

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God gives us wise people to guide us and help us make good choices.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn it's important to listen to the advice of wise, godly people.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Kings 12:1-17, Israel Rebels Against Rehoboam

MEMORY VERSE:

"Guide me in your truth. Teach me. You are God my Savior. I put my hope in you all day long." Psalm 25:5 (NirV)

SUMMARY:

Explorers have to navigate through dense jungles, cutting away overgrown vines to create new paths. It can be easy to get lost so it helps to have a compass to help guide you and keep you going in the right direction. When Rehoboam became king of Israel, the elders advised him on which direction to go. They encouraged him to take a new path and treat the people better than the previous king. But Rehoboam rejected their advice, and as a result, the people rejected Rehoboam and the kingdom of Israel was torn in two.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for the wisdom of our parents and elders.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

“Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.” Psalm 25:5 (NIV)

“Guide me in your truth. Teach me. You are God my Savior. I put my hope in you all day long.” Psalm 25:5 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Choose three kids from the audience. Have each one “sing” the memory verse in a different musical style - country, hip hop, oldies, opera, etc.

SMALL GROUP:

Split the verse up into sections, as many as you have kids in the group. Give each child a section to read or recite. See how well your group can read the verse together!

SKIT

TANGLED

ITEMS NEEDED:

Two jungle explorer outfits
Green streamers/vines

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2M

CHARACTERS:

Gibert - An experienced explorer
Austin - A reluctant explorer

Austin hops on stage covered in “vines.”

AUSTIN: Gilbert! Gilbert, help!

Gilbert enters with a fake machete.

GILBERT: Oh. There you are.

AUSTIN: Gilbert, I need help.

GILBERT: I can see that.

AUSTIN: I’m serious, Gilbert, I need you to cut me loose from all these vines.

GILBERT: Really? And how did you get tangled on all those vines.

AUSTIN: Because I tried walking through the jungle without a machete.

GILBERT: Uh huh. And why did you try walking through the jungle without a machete?

AUSTIN: Come on, Gilbert, help a guy out.

GILBERT: I’m waiting, Austin. Why did you try walking through the jungle without a machete?

SKIT

AUSTIN: Because I refused to listen to you.

GILBERT: That's it! That's the answer I wanted.

AUSTIN: Okay, will you cut me loose now?

GILBERT: Austin, what have we been talking about all this time? We need to listen to the advice of those who know.

AUSTIN: May I remind you that YOU were the one who thought those kind missionaries were tribesmen.

GILBERT: Don't change the subject, Austin. I may not be an expert on identifying indigenous peoples, but I still know best about criss-crossing the jungle.

AUSTIN: Cut me loose, please!

GILBERT: You remind me of someone right now. Do you know who it is?

AUSTIN: You mean Rehoboam, the foolish king of Israel who refused to listen to the wisdom of his elders and obey the Lord, so his kingdom became divided between Israel and Judah?

GILBERT: I was going to say my Uncle Morty, who got tangled up in the vines just like you when I brought him to the jungle. But King Rehoboam works too.

AUSTIN: Just cut me loose already.

GILBERT: If only Rehoboam had listened to that wise advice, he could have been a good king like his forefathers.

AUSTIN: I get it! Come on, Gilbert!

GILBERT: Remember two things, Austin. One, listen to the advice of wise, godly people. And two...

AUSTIN: Stay behind the guy with the machete in the jungle.

GILBERT: That's my boy.

Gilbert cuts Austin free.

GILBERT: There. You ready to explore some more?

SKIT

AUSTIN: Yes. I want to go home and explore the new releases on Netflix.

GILBERT: Not yet, buddy. We have four more weeks of adventures!

AUSTIN: Noooooooooo!

GILBERT: Stay behind the machete!

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A “KEEP OUT” sign

If you see a sign like this, what do you do? Is this an invitation to go exploring, or is this a warning to stay away?

Sometimes this sign means, “This is my property, stay out.” Other times it means danger. “Keep Out” may mean this building is not safe, or there’s danger ahead. If we are wise, we won’t take a chance on this being the gateway to adventure. We will heed the warning sign.

God gives us wise people to guide us in our daily lives. Our parents, teachers, coaches, pastors, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and even older siblings have been places we have not. They can tell us where it’s safe to travel, and they can tell us the places we best avoid.

Wisdom comes from listening to those who are wiser than us. If we hear and apply what they teach us, we will be wise, and we will save ourselves from some trouble. Listen to the wise voices around you, and thank God for their direction in your life!

LARGE GROUP GAME

VINE OF WAR

ITEMS NEEDED:

A Tug of War rope with a flag or bandana tied in the middle

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two teams of three, and set up a tug of war. Mark three lines on the ground evenly spaced to mark the starting center for the flag and the target lines for the win. The team that pulls the other team past their target line wins.

VARIATION:

To make it more fun with a wide range of ages, pick two or three older kids to take on eight to ten younger kids.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

God gives us wise people to pull us in the right direction.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God gives us wise people to guide us and help us make good choices.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn it's important to listen to the advice of wise, godly people.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Kings 12:1-17, Israel Rebels Against Rehoboam

INTRO:

The jungle is an ever-changing landscape. It changes when storms blow down trees. It changes with floods. It changes as the brush and the vines that make the jungle so lush and dense grow and spread. A map is a great start to navigating your way through the jungle, but because the jungle is always changing, it's not foolproof. You need a guide who knows the land. You may also need a compass or better yet, a GPS to help you know where you are going.

Even if you've been in a certain part of the jungle before, a wise explorer won't go in without some tool to guide them. They know how quickly the jungle changes, and they know how dangerous it can be. One false turn, with no map, no compass, no GPS to guide you, and you can end up in a world of trouble.

Kind of sounds like school, doesn't it? I don't mean school as in teachers and tests. I mean school like friends and classmates. The older you get, the deeper you go into your education, the more school can be a jungle. Every year brings new challenges and new temptations. Peer pressure, the pressure you feel to go along with the crowd and do what everyone else is doing, will only grow more intense, and the stakes get higher every year. Kids break little rules in Kindergarten and first grade, but by fourth and fifth, they break bigger ones. What will you do when your friends challenge you to break them too?

How do you navigate the jungle of peer pressure? How do you navigate any challenges in life? We need God's help, and God sends that help in a number of ways. One of the very best ways He helps us is by giving us wise teachers to guide us. God gives us parents and other adults who have walked in our shoes. They know the best way to go. Some of them know the wrong way all too well. If we are wise, we will listen to their direction.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

The Bible tells many stories about men and women wise enough to rely on good advice to do the right thing. Today's scripture is not one of them. Today's story is one about a man who heard great advice – and refused to listen.

READ 1 KINGS 12:1-17

MAIN POINT:

Rehoboam was a direct descendant of King David, one of the greatest kings of the Old Testament. He was the son of Solomon, a man still known as the wisest king who ever lived. David did what was right in the eyes of God as a young man, and the Lord blessed him for it. When God offered Solomon anything he asked for, Solomon asked for wisdom, and God blessed Solomon. You would think Rehoboam would listen to his advisors and follow the path of his elders – but no! Rehoboam refused their advice, and he changed history for him and his people for the worst.

Israel would pay the price for Rehoboam's decision for many years to come. The kingdom was split in two, and the two were often at odds with each other. As a divided kingdom, they were much more vulnerable to their outside enemies. What's worse, many did evil in God's eyes, and it eventually led to ruin.

Rehoboam could have listened to his guides, but he chose to get lost in sin. If we are wise we will learn from his mistakes and set ourselves on a righteous path with God's counselors as our guide!

DRIVE IT HOME:

There are two ways a person becomes wise. One is by experience. We experience things that have positive or negative consequences, and we learn from those experiences. Anyone who has touched a hot stove knows that you don't touch a hot stove. The memory of the searing pain of the burner stays with you long after that brief moment is gone. You never forget it, and you'll never do it again.

If experience was the only source of wisdom we had, we'd all be walking around with a lot of burns and bruises and scrapes. Thankfully, God has given us older, wiser people to teach us wisdom. Most of you will never know the pain of a hot stove on your hand because your parents made you wise enough not to touch one. Your parents have also given you wisdom on how to stay safe crossing the street, riding in cars, and getting away from situations and people that can lead you into trouble. Parents are God's first line of instruction for us when it comes to wisdom, and we can learn from their advice and also their failures.

God also gives us teachers, coaches, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and older siblings for the same reason. They all have experiences to share and wisdom to impart. Your coach can tell you the best way to set a pick in basketball.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

He can also tell you the safe way to build muscle. Your grandparents can advise you on everything from family recipes to choosing good friends. Your older siblings can give you specific information on navigating life and peer pressure at your school.

You can and will gain a great deal of wisdom from your own experience, but like the twisted, tangled vines of the jungle, there are many experiences that are best avoided. God has given you parents and other wise adults to be your guides. They will be a compass to point you to God, your true north, and guide you in the right path. Listen to their wisdom. Learn it, and most important, use it. God will lead you through the jungle. He's surrounded you with guides to help you find your way.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for the wisdom of our parents and elders.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What is one piece of advice someone has given you recently?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalm 25:5

Split the verse up into sections, as many as you have kids in the group. Give each child a section to read or recite. See how well your group can read the verse together!

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have the kids stand in a circle, reach into the middle, and randomly grab hands with other people in the group. Then challenge the kids to untangle themselves without letting go of each other.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 1 Kings 12:1-17

What advice was Rehoboam given?

What did Rehoboam do instead?

What happened to Rehoboam's kingdom because he refused wise advice?

Who are some wise advisors God has given you?

Why do we need to listen to their advice?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to listen to the wisdom of our mentors.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What is one piece of advice someone has given you recently?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalm 25:5

Split the verse up into sections, as many as you have kids in the group. Give each child a section to read or recite. See how well your group can read the verse together!

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have the kids stand in a circle, reach into the middle, and randomly grab hands with other people in the group. Then challenge the kids to untangle themselves without letting go of each other.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 1 Kings 12:1-17

Why did Rehoboam reject the advice of his elders?

How did Rehoboam's rebellion split his kingdom?

Who are some wise advisors God has given you?

Why do we need to listen to their advice?

How can listening to our mentors help us to learn God's wisdom?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to listen to the wisdom of our mentors.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

Rehoboam was Solomon's father.

FALSE

Rehoboam had many wise advisors.

TRUE

Rehoboam always listened to his advisors and made good choices.

FALSE

Rehoboam's kingdom was split because he was so cruel to his people.

TRUE

God gives us mentors so that we can learn from their wisdom.

TRUE



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Unexplored Bible Stories Lesson 4

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: OVERGROWN VINES



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Explorers have to navigate through dense jungles, cutting away overgrown vines to create new paths. It can be easy to get lost so it helps to have a compass to help guide you and keep you going in the right direction. When Rehoboam became king of Israel, the elders advised him on which direction to go. They encouraged him to take a new path and treat the people better than the previous king. But Rehoboam rejected their advice, and as a result, the people rejected Rehoboam and the kingdom of Israel was torn in two. 1 Kings 12:1-17, Israel Rebels Against Rehoboam



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Share with your kids who some of your wise mentors are or were and what they meant to you.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did Rehoboam refuse to listen to his advisors?
- What was the consequence of Rehoboam making bad choices?
- Who are some wise advisors who have helped you gain wisdom?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Guide me in your truth. Teach me. You are God my Savior. I put my hope in you all day long." Psalm 25:5 (NirV)

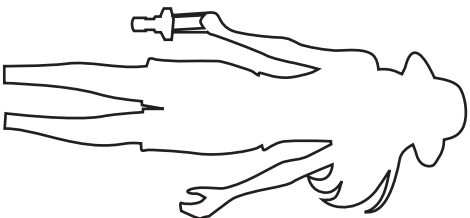


PARENT TIME:

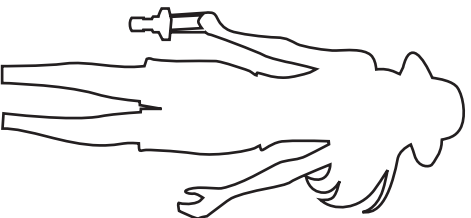
What you need to know: Ask God to help you to impart as much wisdom as you can to your children. Pray that you will know the right words to say when they need to hear them. Be open and honest about your successes and failures, and pray God will use those stories to make your children wise.

CRAFT ACTIVITY

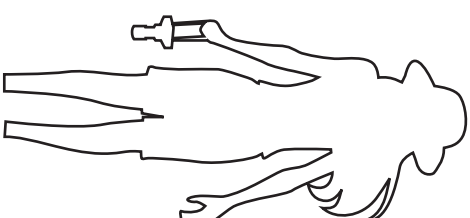
Have the kids write a thank you card for someone who has been a wise counselor to them.



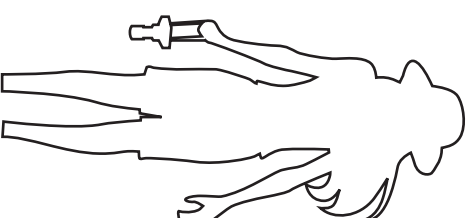
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