruit was not the problem. It was the disobedience to God that was the problem! This was the very first SIN and meant that God had to send them away from His presence, out of the Garden of Eden.

God still loved them dearly, but their friendship was ruined. Spiritually, they had 'died,' and although they didn't physically die right then, they started aging towards death from that very moment! Romans 5:12 says that, "By one man sin entered the world and death through sin; in this way, death came to all men, because all sinned." From then on, all people that have ever been born, naturally sin, and will one day die. That's why the Lord Jesus had to come to earth - to save people from sin and death, to make a way for people to be friends of God again, and to give them Eternal Life.

The world and all that the Lord had created had been GOOD until Adam and Eve's first bad choice. Now there was sin, death, and separation from God. One bad choice was like knocking over the first domino, leading to even more sinful choices, and so affecting many other people. This month, we are going to be looking at all kinds of choices, both good and bad, and finding out how to make the BEST choice of all!

Cross out letters that appear 3 or more times: "What did Adam and Eve do?"

B	W	C	M	B	W
S	M	N	W	E	M
C	I	W	N	A	D
C	B	A	B	C	A

How did Satan help Adam and Eve make a bad choice?

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Sort out these jumbled names:

**dmaa** \_\_\_\_\_

**uee** \_\_\_\_\_

**tasan** \_\_\_\_\_

# Making choices: Lot

Key Verse:

**“An unfriendly man pursues selfish ends; he defies all sound judgement.”**

Proverbs 18:1

Extra: Looking at the choices you make, would others think that you were selfish or self-less?

Level 3 lesson 38

## Read Genesis 13 and Philippians 2:3-11

### A 'LOT' OF TROUBLE.

One reason people make bad choices is because they are selfish. Instead of thinking about what is good for everyone else, they only think of themselves. That always means trouble...

If you were with a friend and had two pieces of cake, one big and one a little smaller, which one would you choose? We all have problems with being 'self-less' and thinking of others first. We tend to be selfish and think of ourselves first. Abraham's nephew, Lot had this problem, so let's look at the problems it caused!

After some years, Abraham and Lot had both grown rich and owned a lot of land and herds of animals. But it came to the point where there wasn't enough grass and land for both of them and all their herds. Because of this, their shepherds were beginning to argue and fight with each other.

Abraham was not happy about this. Even though he was older and could have taken the best land, he decided to let Lot have the first choice. So he said to Lot, "We can't both live here; let's go our separate ways. All the land is before us ... you choose first."

Lot looked and saw that the Plain of Jordan was beautiful and had plenty of grass and water. It was much better than what was left for Abraham to take. But instead of saying to his uncle, "You take the Plain of Jordan," he selfishly said, "I'll take it!"



Not long afterwards, we find that Lot got into heaps of trouble. The people who lived in the land he had chosen were very bad, and the Lord was very angry with them! God sent angels to destroy their cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Then Abraham had to pray to the Lord to rescue Lot, who actually lost everything he had.

Lot had chosen the Plain of Jordan for selfish reasons. He ignored that the people there were evil, and unwisely chose to take himself and his family to live amongst them. He probably thought he had made a very smart, clever decision and that Abraham had been dumb to give him first choice, but WOW, he sure did live to regret it!

If we make selfish choices and think only of ourselves, sooner or later, we will live to regret this too! Selfishness always causes trouble. To put the Key Verse in different words, "The selfish person is always making DUMB decisions!"

Choose the words from the WORD BANK below to make up the sentence:

\_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ so he \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_!

**WORD BANK**

MADE selfish BAD

LOT choice

1. Why did Abraham and Lot have to go separate ways?

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2. Why did Lot choose the land that he did?

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# Making choices: Jonah

Key Verse:  
**“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.”**

2 Corinthians 7:10

Extra: Think of a bad choice you've made. What would be a good second choice?

## Level 3 lesson 39

### Read Jonah 1 and 3 and Matthew 21:28-32

#### SECOND CHOICES

Everyone makes a bad choice now and then. While we can never be so perfect that we won't ever make a bad choice, we can always make the right second choice after having made a bad first choice!

What would you think if someone said sorry to you for stepping on your foot, and then did it again straight away? It would be hard to believe that they were really sorry, wouldn't it? When someone is really sorry for something they've done, they will try not to do it again.

This goes for making bad choices, too. Someone who is really sorry for making a bad first choice will try to make a good second choice. Jonah was a man who made a terrible choice one day, and ran away from God! But then he had a chance to make a better second choice. What do you think he did?

The Lord told Jonah to go to a city called Nineveh and give them a message: they were to turn from their evil ways and follow the Lord. If God spoke to you and told you to do something, would you do it? Well, Jonah didn't! He took off in the other direction instead!

Jonah went down to the wharf and caught a boat to go across the sea, as far away from Nineveh as he could get! And many of you will know what happened next. Yes, God sent a terrible storm that threatened to sink the little ship that Jonah was on.



Jonah made the wrong choice...

Jonah had a really bad conscience and he knew that he was to blame for the storm. He told the sailors to throw him overboard and the storm would stop. So they did, but the Lord sent a big fish to swallow Jonah and carry him back to the shore. What a lot of trouble Jonah's bad choice had caused!

Then God spoke to Jonah again. He hadn't given up on Jonah and still wanted him to go to Nineveh and give the people the same message. This time, Jonah obeyed and went. He'd probably had enough of storms at sea and being swallowed by huge fish!

There are some very important lessons for us today in what happened to Jonah. Firstly, it's always better to obey God from the start! Secondly, if we choose to disobey the Lord, there will be bad consequences for us. But if we ask God to forgive us, He will. Thirdly, we must make a better second choice and obey Him from then on!

1. What did Jonah do when the Lord told him to go to Nineveh?

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2. How did the Lord stop Jonah from running away?

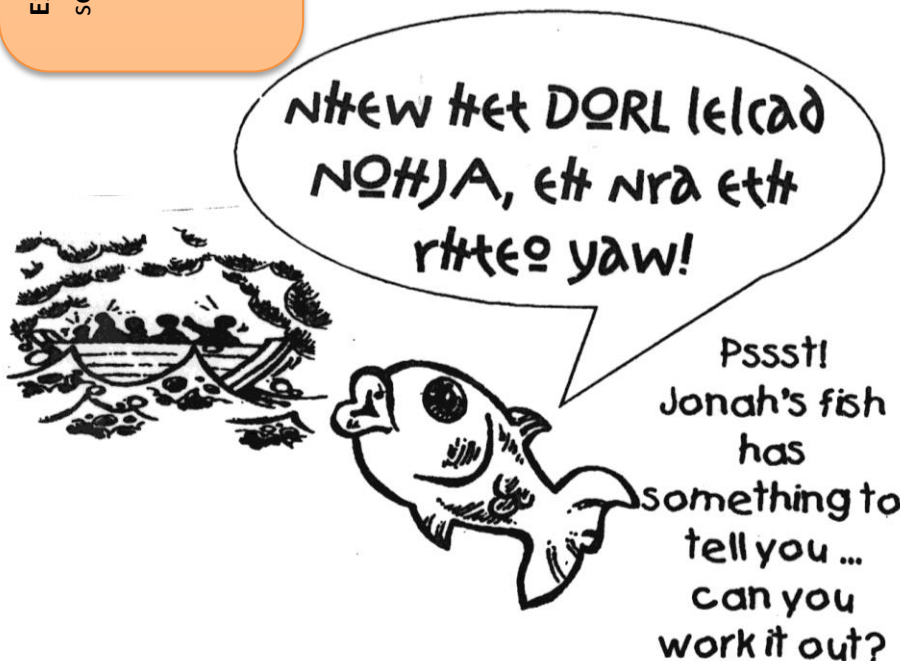
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# Making choices: Zacchaeus

Key Verse:  
**“Anyone who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”**

Matthew 10:38-39

Extra: If you have decided to follow Jesus, what changes can people see in your life?

## Level 3 lesson 40

Read Luke 19:1-10  
 and Matthew 13:44-46

### THE BEST CHOICE

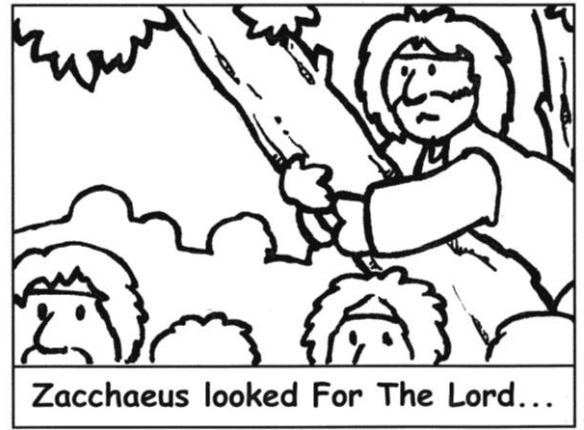
We have been looking at good choices and bad choices, first choices and second choices; and now we are going to look at the BEST choice we can ever make!

Zacchaeus is an interesting name. It looks like someone put their hand into a Scrabble bag, pulled out a handful of letters, and tried to make a word out of them! Zacchaeus himself was an interesting man: he was so short that when Jesus came to town, he had to climb up a tree just to see over everybody else’s heads. In Jesus’ day, men wore long robes, so can you imagine this little guy up a tree in his robes? What a sight!

Even more interesting though, is what Zacchaeus did. He was someone important, but he decided to follow someone else for the rest of his life, and no longer be his own ‘boss’. He was a very rich man, yet he decided to give away his money and change his whole lifestyle. How did all this happen?

Well, it all began when Jesus came to the town of Jericho. Of course, stories of how He had changed people’s lives had spread all around the country. Zacchaeus had heard many of them: how Jesus worked miracles, healed people, and taught truth with such authority and wisdom. So Zacchaeus really wanted to see Jesus!

Now, Zacchaeus was a tax collector and had made himself rich by taking too much money from people and keeping it for himself.



He didn’t think anything of cheating others and being dishonest anymore! But though Zacchaeus had a lot of money and possessions, he was unhappy and wanted to know if Jesus could change his life. So he climbed up a tree to get a look at Him.

When Jesus saw him, He said, “Zacchaeus, come down from that tree. I’m coming to your house today for lunch!” Surprised, Zacchaeus climbed quickly down from his perch and took Jesus to his house. Later, he promised to give away half of all he had, to the poor, and to give back four times as much of anything he had wrongly taken from people!

Zacchaeus had decided to follow Jesus, and that meant some big changes in his life were needed. No more would he live as before, being selfish and dishonest. He had made many bad choices in his life, but now he had made the best choice of all - to follow Jesus!

Are you like Zacchaeus? Have you made bad choices in your life? What a joy to know that you too can make the best choice of all - to follow Jesus and live to please Him. If you are not sure how, please ask us.

Tick the correct box to show which statements are true and which are false!

	True	False
Zacchaeus was a tall man	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Zacchaeus was a tax collector	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Zacchaeus saw the Lord on TV	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see the Lord	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Lord invited Zacchaeus to dinner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Zacchaeus gave away half of all he had	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

1. What kind of a man was Zacchaeus?

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2. How do we know that Zacchaeus really became a changed man?

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