



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- One prize to hide in a pie
- One extra prize
- One key marked in sharpie with "P356"
- The key marked P356 goes to a padlock that will be used later (which should also be marked "P356").
- Two small zip-lock baggies
- Two whipped cream pies, one with prize inside. One with key inside. (See *What You Do*)
- Table for the pies
- Two pairs of goggles
- Two ponchos or towels

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- "The Hunt" Theme Slide

What You Do:

- “Whipped Cream Cakes” One cake needs the key marked P356 that is in a Ziploc baggie inside of it. The other cake needs a prize inside. You can bake the cakes with the prizes inside or buy two cakes, push the items in and then smooth the icing. Before putting the key in, put it in a small Ziploc baggie so that it stays clean. You could do the same with the prize if you’d like.

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator dressed in mechanic coveralls and carrying a greasy towel (like he or she had just worked on his or her car)
- Box (metal, wooden, tackle box, treasure chest, etc.) with a padlock marked “P356”
- Large scroll with Proverbs 3:5-6 written out

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Key Question Slide
- Picture of disassembled car
- Picture of gutted house

What You Do:

- Write out Proverbs 3:5-6 on a nice-looking scroll, big enough for most to see when held up.
- Lock the scroll in the box/chest with the padlock marked “P356.”
- Search for images of a disassembled car and gutted house. Download them and put them into your presentation software to use during large group.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Alive
- Never Gonna Singing

Don't Stop Believin'

Bible Story: Don't Stop Believin' (Trust in the Lord) * *Proverbs 3:5-6 (1 Kings 10:1-10)*

Bottom Line: If you want to be wise, trust God to give you wisdom.

Key Question: Why can't you trust yourself to always make the wise choice?

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 can trust God no matter what.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

CG: *"The Hunt" Theme Slide*

Host enters.

Welcome

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, or a viral video on YouTube, etc. NOTE: In many parts of the country August is the first month of the school year. You can talk about summer wrapping up or ask if anyone is excited to head back to school. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

Opener

HOST: "Hey everyone! Can you believe this is the last week of August?! I've had such a great time hunting for wisdom with you, and we certainly are going to end this week with an exciting hunt of sorts! I need two volunteers . . . two volunteers who really like cake!"

Host chooses two volunteers for a messy game.

"Cake fans, huh? Might not be after this game. OKAY, let's go! So here in front of you both I have two cakes. Two people. Two cakes. Convenient. When I say go, it is up to you to search through the cake in front of you because there is an important treasure hidden somewhere inside. Sound good? Okay ready, set . . . Hold on!"

"Not so fast. You didn't think I was going to let you use your hands, did you?"

Gives volunteers a poncho/towel and goggles.

“That’s more like it! Alright when I say go, faces in and find that treasure! Ready, set, GO!”

“(Have both find what’s inside. One will be a key. The other will be a prize.) I can take those from you . . . Ewww . . .”

Host takes the Ziploc® bag from both volunteers.

“Let’s see what we’ve got here . . .”

Opening the Ziplocs and removing the contents.

“This one looks like a *(name of prize)*. Congrats! *(Gives the prize to contestant)*. *(Opening other Ziploc, confused)* Let’s check out the other one. It’s . . . a key. That’s strange. I don’t think it was supposed to be a key. Wait, it has something on it. ‘P356.’ Locker number? Address? Not sure. Well, I’ll just hang on to this. In the meantime, here is a prize for playing.

Host gives second volunteer a real prize and pockets the key for later.

“Let’s stand and worship together!”

Host exits and Worship Leader enters

Worship

Alive

Never Gonna Stop Singing

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey there! Great to be with you again this week. Okay, so you can probably tell by my outfit here that I have a bit of a problem. It started with a sound. A sound like this: *(imitating)* squeak sq-squeak sq-SQUEAK woo woo WOO!”

“You know what I’m saying, right? Okay, maybe not. Well, it was my car. I was driving along and *(Imitate the noise again.)* and then . . . nothing. The car stopped. I decided it would be best to consult my trusty mechanic . . . you know, Google . . . and then cross-referenced my car specialist . . . YouTube . . . and turns out that it wasn’t that hard of a fix. Well, it wasn’t *supposed* to be that hard of a fix. I thought, ‘I can do this myself. No problem.’ So I opened the hood and removed a few bolts, unclipped a few hoses, unplugged a few wires. And before I knew it . . .”

CG: Picture of disassembled car

“My car looked like this! I’m never getting this thing back together!”

(Beat) “Okay, okay, clearly I’m joking. But could you imagine?! *(Remove coveralls.)* There’s not really any coming back from that one! Or imagine you had a little home remodel . . . patch some drywall, install a few cabinets . . . but the more you got into it, the more problems you found until your house looked like this!”

CG: Guttled house

“Hard to bounce back from that!”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Now those are some pretty dramatic examples, and sure, they’re funny. In both of these cases, it would take a lot of extra time and, in some cases, extra money to fix the damage. But it’s fixable. But what happens if we get ourselves into a situation where the damage could cost us even more? Or the damage was permanent?”

“Is it possible to trust our own way so much that we get ourselves in a spot that we can’t get out of? That’s a big question. What’s the solution here?”

Communicator pulls out locked box.

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Well, I think this may have something to do with it . . . but *(jiggling the lock)*, it’s locked. The lock says ‘P356.’ No idea what that means . . .”

Host runs on stage excited.

HOST: “Did you say P356?!”

COMMUNICATOR: “Uh yeah . . . that’s what the lock says . . .”

HOST: “Well . . . *(Reach in pocket and pull out a stick of gum and hold it in the air.)*, I’ve got the solution!”

COMMUNICATOR: “A stick of gum?”

HOST: *(Look at his outstretched hand.)* Oh. Oops. *(Reach back in pocket.)* I’ve got the solution! *(Pull out the key.)* Check it out—this key says ‘P356.’”

COMMUNICATOR: “Perfect! Give it a try!”

Host puts the key in the lock and opens the box.

HOST: *(Overdramatic)* “Amazing! It works! It works!”

COMMUNICATOR: “Let’s see what’s inside . . .”

Communicator pulls out the scroll and unrolls it.

HOST: *(Read the scroll.)* “P356 . . . That’s Proverbs 3:5-6. It’s a verse!”

COMMUNICATOR: “You’re right! It’s our Bible truth today. We’ve already looked at a few proverbs this month, which are those wise sayings that were mostly written by king Solomon. Check out this proverb. *(Read the scroll)* ‘Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight.’”

Host exits.

“Thanks, [Host’s name], that was really helpful! Now, just like the car or the house, there are times when we can lean so much on our own understanding and our own way of doing things that we can get ourselves in tough spots. In those moments, we think that we know what is best, and yet, it turns out that . . . maybe we didn’t. This verse really helps us—when we find ourselves in a spot where we aren’t so sure what to do or the right way to go, our FIRST move should not be to trust our own way . . . our own understanding. Our FIRST move is to trust God and His way . . . to ask God for His wisdom.”

“See, depending on our own understanding means that we choose our way because we think it is the best. In the end, we are really just worrying about ourselves. When we depend on our own understanding, we might say things like, “Because it feels good. They deserve it. Nobody will know. It’s not that bad. It’s my life. Other people have done worse. Or I can do what I want.”

“When we say those phrases, they’re pretty good signs that we are choosing our way.”

“But when we trust God, we might ask things like, ‘What would God want me to do? What would Jesus do? What would make God smile? How can I put others first here? Or how would I feel if somebody else did this to me?’”

“When we ask these questions, chances are we’re trusting God’s way and asking for His wisdom.”

“I want to get into a few scenarios where it might be tempting to lean on our own understanding . . . our

way . . . versus trusting God for wisdom . . . His way. Consider the phrases from our way vs. the questions of God's way. And I want you to talk as a group about these scenarios and what would happen if you made your choice based on both ways."

Introduce the following scenarios one at a time and encourage the groups to discuss what our way looks like (depending on our understanding) vs. God's way (asking God for His wisdom). As time allows, move the groups along. At the end, if there is time, have several kids or leaders share.

"Scenario 1: A kid at school or your brother/sister is really frustrating you and you have finally had enough. You know some things you could do or say to them that would really hurt them."

"Scenario 2: You are trying harder than the starter on your sports team. He/she just seems to goof around during practice, yet he/she still starts. You find out some "dirt" on him/her that could get him/her kicked off the team."

"Scenario 3: At the lunch table, the conversation turns to talking about the new kid. Everyone starts chiming in with what he or she thinks."

"Scenario 4: You went against your parents' rules, but they didn't find out. Now you are starting to feel guilty about what you did."

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: *"(After groups have shared) You all put a lot of great thought into those scenarios. Really well done! Sometimes the answers seem obvious . . .but sometimes not so much. Things are not always black and white—sometimes we find ourselves in the gray. And what better time to lean on God's wisdom and God's way than when the answer is not clear."*

"Our way can seem right at first. And yet, just like my car, we can find ourselves in deep trouble before we know it. Maybe we are having trouble with a kid at school and we know what we would LIKE to say to that person. We might use the phrase, 'They deserve it' or 'It will feel good,' but wisdom would have us ask the question, 'What would God want me to do?'"

"There are times when we will naturally make the right choice. But there are also times when our way is NOT the right way. In these moments, it is so important for us to be learning God's Word and to be surrounding ourselves with the right people, like we talked about last week."

(Read from the scroll again.) 'Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight, (NirV).'"

"That doesn't mean that life will always work out right and that everything will be smooth sailing from here on out. But it does mean that more and more we are trusting God's way, which is absolutely the best way."

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "As you go to small group today, spend some more time discussing these

scenarios. Or come up with your own! And I want you to think about this.”

CG: Key Question Slide

“Why can't you trust yourself to always make the wise choice? Sometimes we can, but are there times we need some help? Think about that on your way to Small Groups. You'll have a chance to talk about that and more with your group, before you head out, let's pray and ask God to help us trust Him no matter what. Let's pray.”

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.