



WEEK THREE - AUGUST 2018 - SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Everybody Wants to Rule the World • 2 Chronicles 10*

Bottom Line: *If you want to be wise, hang out with wise people.*

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 should treat the others the way I want to be treated*

Summary: In week three, we head to 2 Chronicles 10 and discover what happens with Solomon's son, Rehoboam. When he took over as king over Israel, people pleaded with him to make life easier for them. Rehoboam received counsel on both sides of this issue. Rather than acting on the advice from his father's advisers, he acts on the foolish advice of his friends. This ends up causing a split in the nation of Israel, creating Israel and Judah.

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

1. Early Arriver Idea

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

What You Need: Butcher paper; markers

What You Do:

- Spread out the butcher paper and set out the markers.
- Tell kids to gather around the paper and draw pictures of some of their favorite fictional characters along with those characters' friends.
- They can work together or separately.
- As they work, ask:
 - Who is your character? Why are they your favorite?
 - Who are the characters' friends?
 - Are the characters wise friends or unwise friends? How can you tell?

2. Wisdom Quotes

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain & taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: "Wisdom Quotes" Activity Pages; A/B/C papers

What You Do:

- Place the A, B, and C papers in different parts of your area.
- Tell kids you're going to read a quote that's related to wisdom, and you'll give them three choices of who said it.
- They should go to the letter they think is correct.
- Read the "Wisdom Quotes" one by one, giving kids plenty of time to choose their answers.
 - If they ask who some of the people are, feel free to tell them AFTER they choose their answer.
 - If the quote is from the Bible, tell them the verse reference AFTER you reveal the answer.

What You Say:

"Those quotes were all about wisdom or were just wise advice, weren't they? I bet most of the people who said them would be good people to hang out with. [Transition] Let's go to Large Group and hear more about who we should spend our time with."

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, hang out with wise people. It's been said that we are sum total of our five closest friends. Who we choose to spend our time with influences not only the choices we make but who we are. We pray that kids learn that when they surround themselves with wise friends, they will be more likely to make wise choices throughout every area of their life.*

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

1. Wise Friend or Not Wise Friend?

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: "Wise or Not-Wise Quotes" Activity Page;

What You Do:

- Gather all the kids around your space.
- Tell kids you'll read a quote.
 - If that quote is something a wise friend would say, they will step into the circle and cram themselves into it.
 - If it's something a not-wise friend would say, they should run to the hoop, stop, and run right back to you.
- Read the quotes one at a time. Feel free to add some of your own.
- If you have more time, ask kids to come up with quotes that wise friends would say. **(Note: We recommend NOT asking them to come up with unwise quotes.)**

What You Say:

"It's not always easy to figure out whether someone is a wise friend or not, but sometimes it can be pretty obvious. And when it is, we should choose to spend less time with someone who makes a lot of unwise choices, if it's at all possible. Why? Because we tend to act like the people we're around. So if we spend a lot of time with people who usually don't make wise choices, we'll end up making unwise choices.

"But here's the thing. Everyone makes unwise choices from time to time. I do. All of you do. So you shouldn't stop being friends with someone just because they make one or two bad decisions every now and then. It's when someone tends to make a lot MORE unwise choices than wise choices then we need to think about how much time we should spend with

that person. But should we just stop spending any time with them at all because we don't want them to influence us? (Let kids respond and think about this for a moment.) Well, it depends. If you're in that situation, I think you should talk to a wise adult about it. Sometimes there are people we just shouldn't spend any time with. But usually that's not the case, and a lot of times we can't completely avoid people—especially if they're in your class or they live next door. But you can be careful about how much you interact with them.

"I want you to make wise choices about the people you hang out with, and I want you to make wise choices in general. Because then YOU will be the person that other people will want to hang out with because you're a wise friend! And then you'll influence people in positive ways. [Bottom Line] If you want to be wise, hang out with wise people."

2. Wise Friend Scavenger Hunt

[Bible Story Review]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and building on their understanding

What You Need: "Wise Friend Scavenger Hunt" Activity Pages; pencils; Bibles

What You Do:

- Guide kids to look up today's Bible story in 2 Chronicles 10. Remind them how to use the table of contents if they need it.
- Help them recap the story:
 - Tell them to find what the Israelites requested of Rehoboam, and ask someone to read it aloud (v. 4).
 - Tell them to find what the wise friends said to Rehoboam, and ask someone to read it aloud (v. 7).
 - Repeat with what the unwise friends said (v. 10-11).
 - Ask which group Rehoboam followed. (unwise friends)
 - Ask how the Israelites responded. (they went home)
- Give each kid an Activity Page and a pencil.
- Explain that it's important that we are influenced by wise people, not unwise people. The people in your group can all be wise and have made wise decisions.
- Ask volunteers to read the quotes aloud.
- Then tell kids to get other kids to sign spaces whose quotes apply to them.
 - If you have fewer than ten kids in your group, see if they can get every other kid to sign a space. If you have more than ten, challenge them to fill at least eight spaces.

What You Say:

"Look at that! We have all made wise choices, which helps us be good friends. And this will help us to be able to better see the qualities that make someone wise and therefore a good friend. Hang out with people who will encourage you to be wise by doing wise things themselves. [Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a friend you had when you were a kid who did wise things and encouraged you to make wise choices as well.) [Bottom Line] If you want to be wise, hang out with wise people."

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Tell kids to silently pray for the person on their left.
- They should ask God to not only help them choose wise friends, but to be the kind of people who others would consider to be wise friends.
- Close with the prayer below.

What You Say:

"Lord, thank You for our friends. Help us to choose wise friends, and help us to BE wise friends. We want to be the kinds of people who help the people around us make wise choices. In Jesus' name, amen. This week, let's think about the choices we make when it comes to who we spend our time with. [Bottom Line] If you want to be wise, hang out with wise people."

As adults arrive to pick up, tell them to ask kids about the Wise Friend Scavenger Hunt and why it's important to be able to see who makes wise decisions.