



WEEK
ONE
AUGUST 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to help kids begin to value wisdom and seek it in everything they do. Pray that your kids would leave today armed with the knowledge of where wisdom comes from and what they can do to grow in it. Thank God for the wisdom He gives us each and every day.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Grow as We Go
Jesus Grows in Wisdom
Luke 2:41-52

EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, hand sanitizer, plastic cups, ping-pong ball

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Wisdom is worth searching for.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name to small group.
- Invite any kid who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Direct the kids to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- As kids arrive, challenge them to "keep their eye on the ball."
 - Turn all three cups upside down in the middle of your small group area.
 - Place the ping-pong ball under one of the three cups.
 - Move the cups around rapidly. Never lift them from the floor or table so the ball is pushed along with the cup and kids can't see it move.
 - Ask the kids to find the ball after you move the cups for a few seconds.
 - Let the kids challenge each other by being the one who moves the cups.
 - Allow any kid who wants to, move the cups.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn't find fault.
James 1:5, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Wisdom—Finding out what you should do and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.





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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



POSTCARDS FROM JERUSALEM [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Postcards from Jerusalem" Activity Pages, colored pencils or markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a "Postcards from Jerusalem" Activity Page.
- Set out the coloring materials.
- Encourage the kids to draw a picture from the family's trip to Jerusalem on one side—something that was mentioned in today's Bible story.
 - If they're stuck, here are some suggestions.
 - Temple
 - Bible-times house where Jesus' family might have stayed
 - Tents set up (as they traveled)
 - Camels
 - Palm trees
 - Passover feast or a cup and bread
 - Marketplace
- On the reverse side of the postcard, instruct the younger kids to write a simple caption for their picture on the front.
- Encourage older kids to write as if sending an actual postcard to a friend.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"These are some great postcards! I feel like I've really been to Jerusalem. The beginning of our story starts out normal enough—a road trip, a big family meal, some time in the city, everyone scrambling to pack up and get home. Have you ever had a trip like that? (*Invite some discussion.*) At the end of our story, though, people ran back to the city and desperately searched. Who did Mary and Joseph search for? (*Jesus*)

"They were looking everywhere for Jesus! Have you ever gotten separated from your family somewhere? (*Invite the kids to share a story or two but try to keep it short!*) It's frantic for both of you! You probably weren't doing anything wrong to get separated from them, and they didn't leave you on purpose. You were focused on different things, and maybe it was busy. That's probably what happened in our story, too.

"When Mary and Joseph finally found Jesus, they discovered He was searching for something, too! What was it? (*wisdom*) Yes, that's right. Jesus was talking with the leaders and teachers. He was asking lots of questions. What do you think He might have asked? (*Invite answers.*)

"Even Jesus looked for wisdom. Jesus knew that **wisdom is worth searching for**. Since even Jesus searched for wisdom, I know that I need it, too! How about you? Do you think you need wisdom? Why?" (*Invite answers*)



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**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES**

MADE TO MOVE

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



MEMORY VERSE HUNT

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Hunt" Activity Page, plastic Easter eggs, Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place one word or phrase from the "Memory Verse Hunt" Activity Page in each egg.
- Hide the eggs around the room. (You can do this before the kids arrive or have them all close their eyes while you hide them.)
- Help kids look up the Bible verse using the Bible navigation tips below and read the verse out loud.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Grow as We Go

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Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find James in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find James, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find James. Help the kids find the page. When they find James, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 1. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 5 in chapter 1.

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- Reread the memory verse out loud together.
- Tell kids that you hid 18 eggs with words from your memory verse all around the room.
 - Make sure each kid finds at least one egg.
 - If you have nine kids, instruct each kid to find two eggs.
 - If you have six kids, instruct each kid to find three eggs.
- Direct the kids to search the room for the eggs when you say, "Go."
- When all 18 eggs have been found, direct the kids to open their eggs and work together to put the words in the right order, referring to their Bibles if needed.

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Wisdom—Finding out what you should do and doing it

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Sometimes we find ourselves in a place where we don't know the right thing to do. Your friends are making decisions that you know are not what God wants you to do, so what do you do? You ask God for wisdom.

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

"Our memory verse this month tells us that whoever needs wisdom just needs to ask for it and God will give it to them. When are some times you needed or might need to ask God for wisdom? (Pause for responses and be ready to help with answers like a friend asks you to break a rule or you're not getting along with a sibling and you don't understand why.) Remember, **wisdom is worth searching for.** God is always willing and ready to give you wisdom. You just have to ask and look."



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared W-I-S-D-O-M cards

WHAT YOU DO:

- Hold up the prepared cards containing each letter of WISDOM.
- Let kids identify each letter and its sound.
- Teach kids how to spell WISDOM by mixing up the cards then putting them back in order.
- Use the letter cards as you lead kids in an echo prayer—they repeat or echo your prayer words after you.
- Ask one of the kids to hold up the card with the W, then lead them in prayer as you emphasize that letter.
 - "Dear God, help us be (W) **WISE**." (Pause as kids repeat.)
- Continue with each of the remaining letters as kids take turns holding up the corresponding card.
- (I) "I need Your help to be wise." (Pause as kids repeat.)
- (S) "Remind us to **SAY** we need help when we don't know the wise thing to do." (Pause as kids repeat.)
- (D) "We need Your help to **DO** the good and wise things You want us to DO." (Pause as kids repeat.)
- (O) "Help us **OBEY** You because we love You." (Pause as kids repeat.)
- (M) "Help us **MAKE** wise choices this week." (Pause as kids repeat.)

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"You learned how to spell WISDOM! That's something you couldn't do when you were younger. As you grow, you'll learn more about what it means to be wise, too. In fact, all this month we'll learn about wisdom as we have fun together. So, listen well and ask questions the way Jesus did when He was young. **Wisdom is worth searching for**, so let's search for it together. See you next week."

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to spell WISDOM for them.

