

WEEK

ONE

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- ☐ Offering container



Inclusive Pro Tips

Allow kids to work in pairs.

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Ask God to prepare the hearts of preteens who are walking through your door. Some are full of questions, some are ready to lead, some are just figuring things out. Thank God for the reminder that He saw something special in David, even when others didn't. He saw David's heart, full of love for Him. Thank God for seeing the same potential in every kid in your group! Pray that they would feel seen, known, and loved by God. Ask the Holy Spirit to help them lean into God's wisdom, even when they don't feel strong, important, or ready.

1. Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high five, fist bump, or a wave.
2. Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
3. Gather the kids together.
4. Ask: "What's your favorite amusement park?"

Move Together:

1. Explain and demonstrate how to play:
 - Say, "We're going to pretend we're headed to an amusement park, but there's a mystery rule about what can come with us! Your goal is to listen, guess the pattern, and see if your item makes the cut!"
 - The leader will start by saying, "I'm going to an amusement park, and I'm bringing (name of item). What are you bringing?"
 - The goal is for the kids to identify the rule and answer the question with the rule in mind.
 - If their item matches the mystery rule, respond warmly with: "Yes! That totally fits. Welcome to the park!"
 - If it doesn't fit, say kindly: "That item can't come into the park. Would you like to bring something else?"
 - Let them try again and reassure them it's all about discovering the rule!
 - Continue until everyone's had a turn or the group figures out the rule.
2. If time allows, play several rounds using the questions below.

Questions:

1. "What are you bringing?"
2. "What kind of snacks do you want to get?"
3. "What kind of rides do you want to get on?"
4. "What characters do you want to see?"

Rule Suggestions:

1. Starts with the letter "B"
2. An animal
3. Something red
4. Starts with the letter "T"
5. Something yellow

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Preteen

Small Group

October — Week 1

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- ☐ Offering container



② What You Say

"That was hilarious! And kind of tricky, right? You had to think before you spoke. Some of your choices got you in, while others didn't. This reminds me of when God chose David to be king. David didn't look like the obvious choice, at all! But God knew that something deeper was more important.

"Today, we're discovering that godly wisdom helps us look deeper too—at our choices, our friendships, and even how we treat others. Let's go find out more!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Inclusive Pro Tips



Allow kids to work in pairs.

Preteen

Small Group

October — Week 1

GROUPS 1/5

Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Pencils or pens
- ☐ "Fast Pass" Activity Page



① What You Do

1. Give each kid one Fast Pass card from the "Fast Pass" Activity Page and a pencil or pen.
2. Encourage them to write their names on their "Fast Pass."
3. Invite them to form groups of 2-3.
4. Direct the kids to read the verse on their cards aloud to their group and answer the reflection questions on the back together.
5. After reflection time, gather the entire group together.
6. Invite kids to share their verses and their insights with the group if comfortable.

Make It Personal → Share an age-appropriate time when God helped you make a wise choice. Briefly explain the situation, how you felt, and how God showed up!

7. Explain:
 - A "Fast Pass" gets you to the front of the line at an amusement park.
 - Wisdom is like a fast pass that leads you through life well. And God wants to give you wisdom! When we read the Bible, pause to reflect, and ask the Holy Spirit for help, God can speak directly to you and show you how to live wisely! God wants to give you wisdom!
 - God wants to give you wisdom right now, not just when you're older. You might not be picking a college or deciding on a job yet, but you are choosing how to treat your friends, how to respond when someone's unkind, or what to do when you feel left out. God cares about every single one of those moments, He goes through every single one of those moments with you through His Spirit, and as you seek Him, He will help you navigate them all!
 - NOTE: Each week, kids will receive a "Fast Pass." Encourage them to collect them and take them home!

Inclusive Pro Tips



If this activity works best when the kids work and reflect independently, allow them to do so.

Preteen

Small Group

October — Week 1

GROUPS 2/5

Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ "Story Script" Activity Page



① What You Do

1. Assign kids character roles or let them choose.
 - Samuel
 - Saul
 - Jesse
 - David
 - David's Brothers (**AT LEAST 3, UP TO 7**)
 - Goliath
2. Give each of them a "Story Script" Activity Page.
3. Prompt them to identify their characters' lines and actions by color on the script.
4. Invite the remaining kids to be the audience.
5. Read the Narrator lines from the "Story Script" Activity Page as the kids act out the story.
 - NOTE: Pick another kid to read the Narrator lines.
6. Celebrate the kids for playing along once the script is finished!

Talk Together:

1. Ask:
 - Why do you think God picked David and not one of the older brothers?
 - What do you think it looks like to have a heart that loves God?
 - What do you think courage has to do with wisdom?

Inclusive Pro Tips



If kids struggle with reading, have the SGL read and the kids act.

Preteen

Small Group

October — Week 1

GROUPS 3/5

Discussion Questions

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed



① What You Do

Ask the following:

1. What does it mean to be wise?
2. Why do you think God wants us to grow in wisdom?
3. What makes it hard to make the wise choice when others around you choose not to?
4. What helps you listen to God when making a decision?
5. What can you pray to help you turn to God and ask Him for wisdom as you go through life with Him?

Inclusive Pro Tips



Be sensitive to kids who may need extra time to process their thoughts and respond. Be patient and create a safe space where everyone has a chance to share when they're ready.

Frequently check for understanding during discussion by asking questions like, "Can someone share in their own words what we're talking about?"

GROUPS 4/5

Verses to Take with You



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Prepared index cards with Proverbs 16:16
- ☐ Timer
- ☐ Blindfold

① What You Do

1. Divide the group into two teams.
2. Give each team a Bible and direct them to look up this month's Memory Verse, Proverbs 16:16.
3. Use the Bible Navigation tips below to help kids find the verse.
4. Repeat the verse together several times.

Play Together:

1. Give both teams a set of Proverbs 16:16 index cards and a blindfold.
2. At your signal, the teams will race to arrange the verse in correct order.
3. Play several rounds, inviting the kids to place the verse in order using these directives:
 - Silently: The kids will place the verse in order together without speaking.
 - Blindfolded: Teams will blindfold a kid and direct the kid to place the verse in order.
4. Celebrate the teams as they finish the verse.
5. Remind the kids that when they memorize Scripture, they hide truth in their hearts. That means when they face tough decisions, they already have God's Word ready to guide them.

Talk Together:

1. Instruct the teams to look up these words of Jesus in their Bibles.
2. John 14:26: "The Father will send the Friend in my name to help you. The Friend is the Holy Spirit. He will teach you all things. He will remind you of everything I have said to you." (NirV).
 - What do you think it means that the Holy Spirit is our Friend who helps us and reminds us what Jesus said?
3. Why do you think Jesus wanted us to have the Holy Spirit after He left earth?
4. John 16:13: "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth" (NirV).
 - What does it mean that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth?
 - How do you think the Holy Spirit guides us today? **(THROUGH THE BIBLE? THROUGH A FEELING? THROUGH SOMEONE WISE?)**
 - What are some ways people might hear lies instead of the truth in their daily lives?

*Finding verses with 4th-5th graders

- ① Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for.
- ② When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers.
- ③ Once they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

GROUPS 5/5

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Pens or Pencils
- ☐ Index Cards

→ *Optional: Soft Worship Music*



① What You Do

1. Invite every kid to find a quiet space in your group area.
2. Give each kid an index card and a pencil.
3. Direct them to write a short prayer asking God to help them be wise this week.
4. Once everyone is finished, prompt them to do one of the following with their cards:
 - Give it to a leader if they want someone to pray for them this week.
 - Keep it and take it home.

God, thank You for each of my friends here today. I'm so glad that we don't have to have the perfect words to come to You—You just want our hearts! You are all-knowing. You are in control. You're never confused or caught off guard. That means we can be real with You about a tough decision, a friendship, or something we're confused about. Help us to remember You want to help us make wise choices each day! Remind us to pause and ask You: 'What should I do?' We love You, God. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Inclusive Pro Tips



Allow the kids to draw or doodle to God on the index card if that works best for the kids in your group.

WEEK

TWO

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Backpacks
- ☐ Various "life supplies" (bat, ball, jacket, Bible, books, toy, etc.)
- ☐ Floor tape



Inclusive Pro Tips

To adjust the movement in this activity, instead of running across the room, place all the items on a table. Have the teams race to pack their backpacks as each kid takes turns grabbing one item at a time.

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Ask God to prepare the hearts of preteens who are walking through your door. Some are full of questions, some are ready to lead, some are just figuring things out. Thank God for the reminder that He saw something special in David, even when others didn't. He saw David's heart, full of love for Him. Thank God for seeing the same potential in every kid in your group! Pray that they would feel seen, known, and loved by God. Ask the Holy Spirit to help them lean into God's wisdom, even when they don't feel strong, important, or ready.

1. Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high five, fist bump, or a wave.
2. Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
3. Divide the group into two teams.
4. Mark a tape line on one side of your group space and scatter the "life supplies" behind it.
5. Mark a tape line on the opposite end of your group space and direct the teams to stand behind it.

Move Together:

1. Say, "Here's how to play! Each kid on your team will take turns running across to pick up one item and return it to your team."
2. At your signal, begin the game!
3. Halfway through, introduce a backpack to each team. Let them know that they can pack the backpack to gather items faster and bring it back to their team.
4. The team with the most items wins.

① What You Say

"That backpack was a GAME CHANGER! There are so many things that we face in life and carry, and trying to do it all on our own can get messy. I love that God's wisdom is like this backpack. It helps us carry all the things that come our way with wisdom. We travel through life better with God's wisdom. And God wants us to go through life well! He wants to give us what we need to go through life well.

"That reminds me of today's true story from the Bible. God is good and His ways are good! And there was someone who loved God so much for His goodness and wisdom that this man spent his whole life focusing on his relationship with God. As we'll see, when you focus on God, when you keep coming back to Him, no matter what—God gives you the wisdom you need for each moment, for each thing you face.

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

GROUPS 1/5

Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Fast Pass" Activity Page
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Pens or pencils
- ☐ Prepared cardstock signs



① What You Do

1. Before you begin, tape the prepared cardstock signs around your group space.
→ NOTE: If you can't tape them, place them on the floor.
2. Give each kid one Fast Pass card from the "Fast Pass" Activity Page and a pen or pencil.
3. Encourage the kids to write their names on their Fast Pass.
4. Collect the pens or pencils.
5. Invite the kids to read the verse on their Fast Pass.
6. Direct them to go find the matching verse sign.
→ NOTE: If you have a small group, combine verse signs and allow those kids to discuss their verses together.
7. At each sign, instruct the kids to:
→ Read the passage together.
→ Discuss what they think the Scripture is saying.
8. After several minutes, gather the group together. Read through each Bible reference, and invite the kid(s) who have that Scripture reference on their "Fast Pass" to share something they talked about.

Talk Together:

1. Explain:
→ "The world might throw different messages at us like what we should say, or how we should act. But God's Word always leads us to wisdom! God wants us to be wise, and He wants us to go through life well. So one of the reasons He gave us the Bible is so we can find wisdom!"
→ "Throughout your life, you can pause, ask God to show you His wisdom, and listen to the Holy Spirit to show you what the wise thing is to do. God wants to lead you through life well!"
→ NOTE: Each week, kids will receive a "Fast Pass." Encourage them to collect them and take them home!

Inclusive Pro Tips



Offer a longer time to reread or personally reflect on the verse before discussing it with the group. Some kids need more time to process their thoughts before sharing aloud.

GROUPS 2/5

Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Psalm Excerpts" Activity Page
- ☐ Labeled poster board
("Wisdomland" = "Honestland")
- ☐ Clear tape
- ☐ Sticky notes
- ☐ Pencils or pens



① What You Do

1. Encourage the kids to sit in a circle.
2. Set the prepared posterboard in the middle of the circle.
3. Place the cards from the "Psalm Excerpts" Activity Page face-up around the poster board.
4. Make the tape accessible.
5. One at a time, encourage a kid to pick a card from "Psalm Excerpts" Activity Page, read the portion of the verse out loud, and tape it onto the poster board.
6. Continue in the same manner until all of the cards from the "Psalm Excerpts" Activity Page are taped to the poster board. (Encourage a different kid to read and tape each card to the poster board.)

Imagine Together:

1. Say, "Look how honest David was with God! These are excerpts from some of the psalms he wrote and sang. In them, he shared his best moments—and his hardest. But through it all, David kept coming back to God for help."
2. Once you've read all the verses from the psalms David wrote and attached them to the poster board, give each kid a sticky note and a pen/pencil.
3. Invite the kids to write their own one-line "psalm" to God on a sticky note (**A QUESTION, PRAISE, OR PRAYER**).
4. Then, invite the kids to post their sticky note on the poster board. (**ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO MORE THAN ONE STICKY NOTE IF TIME ALLOWS.**)

Psalm Excerpts:

1. God, create a pure heart in me. (Psalm 51:10 Nlrv)
2. My groaning has worn me out. All night long my tears flood my bed. (Psalm 6:6 Nlrv)
3. The LORD is my rock and my place of safety. (Psalm 18:2 Nlrv)
4. My enemies chase me. ... Deep down inside me, I'm afraid. (Psalm 143:4 Nlrv)
5. Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. (Psalm 119:105 Nlrv)
6. LORD, why are you so far away? (Psalm 10:1 Nlrv)
7. I can't forget my sin. ... [But] wash me, then I will be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:3, 7 Nlrv)
8. When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you. (Psalm 56:3 Nlrv)

Talk Together:

- Ask:
 - What did you notice about David's words?
 - Do you think David always felt wise or confident?
 - What can we learn from how David turned to God no matter how he was feeling?
- Explain that one way they can be wise is by being honest with God and trusting Him to guide them.
- Encourage the kids that they can go to God with everything they're feeling, because He is a good God who cares and wants to help!

GROUPS 3/5

Discussion Questions

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed



① What You Do

Ask the following:

1. God said that David was "dear to his heart" (1 Samuel 13:14 NIV). Why do you think David was so dear to God?
2. Since God valued His relationship with David, what kind of relationship do you think God wants to have with you?
3. What is something you can be honest with God about?
4. Why do you think going to God no matter what is wise?
5. What do you think it looks like in your life to go to God with everything?

Inclusive Pro Tips



Be sensitive to kids who may need extra time to process their thoughts and respond. Be patient and create a safe space where everyone has a chance to share when they're ready.

Frequently check for understanding during discussion by asking questions like, "Can someone share in their own words what we're talking about?"

GROUPS 4/5

Verses to Take with You



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ "Verse Scenarios" Activity Page
- ☐ Timer

Inclusive Supplies:

- ☐ Whiteboard
- ☐ Dry-erase marker



Inclusive Pro Tips

Write Proverbs 16:16 in large letters on a whiteboard and place it where all the kids can see. This can be helpful for visual learners!

① What You Do

1. Divide the group into two teams.
2. Give each team a Bible and direct them to look up this month's Memory Verse, Proverbs 16:16.
3. Use the Bible Navigation tips below to help kids find the verse.
4. Repeat the verse together several times.

Play Together:

1. Place a stack of "Verse Scenarios" Activity Page cards face down in the middle of each group.
2. Explain how to play.
3. You will set a three-minute timer.
4. Before reading each scenario card, a kid from their team must recite Proverbs 16:16 from memory or with the Bible open.
5. Then, the team can pick up a scenario card and discuss as a group: → Is this wise or unwise choice?
6. Once they finish, they can move to the next card—but only after reciting the verse again!
7. When the time is up, the team that gets through the most scenario cards wins.

Talk Together:

1. Explain to kids that God's wisdom is worth more than gold! Proverbs 16:16 reminds us that wisdom is more valuable than anything this world can offer.
2. God wants to give you His precious, precious wisdom, so you can go through life well. He wants you to make a wise choice in every scenario you face because He knows following His ways is the best way to live.
3. When we focus on God, we become wiser day by day!

*Finding verses with 4th-5th graders

- ① Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for.
- ② When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers.
- ③ Once they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

GROUPS 5/5

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ *Optional: Fast Passes from "Take a Snapshot" Activity (Application Activity)*
- ☐ *Optional: Index cards and pencils*



① What You Do

1. Gather the kids in a circle.
2. *Optional: Give each kid their Fast Pass from earlier, and give the kids some time to think about the Scripture on the card. Encourage them to pray to God silently.*
3. Invite the kids to share any prayer requests they might have.
4. *Optional: Provide index cards and pencils for kids who would rather write down their prayer requests than share them aloud.*
5. Encourage a kid to pray for the group!
6. Close in prayer.

"God, thank You that You are wise and You want us to go through life wisely and well. Help us to pause, focus on You, and remember what we've learned in Your Word. Help us to follow Your voice above all. Help us to be honest with You in all things. We want to go through life with You! We love You so much, God. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!"

Inclusive Pro Tips



Allow the kids to draw or doodle to God on the index card if that works best for the kids in your group.

Getting Ready

Social

Welcome the kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Use this time to create space for them to connect with you and with each other by playing age-appropriate games, asking fun questions, and encouraging friendly interactions. This is a great moment to help kids feel seen, known, and ready to experience today's story.

Groups

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

Social

Opening Activity

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Backpacks, two for each Small Group
- ☐ Various "life supplies" (items you use in life, like: pens, bat, ball, jacket, Bible, books, toy, etc.); at least 30 items for each Small Group
- ☐ Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group

Groups

Take a Snapshot

- ☐ Print "Fast Pass" Activity Page double-sided on cardstock and cut apart, one card for every kid
- ☐ Cardstock, six pieces for each Small Group
- ☐ Pens or pencils, one for every kid
- ☐ Tape, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ Before group time:
 - Write each verse reference below on a piece of cardstock:
 - Psalm 1:1-2
 - Psalm 19:7
 - Psalm 32:8
 - Psalm 111:10
 - Psalm 119:105
 - Psalm 25:4-5

Bible Story Extension

- ☐ Print "Psalm Excerpts" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
- ☐ Poster board, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Clear tape, one roll for each Small Group
- ☐ Sticky notes, 2-3 for every kid
- ☐ Pencils or pens, one for each kid
- ☐ Before group time:
 - Write at the top of the poster board:
 - Wisdomland = Honestland

Discussion Questions

- No Supplies Needed

Continued on the next page. →

WEEK

THREE

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Floor tape



Inclusive Pro Tips

Adjust to the physical needs of your group. Consider completing the activity seated. Allow kids to point one way or the other—or raise one hand or the other to identify their answer.

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Think about a time the Holy Spirit helped you make a wise or hard choice. Thank God for that moment! Pray that your preteens would have the courage to ask for help when they're not sure what to do. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind them that needing help isn't weakness, it's wisdom. Pray that your words would speak life and truth to kids who may be carrying more than you realize. Ask God to show each kid that His wisdom is real, personal, and available for them right now!

1. Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
2. Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
3. Use the tape to create a line down the middle of your Small Group space.
4. Explain that you'll ask a "Would You Rather?" question, and kids will choose their answer by walking to the tape line you designate for each choice.
5. Mix in random, funny questions to keep the game engaging!
6. Be sure to indicate which side of the tape line represents each choice.
7. Play as long as time and interest allow.

Would You Rather Questions

1. Would you rather sneeze confetti or burp bubbles?
2. Would you rather be super-strong or super-fast?
3. Would you rather ask God or guess on your own?
4. Would you rather be rich and unkind or wise and kind?
5. Would you rather eat pizza with chocolate syrup or ice cream with ketchup?
6. Would you rather have wings or a tail that glows?
7. Would you rather live in a treehouse or a castle made of LEGOs®?
8. Would you rather pause and pray or rush to decide?
9. Would you rather get advice from a friend or the Bible?
10. Would you rather have gold or God's wisdom?
11. Would you rather look smart or actually be wise?
12. Would you rather make one wise decision or ten easy ones?
13. Would you rather be able to talk to animals or breathe underwater?
14. Would you rather have giant clown shoes or a tutu that never comes off?

Continued on the next page. →

Preteen

Small Group

October — Week 3

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Floor tape



② What You Say

"You all made some awesome **(AND HILARIOUS)** choices! You had to stop and think QUICKLY! Today we're talking about wisdom. What is wisdom? Why do we need it?"

"We'll hear a true story from the Bible about someone who could have had anything in the world, but instead, he asked God for wisdom! Let go find out what happened and how we can do the same!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Inclusive Pro Tips



Adjust to the physical needs of your group. Consider completing the activity seated. Allow kids to point one way or the other—or raise one hand or the other to identify their answer.

GROUPS 1/5

Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Fast Pass" Activity Page
- ☐ Pens or pencils
- ☐ Device for playing music



① What You Do

1. Give each kid a Fast Pass card from the "Fast Pass" Activity Page.
2. Instruct them to read the Scripture on their Fast Pass and answer the questions.
 - As they read and respond, play soft worship music.
3. After a few minutes, invite the kids to walk around and "trade" their cards as you play upbeat worship music.
 - Before trading, each kid must briefly explain their verse and response to the other.
4. At your signal, say "switch!" and allow kids to find another kid to read their new verse and trade with.
5. After several trades, ask:
 - "Did anyone hear something today that helped you think differently?"
 - "Why do you think God wants us to share wisdom with others?"
6. "When kids have their "final" Fast Passes, give each kid a pen or a pencil.
7. Encourage them to write their name on their Fast Pass.

Make It Personal → Share an age-appropriate time when you asked God for wisdom. What did He show you? A Scripture? Did a friend who follows Jesus help you talk through a situation?

→ *NOTE: Each week, kids will receive a "Fast Pass." Encourage them to collect them and take them home!*

Inclusive Pro Tips



Give the kids as much time as they need to think quietly before answering.

Some kids might struggle to put their thoughts into words. Affirm and celebrate everyone for sharing, no matter how they participate.

GROUPS 2/5

Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Tablecloth
- ☐ Soil
- ☐ Small plant cups
- ☐ Seeds
- ☐ Spoons
- ☐ Permanent markers
- ☐ Small water bottles

Inclusive Supplies:

- ☐ Gloves



① What You Do

1. Lay the tablecloth out on the floor or on a table in your group area.
2. Place the soil, seeds, spoons, permanent markers, and small cups of water on the tablecloth.
3. Give every kid a small plant cup and invite them to write:
 - Their name.
 - Something that reminds them of today's Bible Story.

Explore Together:

1. Lead the kids to:
 - Scoop some soil into their cup. The cup should be about $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
 - Choose a seed and gently press it into the soil. The seed should be about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch deep in the soil.
 - Gently add a little water to the cup to water the seed, but not drown it.
2. Ask:
 - "Why do you think Solomon asked for wisdom instead of something like money or power?"
 - "Why do you think God was so happy that Solomon asked for wisdom?"
 - "When Solomon followed God, his life was beautiful. He was one of the most prosperous kings of God's people. How does following God's wisdom make your life beautiful?"
 - "What's one area where you want to grow wiser this year?"
3. Explain to the kids that Solomon didn't ask for stuff; he asked for wisdom from God. Solomon wanted to live God's way, not just his own.
4. When we choose to follow Jesus, we're saying: "I don't have it all figured out. I need help." We all face decisions where we need wisdom. The good news? God doesn't leave us on our own. The Holy Spirit goes with us every step of our lives, and we can ask Him for wisdom anytime, anywhere. God wants to share His wisdom with us and help us live well!
5. God wants us to live lives that are rooted in His wisdom. As you watch this seed grow up, know that it is getting similar roots down in the soil that you can't see. Ask God to root you deep in His wisdom so you can grow up and be the beautiful creation He made you to be!



Inclusive Pro Tips

Allow the group to use gloves if kids don't want to touch the soil directly.

Honor different learning styles by allowing the kids to process their answers to the questions with another kid before answering.

GROUPS 3/5

Discussion Questions

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed



Inclusive Pro Tips



Be sensitive to kids who may need extra time to process their thoughts and respond. Be patient and create a safe space where everyone has a chance to share when they're ready.

Frequently check for understanding during discussion by asking questions like, "Can someone share in their own words what we're talking about?"

① What You Do

Ask the following:

1. When do you need wisdom?
2. What does it tell you about God that He was pleased when Solomon asked for wisdom instead of riches or power?
→ What do you think this says about what God really wants for you?
How does that help you know Him better?
3. What's a decision you've faced recently where you needed wisdom?
4. What's the difference between being smart and being wise?

GROUPS 4/5

Verses to Take with You



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ "Proverbs 16:16 Cards" Activity Page

Inclusive Pro Tips



If a group is quiet during the discussion, give them a "starter sentence" like, "One time I had to trust God when ..." or "A wise friend would probably ..."

① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into groups of 2-3.
2. Give every group one card from the "Proverbs 16:16 Cards" Activity Page, and a Bible.
3. Invite them to look up Proverbs 16:16 and read it aloud together.
4. Repeat the verse together several times.

Connect Together:

1. Instruct each group to discuss their two questions on the cards. Give them 4-5 minutes to do so.
2. If kids finish early, challenge them to discuss a time they didn't make the wise choice. Maybe they chose what looked better or easier instead.

Talk Together:

1. Share with kids that:
 - Wisdom isn't just about knowing things. It's about knowing the all-knowing God and choosing His way over **everything** else.
 - When we follow God's wisdom, we make choices that honor Him and help us love others.

*Finding verses with 4th-5th graders

- ① Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for.
- ② When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers.
- ③ Once they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

GROUPS 5/5

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Prepared construction paper signs
- ☐ Index cards
- ☐ Pencils or pens
- ☐ Device for playing worship music



① What You Do

1. Place the four signs in different areas of your group space.
2. Give every kid an index card and a pencil or pen.
3. Say, "Today, we discovered that wisdom comes from God, and it shapes how we live, make decisions, love, and treat others. Let's wrap up by taking some time to talk to God and ask for wisdom in specific areas of our lives."
4. Point to each sign and briefly explain:
 - **Loving Others:** I want to ask God to help me show love, kindness, and care.
 - **Choosing Wisdom When Others Are Not:** I want to ask God to help me make wise choices.
 - **Being Patient:** I want to ask God to help me wait well and stay calm when things don't happen right away.
 - **Being Slow to Listen and Slow to Get Angry:** I want to ask God to help me pause and listen before I speak or act.
5. Let the kids take a minute to choose one category that they really need God's help with right now.
6. Invite them to travel to that sign, sit, and reflect.
7. Encourage them to pray to God silently, out loud, or write or draw a prayer on the index card.
8. Play the worship music softly as the kids reflect.

God, thank You for each of my friends here today. Thank You for being the Source of true wisdom. Thank You that You want to share Your wisdom with us. Thank You for never holding back when we ask for help. Grow us in wisdom, like a seed planted DEEPLY in soil that grows beautifully. Help us remember to pause and ask You for wisdom in every situation. We want to go through life with You! We love You so much, God. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!

WEEK

FOUR

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ "Get to Know You" Activity Page
- ☐ Die



Inclusive Pro Tips

If it works better for your group, offer to read the questions aloud instead of having the kids read the questions in their groups.

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Thank God for the opportunity to speak into the lives of future leaders! Ask God to help your preteens recognize the power of their choices—not just big ones, but in how they speak, treat others, and lead themselves. Ask God to help you create a group environment where it's okay to be honest, ask hard questions, and even mess up sometimes. Ask God to help you lead with grace and clarity, and to help your preteens realize that wisdom starts with trusting Him and His Word!

1. Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high five, fist bump, or a wave.
2. Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
3. Divide the kids into groups of 2-3.
4. Give each group a "Get to Know You" Activity Page and a die.

Connect:

1. Explain that the number on the die matches a question from the "Get to Know You" Activity Page.
2. Instruct the kids to take turns rolling the die, reading the matching question aloud, and answering it.
3. After several rounds, gather the kids together.

② What You Say

"I love watching you share your answers with each other! All of those things ...

who you hang out with,
what you watch,
what you love to do.

"They're part of the choices you make every day. And guess what? Your choices really matter.

"In fact, today's true story from the Bible is all about a time when the kings who led God's people had to make big choices about who to follow and how to live. Some kings chose wisdom, and some ... didn't. Let's go see how their wisdom (OR LACK OF IT) changed everything!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

GROUPS 1/5

Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Fast Pass" Activity Page
- ☐ Coloring Supplies



① What You Do

1. Give each kid a Fast Pass card from the "Fast Pass" Activity Page.
2. Set out the coloring supplies.

Create Together

1. On the back of the card, invite the kids to write their names and draw a picture of an action step they can take this week that connects with the question on the card.
→ Example: If the card talks about being gentle with words, they might draw themselves speaking kindly to a friend or sibling.
2. Give the kids time to think and draw.
3. After several minutes, invite them to share their drawings with the entire group.

Make It Personal → Share an age-appropriate time when you were faced with two choices to make—one wise, and one unwise. What did you do? Talk to God? How did your choice affect you or others?

4. Explain that wisdom is more than just knowing what God wants you to do. It's about choosing to live it out!
5. Share with kids that they can choose to talk to God before reacting, choose to say kind words, choose to walk away from trouble, etc.
→ *NOTE: Each week, kids will receive a "Fast Pass." Encourage them to collect them and take them home!*

GROUPS 2/5

Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Timer
- ☐ Blocks

Inclusive Supplies:

- ☐ Foam Blocks



① What You Do

1. Divide the kids into groups of 2-3.
2. Give each group enough blocks to build a base.
3. Instruct all of the teams to build a base with their blocks.
4. Place the remaining blocks in a pile in your group area, an equal distance away from all teams' bases.
5. Say, "Each of you is part of a team of builders. Your goal is to build the tallest, strongest tower. But there's a twist. On your turn, you can either: run and take a block from the center pile, OR steal one block from another team's tower."
6. Explain that during each round, kids are to take turns one at a time, and on their turn they can:
 - Take a block from the center to build.
 - Or, take one block from another team.
7. Set the timer (**FOR TWO MINUTES**) and start the game.
8. When the time is up, signal the kids to freeze and examine the towers.
9. Use the Bible Story Talk below to recap in between each round.
10. Play several rounds of the game.
11. After all of the rounds are completed, pause and discuss.
 - How did it feel when someone stole your team's block?
 - What were you focused on: winning or building wisely?

Bible Story Talk

1. Invite several kids to recap the Bible Story in three words.
 - Example: Kings, selfish, unwise, wise
2. Say: "Today's Bible Story showed us ups and downs of kings who had choices to make. Some chose to follow God and God's ways, and the people they reigned over were blessed! Other kings didn't, and it caused a lot of trouble. God's way is always the best way to live."
3. Ask: "Our lives are built on choices. When we choose to think only about ourselves or too much about others (like when you went to take blocks from the other team), what are the consequences?"

Inclusive Pro Tips



Instead of running to get blocks, place a center pile within reach of everyone at a table or on the floor.

To adapt to the sensory needs of your group, consider using foam blocks.

GROUPS 3/5

Discussion Questions

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed



① What You Do

Ask the following:

1. Why do your choices matter?
2. If you could ask God for anything today, what would it be?
3. How do you think asking the Holy Spirit for help changes the way we make choices?
4. What could you ask the Holy Spirit before you have to make a choice?
5. What are some wise choices that you think Jesus lived out?
6. What do you think it means to "build" your life on godly wisdom?

Inclusive Pro Tips



Be sensitive to kids who may need extra time to process their thoughts and respond. Be patient and create a safe space where everyone has a chance to share when they're ready.

Frequently check for understanding during discussion by asking questions like, "Can someone share in their own words what we're talking about?"

GROUPS 4/5

Verses to Take with You



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Toy crown or fun hat
- ☐ Device for playing worship music

Inclusive Pro Tips



Go first to model that it's okay to forget part of the verse or need help!

Allow the kid with the crown to pick a friend to say the verse with them.

① What You Do

1. Give every kid a Bible.
2. Invite them to look up Proverbs 16:16 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
3. Repeat the verse together several times.

Play Together:

1. Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
2. Play upbeat worship music and instruct the kids to pass the crown around the circle.
3. When the music stops, whoever's holding the crown must stand up, put it on, and recite Proverbs 16:16.
→ Keep the game fun by prompting the kids to pass the crown faster each round.
4. If they get stuck, encourage the other kids to help.
5. Keep playing as interest allows, or until every kid gets a turn to stand up, wear the crown, and recite the verse.
6. After finishing the verse, challenge the kids to finish this sentence:
→ One place I want to make wiser choices is ... (Kids might say: with friends, at school, online, at home, etc.)

*Finding verses with 4th-5th graders

- ① Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for.
- ② When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers.
- ③ Once they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

GROUPS 5/5

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Index cards
- ☐ Pencils



① What You Do

1. Give every kid a pencil and an index card.
2. Ask: "Why do wise friendships matter?"
3. Encourage the kids to think about their friends and ask: "Are they helping you grow closer to God?"
4. Invite kids to write or draw a prayer asking God for help choosing friends who are wise and kind.
5. Close in prayer.

God, thank You so much for bringing people into our lives. Thank You for friends, leaders, and others who remind us and challenge us to live more like Your Son, Jesus. When we say yes to Jesus, You welcome us into Your family, and that means we're all connected! Help us to find friends who follow You and love You, friends who show their faith in You by how they live and treat others. Help us to ultimately be that friend for others too. You know best, so help us to seek You for wisdom about our lives. We love You so much, God. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.