



WEEK TWO - AUGUST 2018 - SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Danger Zone • Proverbs 22:3*

Bottom Line: *If you want to be wise, look before you leap.*

Memory Verse: *"If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you." - James 1:5a NIV*

Life App: *Wisdom - Finding out what you should do and doing it.*

Basic Truth: *I need to make the wise choice.*

Summary: This week, we look to something Solomon wrote in Proverbs 22:3. Wise people see danger and go to a safe place, but childish people keep going and suffer for it, (NIRV). Without thinking, people can rush into a situation and soon discover that they are in trouble. Solomon warns us to make sure we know what we're facing before we move forward with a decision.

8:50-9:00 | 10:20-10:30 | 11:50-12:00 - EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: "N/A"

What You Do:

- Teach kids how to play leapfrog.
- If they start to lose interest, challenge them to find creative ways to leap or crouch.
- While they play, or after they're finished, ask the following questions:
 - In the past week, what wise choices have you made?
 - How/why did you decide to make those choices?

2. Jumping Frogs

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Plastic jumping frogs

What You Do:

- Give each kid a plastic jumping frog.
- Allow a minute or so for kids to play with the frogs.
- Then play various games with the frogs, as time, interest, and space allow.
 - See whose frog can jump the farthest/highest.
 - Race the frogs across your space and back.
 - Play a whole tournament with either of the above games.
 - Play leapfrog with the jumping frogs.

What You Say:

"I'm sure by this point you're wondering what in the world all these frog games are about. You probably know it has something to do with today's Bible story, but I'm not going to tell you what that is yet. [Transition] Let's go to Large Group and find out more about it."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

9:10-9:45 | 10:40-11:15 | 12:10-12:45 - LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *If you want to be wise, look before you leap.* Kids face all sorts of decisions where they have to decide if they will keep going or pause to evaluate the best option. This happens as they learn to navigate friendships, technology, and priorities. We hope that kids discover that pausing to ask, "What's the wise choice in this situation?" can save them from getting hurt.

9:45-10:05 | 11:15-11:35 | 12:45-1:05 SMALL GROUP

1. Make Your Own Word Search

[Bible Story Review]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing/building/designing

What You Need: "Word Search" Activity Page; pencils

What You Do:

- Hand out the Activity Pages and pencils.
- Tell kids they're going to make their own word searches using important words related to today's verse and the Bottom Line.
- Point out the word bank.
- Instruct kids to write those words in the boxes, one letter per box, like what a word search would look like.
- Encourage them to spread the words out, and they can write them forward, backward, up, down, or diagonal.
- Explain that the words can even intersect, and show them an example if you wish.
- After they have written all six words, tell them to fill in all the empty boxes with random letters.
- Then tell kids to exchange papers with someone else and search for the words.

What You Say:

"These words we searched for are all related to our Bottom Line: [Bottom Line] If you want to be wise, look before you leap. This isn't just about not doing something dangerous, but also not doing something that might not be best for us. Do you remember how we learned about Solomon asking for wisdom? That was the best thing he could have asked for, and we can ask for it too. When you're faced with any situation, think about where it might end up before you do it. If you're not sure, ask God for help. Read His Word. Ask an older person you trust, who knows God's Word. All of those things will help you look before you leap and make wise choices."

2. Leap Verse

[Memory Verse Activity]

Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation & discovery

What You Need: Bibles; plastic jumping frogs from the earlier activity

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle on the floor with their Bibles and jumping frogs.
- Instruct them to look up the memory verse, James 1:5, and say it aloud together a few times.
- Then tell kids to lay their open Bibles in their laps, so they can refer to them if needed.
- Choose one kid to say the first word of the verse and then make his frog jump.
- Quickly determine which kid the frog is "looking at," and she will say the next word and make her frog jump.
- Continue in this manner until the entire verse has been said.
- Repeat as many times as you wish.

What You Say:

"If you want to be wise, look before you leap. God will always give you wisdom—no matter the situation. If you're faced with a situation that you don't think is quite right—if you think you're about to make the wrong decision—take a minute to 'look.' Ask God for help. Think about verses from Scripture and what you know to be true. And look to wiser people to help you too. You know, sometimes we make unwise choices because everybody else is doing something. But just because others are doing it, that doesn't mean it's something you should do. You still need to look before you leap. That's always the wise choice."

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding & application

What You Need: Plastic jumping frogs from earlier activities

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle with their jumping frogs.
- Instruct kids to make their frog jump, and keep an eye on which one is theirs.
- They should look at the person their frog is "looking" at and pray for that person: "God, help [kid's name] to look before [he/she] leaps."
- Tell kids to collect a frog and do it again. Do this several times.
- Finish with the prayer below

What You Say:

"God, thank You for Your wisdom and for sharing it with us in Your Word. Help us to use what we know to be true in order to look before we leap and make wise decisions. In Jesus' name, amen.

"I want you to take your frog home with you, and let it be a reminder to not only look before you leap, but to also continue to pray for the others in our small group. [Bottom Line] If you want to be wise, look before you leap."

As adults arrive to pick up, tell them to ask kids what the jumping frogs are for. How are they connected to wisdom?