



## WEEK THREE – JANUARY 2019 – PRETEEN

**Bible Story:** *I'm Still Standing* • Luke 4:1-13 (suppt. Matthew 4:1-11)

**Key Question:** *How do you know what's wise?*

**Memory Verse:** *"The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth."*  
Proverbs 2:6 (NIRV)

**Life App:** *Knowledge—Learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do*

**Basic Truth:** *I can trust God no matter what.*

**Summary:** After Jesus' baptism, we head to Luke 4:1-13 and see that Jesus is in the wilderness. In this story, Jesus was tested. Satan twisted what Jesus knew about God and His Word. But Jesus knew better and leveraged God's truth to fight and win over evil. Each time Satan twisted what Jesus knew to be true, Jesus countered with Scripture.

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## PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITY

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### 1. Just for Fun

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

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Ask kids if they could take a trip, where would they want to go?
- Play the game “I am going on a trip to (fill in the blank with places the kids want to visit)”
  - The first kid will say, “I’m going on a trip to the desert, and I am planning to take . . .” He should complete the sentence by saying something he plans to take on the trip, e.g. water.
  - The next kid repeats the sentence, including the first item and adds a second item he plans on taking on the trip. “I am going on a trip to the desert and I am planning to take water and a camel.”
  - Play for several minutes and then change the trip location. To emphasize the need to plan, make the destinations extreme, e.g. the desert, the moon, Alaska, etc.
- After each round played, emphasize the need to prepare ahead by asking questions. For example, “What would happen if you didn’t prepare ahead and forgot water when you went to the desert?”

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

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## LARGE GROUP

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**OVERVIEW:**

**Key Question:** *How do you know what’s wise? Every day we make decisions. Some of those decisions are simple, others not so much. This is hard enough as adults, but think about our preteens who are thinking deeply about the world for the first time. We pray that as they look at how Jesus made wise choice, they’ll be inspired to dig into God’s Word and do the same.*

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## SMALL GROUP

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### 1. Bible Story Extension

#### [Bible Story Review]

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

**What You Need:** Two buckets, bean bags, “Review Cards” Activity Page

#### What You Do:

- Pair kids up.
- Give each team a bean bag.
- Set out two buckets about 15 feet apart.
- Direct kids to stand near a bucket, one teammate at each bucket, standing across from each other. (Help them divide themselves up evenly so you have around the same amount of pairs at each bucket.)
- To collect the review cards:
  - Teammates take turns throwing their bean bags into the bucket across from them.
  - Each time their bean bag lands in the bucket, the teammate closest to the scoring bucket removes a card.
  - Kids can help their teammates get the beanbags in the buckets by “batting” the beanbags into the bucket, but they cannot catch the beanbags and place them in the bucket.
  - Teams continue to throw until all the cards have been collected.
  - The team with the most cards wins.
- Redistribute the cards so each team has approximately the same number.
- Give kids time to look over their cards and to work together as a group to put them in order.
- Allow kids to look up Luke 4 if they need to.
- Ask:
  - What did Jesus do to make the wise choice?
  - When do you think Jesus started discovering what God had to say? (This is an opportunity to review week 1. We know at 12 years old Jesus was at the temple)
  - What can you do to discover what’s in the Bible so you will be prepared to make wise choices?

### 2. Discussion Questions

#### [Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Ask:
  - How do you know when you have made a wise choice?
  - What are some benefits of making the wise choice? What are some of the consequences of not making the wise choice?
  - What if your friends want you to do something and you don't know if it is a wise choice or not—what can you do?
  - You are struggling with a decision and you can't find anything in the Bible to help you make the choice. What can you do? (pray, ask someone who is a follower of Jesus for help, try to think about what you know about Jesus and what He might have done in the same situation)

### **3. Make It Personal with Prayer**

**[Prayer Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** Bibles, paper, markers or pencils

**What You Do:**

- Ask: What was one new thing you learned today?
- Give kids a Bible and look up Psalm 119.
- Read Psalm 119:9–16.
- Explain that Psalm 119 was written to praise God's Word. Psalm 119 is an acrostic poem.
  - In the original text, each stanza of Psalm 119 corresponds to a letter in the Hebrew alphabet.
  - Each verse in each stanza also began with the same letter.
- Encourage kids to write a prayer praising God's Word where every sentence begins with the same letter.
- Encourage kids to share their prayers.
- Examples:
  - I love You God!  
Instruct me each day with Your Word.  
Insights from thinking about Your Word guide me.  
Instill a desire in me to learn more about You.  
Important is everything You say.
  - God, Your ways are perfect!  
Guide me to make the wise choice.  
Give me wisdom and knowledge.  
Goodness and peace come from discovering Your Word.  
Getting to know Your Word is the most important thing to me.