



WEEK THREE - AUGUST 2018 - PRETEEN (456)

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

Key Question: *Why does it matter who your friends are?*

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: 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 - FREE PLAY

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

1. Just For Fun

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

What You Need: Paper; markers

What You Do:

- Ask students to think of something that happened to them this week. It can be something fantastic, freaky, fun, or a complete fail—whatever they would like to share.
- Before they share their stories, pass out paper and markers.
- Tell them to draw a picture or write a few words about their story but do so with their hands behind their backs.
- When they're finished, let the group try to guess what the artists drew then ask each person to share the story behind the picture or random words.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *Why does it matter who your friends are? Many kids might assume that friends are friends, and it doesn't matter who they are as long as they're friends. However, when it comes to wisdom, having the right people in your life is important. We want preteens to discover that, good or bad, who they hang out with influences the choices they make.*

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

1. Take a Snapshot

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask the students to share some of the things they like about their friends.
 - What do you enjoy doing together?
 - What's the nicest thing a friend has ever done for you?
 - What makes a good friend?
 - How do you choose your friends?
 - If you could have one quality in a friend, what would it be?
 - Would you rather have 20 friends that you don't know very well or one best friend?
- Pair students up—girls with girls; guys with guys.
- Let one of the partners be the sculptor and the other the clay.
- Without speaking, the sculptor poses the "clay" to depict something friends do together or something they do for one another.
 - They can use ideas from the previous discussion or come up with other things that show what a good friend is like.
- Invite the remaining students to guess what the sculpture is about. They can ask up to ten YES or NO questions to get clues from the sculptor.
- Sculpture Suggestions (if needed)
 - Praying
 - Throwing a ball
 - Giving a hug
 - Reading or studying
 - Watching a movie
 - Playing a game
 - Listening to music
 - Talking

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:
 - Why does it matter whom you're friends with?
 - What is the benefit of hanging out with wise people of different ages? What wisdom might your parents have to share that your friends might not and vice versa?

- Would you consider yourself to be a wise person that people would want to hang out with? Why or why not? If not, how might you need to change?
- What are some ways you can share your faith without actually joining in with a crowd of kids who make bad choices or letting their choices influence your choices?
- What are some bad choices that seem like “no big deal” at the time but later can become a huge deal? (Remind students of Rehoboam's decision that totally backfired.)
- How can you figure out who is giving good advice and who is giving bad advice?

3. Make It Personal with Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Remind students that sometimes our wisest friends are those who are older than us.
- Invite the students to name wise friends, teachers, coaches, and family members in their lives right now then thank God for their influence.

What You Say

"Dear Jesus, YOU are our best friend, and when we listen to Your Word and follow it, You promise to help us make wise choices. We don't want to be a Rehoboam and make selfish decisions that go bad. Help us to surround ourselves with wise people who know what it means to follow You. Thank you for those in our lives right now who help us stay smart and think twice. Help us to not only HAVE wise friends, but to BE a wise friend. In your name we pray, amen."