



## WEEK ONE - AUGUST 2018 - PRETEEN (456)

**Bible Story:** *Walk This Way • Luke 2:41-52*

**Key Question:** *What does it mean to be wise?*

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

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

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

**Summary:** We start the month with Jesus and our only glimpse into His life as a child. In Luke 2:41-52 we discover that Jesus knew His Father's house was where he needed to be. We're told that Jesus grew in wisdom, faith, and friendship. This is the model we should follow as we seek to grow in our own relationship with God.

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8:50-9:00 | 10:20-10:30 | 11:50-12:00 - FREE PLAY

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9:00-9:10 | 10:30-10:40 | 12:00-12:10 - PRESERVICE ACTIVITY

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## 1. Get Your Head in the Game

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

**What You Need:** Calculators

### What You Do:

- Read the activities listed below then ask students to choose to do the one they think is the best or wisest choice.
  - Smell everyone's feet then sit in the corner without speaking until Large Group.
  - Sit silently in the corner with your shoes on your head until Large Group.
  - Work together to solve some fun riddle games.
    - ***Note: These "choices" will appear each week in this section of Small Group time. They are meant to be funny, but some groups will have kids who pick something other than choice three! Let each kid make his or her choice and go with it! It'll make for a good laugh for the other students in addition to modeling the consequences of an "unwise choice" in a funny way.***
- After students have made their choices, challenge those who chose Number Three with the following brainteasers and riddles.
  - I have streets, but no pavement. I have cities, but no buildings. I have forests, but no trees. I have rivers yet no water. What am I? (a map)
  - You may enter, but you may not come in. I have space, but no room. I have keys, but open no lock. What am I? (a computer)
  - A boy was rushed to the hospital emergency room. The ER doctor saw the boy and said, "I cannot operate on this boy. He is my son." But the doctor was not the boy's father. How could that be? (the doctor was his mother)
  - You throw away the outside and cook the inside. You eat the outside and throw away the inside. What did you eat? (corn on the cob)
  - (Note: Kids must do this problem in their heads.) Take 1,000 and add 40 to it. Add another 1,000 to it. Add 30. Add another 1,000. Add 20. Add another 1,000. Add 10. What is the total? (Kids will probably come up with 5,000 but the actual answer is 4,100. Let them use paper or a calculator to prove it.)

**What You Say:**

*"Figuring stuff out is a big part of life. No matter how old you are right now or how long you live, there will be problems to solve and decisions to make. Knowing where to go to find the right answers is incredibly important. That's one reason why we need God. That's why we need HIS wisdom and not just our own. So get ready to get wise. We have some great things to learn this month. Let's go to Large Group and get started."*

**Lead your group to the Large Group area.**

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

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**OVERVIEW:**

**Key Question:** *What does it mean to be wise?. Kids learn in school that knowledge is power. But while knowing things is certainly important, how we apply what we know is more important. We want our preteens to discover the difference between knowledge and wisdom and why that matters for how they can grow in their faith.*

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

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**1. Take a Snapshot**

**[Application Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** Whiteboards; dry erase markers

**What You Do:**

- Name a specific type of job or area of expertise such as a dog trainer.
- Ask students to call out five important things people in that position would need to know to succeed.
- Write their ideas on the whiteboard then have the group arrange them in order from most important to least.
- Repeat with one or two random jobs (barista, astronaut, circus clown, taxi driver, artist, or others) if time allows.
- For the final round, ask students what a person who wants to be wise needs to know.
- Make sure each person shares an idea and then let the group prioritize the list.
- Ask students to explain the difference between being smart (or being an expert on something) and being wise.

- Who do they know who is smart?
- Would they say he or she is also wise? Why or why not?

## 2. Discussion Questions

### [Application Activity]

*Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others & build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** N/A

### What You Do:

- Ask:
  - What questions do you think Jesus as a young boy about your age may have been asking the men at the temple?
  - What's a question you would like to ask someone who is Bible-wise?
  - How can you know whether you're making a wise choice?
  - Have you ever made a choice that you thought was good but then things didn't turn out well? Did that mean it wasn't a wise choice? Why or why not?
  - Name some things people value more than wisdom. Why do they value those things?
  - What's the difference between knowledge and wisdom? How do you go from just having knowledge to being wise?

## 3. Make It Personal with Prayer

### [Prayer Activity]

*Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

**What You Need:** Bible

### What You Do:

- Open your Bible to Psalm 119.
- Share that in every verse of Psalm 119 God's Word is mentioned at least one time. It's referred to as the law, statutes, precepts, decrees, word, commands, promises, and so on.
- Encourage them to read through the whole Psalm on their own later this week.
- Help them remember the chapter reference by using the numbers 911 (119 backwards).
- Remind them that verses of Psalm 119 reminds us that God's Word is where we can go for help and for wisdom.
- Lead the group by reading Psalm 119:11-16 aloud as a prayer.

- Pause after each verse to let students pray silently in agreement with the words you read.

***As kids are dismissed, hand out the monthly overview cards to each child and challenge them to look at the story that they learned today throughout the week.***