



## GETTING READY

### 1. Opener/Closer

#### What You Need:

- Host
- Five index cards with prompts for the game (see "What You Do")

#### *Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

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

#### *Large Group Visuals:*

- "The Hunt" Theme Slide
- Wisdom Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

#### What You Do:

- Write the five prompts for the game (see script) on index cards for the Host.

### 2. Bible Story

**What You Need:**

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Host
- Detective costume for the Host:
  - Trench coat
  - Bowtie
  - Glasses
  - Fake mustache
  - Newsboy cap
  - Magnifying glass

*Large Group Visuals:*

- Bottom Line Slide

**3. Worship**

**What You Need:**

- We Are Royals
- Through It All

# Walk This Way

**Bible Story:** Walk This Way (Jesus Grows in Wisdom) • *Luke 2:41-52*

**Bottom Line:** If you want to be wise, search for wisdom.

**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.

## **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:** “The Hunt” Theme Slide

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

*Host is on stage, welcoming the kids as they enter.*

**HOST:** “Hello, everyone! Welcome to [your environment’s name]. My name is [Host’s name], and I’m so glad we get to hang out here together.

“Raise your hand if you like playing games. *(Pause for response.)* We’ve got games! Raise your hand if you like stories. *(Pause for response.)* We’ve got a TRUE story from the Bible. Now raise your hand if you like to meet new friends. *(Pause for response.)* Look around you. You’ll get to meet some friends today, too! We’ll get to do that and more as we’re on the hunt for wisdom.

**CG:** Wisdom Slide

**“Wisdom is finding out what you should do and doing it.**

“Maybe when you hear the word ‘wisdom,’ you think only older people can be wise. But that’s not true—you can be wise no matter how old or young you are. In fact, in our story today, we’ll hear about someone who was really young who wanted to be wise.

**SFX:** Upbeat game music

*(Listening)* “That music means it’s game time! Today’s game is called ‘Hunt for Who.’ I’ll call out a description, and your job is to find someone in the room who meets that description. When you find that person, you’ll give them a high-five and stand beside them until everyone in the room has found someone.

“For example, I might say, ‘Hunt for someone who goes to your school,’ and you’ll need to find someone who goes to your school, give them a high-five, and stand beside each other. If you can’t find someone who goes to your school, come give ME a high-five! You can have as many people in your group as you want. That way you can meet as many new friends as possible.

“Leaders, you get to play too. Are you ready? Let’s do it!

*Pick up the cue cards with the prompts for the game.*

“Hunt for someone who has the same birthday month as you.

*Wait for everyone to find someone (or a group). Be on the lookout for any kids who can’t find someone and invite them to be your partner. Repeat this for all of the following.*

“Hunt for someone whose name starts with the same letter as yours.

“Hunt for someone who has the same favorite color as you.

“Hunt for someone who has the same favorite movie as you.

“Hunt for someone who has the same favorite food as you.

“That was so fun! I hope you all met some new friends and got to know each other a little bit. You can stay standing, because now it’s time to sing some songs to God!”

*Worship Leaders enter. Host exits.*

## **Worship**

***We Are Royals***

***Through It All***

### **SETTING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Hey, friends! I’m [Storyteller’s name], and I’m pumped to be hanging out with you today.

*(Hold up Bible.)* “Today’s story is about when Jesus was young—just 12 years old. It’s fun to think about what Jesus was like when He was not much older than you.”

*Host bursts onto the stage, wearing his detective costume.*

**HOST:** “Never fear! Detective Know-It-All is here!”

**STORYTELLER:** *(Looking suspiciously at Host)* “Um, [Host’s name] . . . is that you? In a detective costume?”

**HOST:** *(Offended)* “Of course not. I’m Detective Know-It-All! *(As an aside to Storyteller)* Just play along!”

**STORYTELLER:** “Riiiiight. Well, um, DETECTIVE, I was just about to tell our friends a story about

Jesus when He was a kid.”

**HOST:** *(Rubbing mustache)* “Yes. I know the story well. Carry on. Carry on.”

### **JESUS AND HIS FAMILY TRAVEL TO JERUSALEM**

**STORYTELLER:** “Well, every year, Jesus’ family went to the Festival of the Passover in a city called Jerusalem. The year Jesus was 12, they went up to the festival as usual. But then something UNUSUAL happened.”

**HOST:** “AHA! Good thing I’m here to get to the bottom of this mysterious unusual something. *(Pacing)* Let me guess. Jesus ate too much and got a stomachache, causing His parents to miss the festivities!”

**STORYTELLER:** *(Shaking head)* “Nope. Not even close.”

**HOST:** *(To audience)* “Can any of you guess what really happened? Why was THIS Passover different from all the ones before?”

**STORYTELLER:** “I thought you were Detective KNOW-It-All.”

**HOST:** “Well . . . um . . . I’m just giving our friends here the chance to be involved in the story. *(To audience)* So, any guesses what happened?”

*Allow a few guesses from the audience.*

### **JESUS STAYS BEHIND IN JERUSALEM**

**STORYTELLER:** “Why don’t I help you out a little bit? When the festival was over, Jesus’ parents left . . . but Jesus didn’t.”

**HOST:** “Wait a minute. Wait a minute. Are you telling me that Mary and Joseph LEFT their 12-year-old son behind? And I got upset with MY mom for forgetting to buy my favorite cereal when she went to the grocery store.”

**STORYTELLER:** “Well, back in this time, families traveled in large groups of people and animals. With the whole crowd of people, Jesus’ parents didn’t know He had stayed behind. They probably thought He was hanging out with some of His friends or cousins on their way home.”

**HOST:** “How long did it take His parents to figure out He was gone? WAIT! Don’t tell me. I’m Detective Know-It-All, after all. Did it take them one hour?”

**STORYTELLER:** “Nope.”

**HOST:** “TWO hours?”

**STORYTELLER:** “Still wrong.”

**HOST:** *(To audience)* “What do you all think? Anyone want to guess how long Jesus’ family traveled before they realized He wasn’t with them?”

*Allow a few guesses from the audience.*

**STORYTELLER:** “It took Mary and Joseph one whole DAY before they realized Jesus wasn’t with them. They went back to Jerusalem to look for Him, and it took them THREE days to find Him!”

### **JESUS IN THE TEMPLE COURTS**

**HOST:** “This IS a crazy story. I mean, what was Jesus doing the whole time? Did He not care that His parents were worried? Did He not know they were looking for Him?”

**STORYTELLER:** “Well, *(clear throat)* Detective Know-It-All, Jesus was actually in the temple courts. The temple was like the church. He was sitting with the teachers who knew Scripture really well. Jesus was listening to them and asking them questions.”

**HOST:** “Wow. Hanging out with the teachers? That’s amazing!”

**STORYTELLER:** “It WAS amazing. Everyone was amazed at how much Jesus understood. They were amazed at His answers, too. When His parents saw Him, THEY were amazed. They said, ‘We’ve been looking for you everywhere!’

“Jesus said: *“Why were you looking for me? Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” (Luke 2:49, NIrV).*

“In other words, Jesus knew it was important to spend time at the temple, asking questions and talking about God. He stayed in Jerusalem to talk to the teachers because He wanted to grow in wisdom.”

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**HOST:** “SO, what happened next? I mean, I think I know . . . but I’m just testing you.”

**STORYTELLER:** “Jesus went back home to Nazareth with His parents. He continued to grow up—but He didn’t just get bigger. He grew WISER. Here’s what it says about that in Luke 2:52.

*Open the Bible to Luke 2:52 and read.*

*“Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people,” (NIrV).*

**HOST:** “I see. So Jesus grew in wisdom. Do you think you and I can do that, too? Can we grow in wisdom like He did?”

**STORYTELLER:** “Yes, we can! But remember—wisdom doesn’t just come to you.

*Put your hand on Host’s shoulder while he holds up his magnifying glass.*

“You’ve got to look for it. You’ve got to hunt for it. You’ve got to search for it.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line]** “If you want to be wise, search for wisdom.

“There are lots of ways to search for wisdom. You can talk to God and ask Him for it. You can find wisdom when you read your Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) You can talk to wise people, like your parents or your Small Group Leader. Let’s talk to God right now and ask Him to help us as we search for His wisdom.”

### Pray

**STORYTELLER:** “God, help us to learn from Jesus’ example. Help us to search for wisdom. Please give us Your wisdom so we can make wise choices every day. We love You, and we pray in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Storyteller exits. Host takes off the cap, glasses, and fake mustache.*

### Closer

**HOST:** “Okay. I may not be Detective Know-It-All . . . but I’m definitely Detective Knows-a-Lot-More after today. YOU know a lot more, too! We all know a lot more about Jesus when He was growing up. Jesus thought it was super important to talk about God and to learn and grow in wisdom.

“Jesus was special. He’s God’s one and only Son. And He needed to grow in wisdom in a special way. That’s why His parents found Him asking questions and talking with the teachers in the temple.

“If Jesus thought it was so important to grow in wisdom, then it must be important for us too! **[Bottom Line]** If you want to be wise, search for wisdom.

### CG: Bottom Line Slide

“Wisdom doesn’t just come to you. It’s like what [Storyteller’s name] said. (*Hold up the magnifying glass.*) You’ve got to look for it. You’ve got to hunt for it. You’ve got to search for it. Do you remember any ways YOU can grow in wisdom?”

*Allow a few responses.*

“That’s right! One way to grow in wisdom is what you’re doing right now: coming to church and listening. You can talk to your Small Group Leaders. You can read the Bible. You can pray and ask God to help you grow in wisdom. He’ll give it to you for sure!

“You know how I know that? Check out this month’s memory verse. You can find it in the Bible (*hold up Bible*) in the book of James, chapter 1, verse 5. It says this.

### CG: Memory Verse Slide

*“If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you, (NIRV).*

“Each of us has tough choices we need to make each day. But when we ask God for His wisdom, He’ll give it to us! With His wisdom, we can **[Basic Truth]** make the wise choice.

“Let’s head to Small Group so you can keep growing in wisdom. Have fun!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

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