



WEEK
THREE
AUGUST 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray especially for your "daredevils" and risk takers. Ask God to give them the wisdom to see danger when they're headed toward it, and the wisdom and self-control to stop and think before they act. Pray also for your "overthinkers" to have the wisdom to discern what's truly dangerous versus what they might be overthinking. Ask God to give them the wisdom to stop and think before they act and to know when danger isn't actually present.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Think

Wise People See Danger
Proverbs 22:3

EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, hand sanitizer, numbered beach ball

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite any kid who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Direct the kids to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Toss the beach ball around, bringing new kids into the circle as they arrive.
- Whenever you choose, call "Hold up!" and instruct whoever holds the ball at the time to pause.
- Ask the kid holding the ball to look at their right thumb and tell you the number that's closest to that thumb.
- Ask them the question that corresponds to the number.
- After they answer, continue tossing the ball. Call "Hold up!" for another kid to answer a question.
 1. If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?
 2. If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?
 3. If you could be any animal, what would it be and why?
 4. If you could choose one thing to take with you to a deserted island, what would it be and why?
 5. What are you thankful for today and why?
 6. What is your favorite thing about church and why?
 7. What is something that makes you feel safe?
 8. What is something that makes you really happy? Why does it make you happy?
- Continue as long as time and interest allow.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Think before you act.

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 need to make the wise choice.





WEEK
THREE
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SMALL GROUP
K-5
STARTER

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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



WATCH OUT!

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, blindfolds, masking tape, "Dangers" items, (optional) chalk (if outside)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Pair the kids up, keeping similar ages together.
- Gather everyone on one side of the small group area.
- Lay down a line of masking tape (or draw a line in chalk if outside) across the small group area.
- Tell the kids that this is the path they must walk along during the game.
- Choose one pair of kids to start.
- Put a blindfold on one of the kids.
- Once the first kid is blindfolded, put three "dangers" randomly along the path.
- Instruct the blindfolded kid to walk along the path, listening and following the directions from their partner who is not blindfolded.
- Direct the partner to steer the blindfolded kid around the "dangers" by giving directions off the path then back on it. (For example: take one step to your right, two steps forward, then one step left.)
 - For younger kids, the kid without the blindfold can walk behind the partner and tap the shoulder for their partner to change directions, in case they don't know left and right.
- Explain that the blindfolded kid wins one point for every danger they avoid.
- After the blindfolded kid reaches the end of the path, have the other kid put on the blindfold.
- If you have the opportunity to move the "dangers" so the second blindfolded kid doesn't know where they are, do so.
- Play until all kids have completed the task.
- If any of the partner pairs have a perfect score of six points, hold some tournament-style rounds and let kids play until there is a winner.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"It seemed like you could walk this path without a problem. Before you put on the blindfold, it seemed easy and clear. Was it hard to trust that your partner was keeping you away from danger? (*Invite responses*). Yes, you saw a clear and easy path with no dangers ahead anywhere—why were they telling you to move around differently?"

(*Read Proverbs 8:1-8 out loud.*) "In these verses, wisdom is like a person who tells you about danger ahead. Wisdom helps you see clearly and **think before you act**. That's what makes wisdom such a treasure!"

"There are times when we don't see danger ahead of us, but there are people you can trust to help you keep an eye out! With their help, you can **think before you act**. It might seem like a great idea to put off your homework so



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(WATCH OUT!, CONTINUED)

you can play more levels on your game, but a grownup can probably help you see that that is a dangerous, bad habit. You might think that eating an entire package of cookies the first day you buy them is a brilliant way to enjoy a snack, but your babysitter can probably tell you that it's dangerous and unhealthy."

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- Thinking before you act is the hardest thing to learn! How have you been able to stop and think when faced with the temptation to do something dangerous and unwise?
- Who acts with wisdom in your life and is reliable to help you **think before you act**?





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MADE TO PLAY

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



ANGER AHEAD!

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Danger Ahead! Maps" Activity Pages, colored pencils or markers, Bibles, (optional) small tokens or coins

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a "Danger Ahead! Map."
- Call attention to the verse (James 1:5) written on the map.
- Read James 1:5 out loud together. Read from your Bible while the kids read from their maps.
- Set out the colored pencils or makers.
- Invite the kids to color their maps and add a few "dangers" to single squares.
 - Ideas of dangers: a sinking swamp, poison ivy infestation, packs of wild carnivorous chipmunks, forest of sticky sap trees, etc.
 - If time allows, pair kids up and let them try to get through each other's maps, Battleship® Style:
 - Instruct the kids to face each other with their own map in front of them.
 - Place a barrier of some kind between them so they can't see each other's maps. These barriers can be a game box, a stack of books, etc.
 - Give each kid three tokens or coins.
 - Explain that these tokens are used to mark their opponent's path through their own map.
 - Direct the first kid to say, "I move [number] spaces [forward/back/left/right]."
 - Instruct kids that they can move up to five spaces at a time—forward or back, left or right or any combination of the two.
 - Have their opponent use a token and move the spaces the other kid chooses.
 - If the kid lands in a "danger," that token is out of play and set aside. Pick up a new token and place it on a square directly next to the danger. Their opponent will now start from the new token.
 - Kids play that way, alternating turns, until someone makes it successfully through their opponent's map or everyone runs out of tokens.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"These maps have hidden dangers! I'm glad you can see the whole map and **think before you act**. There are a lot of times when a little information would help us make the wise choice.

"Have you ever been playing with a friend and they want to play a game or watch a show that you're not sure about? If you stop and **think before you act**, where can you go to find out more information to make a good choice? (Your



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(DANGER AHEAD!, CONTINUED)

parents, the other kids' parents, online reviews)

“What if you’re just not sure how to do the homework your teacher posted? You could rush ahead and do it your own way, which would be only sort of right, or you could **think before you act**. What would it look like for you to think before you act in that situation? *(email your teacher, ask a classmate, talk to your parents or an older sibling)*

“The best thing to do when you need to **think before you act** is pray and ask God for wisdom. Our verse reminds us that He will always give us what we need to make the wise choice. He can see the whole map, actually the whole world! And He can help us decide what decision to make when we do act.”





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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: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lead kids in the responsive prayer below by pausing and letting kids respond with, "God, help me be wise" after

each sentence.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, we want You to give us wisdom. *(Kids: God, help me be wise.)* Please help us STOP and THINK before we ACT. *(Kids: God, help me be wise.)* When we don't know what to do, give us someone to help us make a wise choice. *(Kids: God, help me be wise.)* Help us do the wise thing, even when others are not. *(Kids: God, help me be wise.)* Help us remember what we learned today: **Think before you act.** *(Kids: God, help me be wise.)* In Jesus' name, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show them their red flags and the motions for STOP, THINK, and ACT.

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