



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What does it mean to be wise?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Wisdom is worth searching for.

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.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- MONTHLY CHALLENGE - WISDOM
 - Shares stories each week with your groups that showed someone who was wise.
- L@K WEEK -- : 9; C'H9; C'<J AN='>F 9D' ; GDD=; LAGF -- EXTENDED ONE WEEK %% [gæ] [læ _ 'backpacks. Next Week we will celebrate how many we collected!'

WORSHIP:

- THE BEST IS YET TO COME
- GOOD GRACE'

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits

WORSHIP LEADER: "Wow, I've been waiting all week for this! It's time for us to lift our voices and worship our amazing God.

AUDIO: THE BEST IS YET TO COME

AUDIO: GOOD GRACE

Host enters . . .

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to Mission. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, holiday (National Ice Cream Sandwich Day, National Water Balloon Day, National Disc Golf Day), etc. 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: "Welcome, everybody! Whether you hiked, trekked, slogged, backpacked, or simply rode in the minivan with your parents to get here, we could not be more excited about the fact that you decided to join us today! My name is [Name of Host], and at Mission where every day is an adventure!"



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

“Speaking of adventure, would anybody like to dig for treasure? *(Pause for response.)* I need two small groups wanting to go head-to-head for the chance to win a cache of underwhelming riches. Any takers? *(Pause for response.)*”

Host selects two small groups and instructs each group to send three volunteers to the stage.

“Today, we will be playing a game we like to call LUMPY CHEESE.”

SLIDE: LUMPY CHEESE TITLE

“Inside this large box is a delectable vat of what I’m sure is one of your favorite after-school snacks—cottage cheese! *(Beat)* What? You don’t love those lumpy curds of cheesy goodness? Well, buried within these lumpy curds are several random objects. If you can be the first player to pull up the random object, your small group will get a point. One player from each team will go head-to-head each round. There will be a total of three rounds. The team with the most points will be the CHAMPION LUMPY CHEESE DIGGERS! Any questions? *(Pause for response.)* Great! Now, let’s get to digging!”

AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC

Box should have random, small objects inside the cottage cheese tub such as a toy car, paper clip, marble, small rock, pencil, etc. The players should not be able to see easily into the tub. To prevent this, cut holes large enough for their hands to fit inside.

Host brings the first two players to the box and tells them which object to find. Once the object has been found, Host makes a big to-do over the point and brings up the next two players. This continues for three rounds. If one team has two points going into the final round, Host should make the final object worth three points just to make it interesting. When the game ends, Host celebrates the winner and offers enticing prize if available.

“Wow! Those lumpy-cheese-digging skills far exceeded my expectations. Let’s give a rowdy round of applause for all of our players. *(Pause for response.)* But there can only be one small group who bears the title of CHAMPION LUMPY CHEESE DIGGERS! Clearly our champions are not afraid of what their hands will smell like in a matter of minutes! Major congrats to the winners.”

Host dismisses volunteers. Have handwipes and towels for volunteers to clean off their hands.

“Now it is time for me and these curds to get off this stage. While I exit, please give it up for everybody’s favorite Worship Leader, [Name of Worship Leader]! Let’s sing together and worship our amazing God!”



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, everybody. How in the world are ya? I’m curious. Have you ever thought about all there is to know in this world? That would be a ton of information, right? There is so much to learn, and so much we will never learn.”

“Many of you have been in school for five, six, or even seven years, and you’ve gained tons of know-how from school, friends, books, and maybe YouTube. As we get started, let’s put that knowledge to the test. I’ll ask a question. If you think you know the answer, raise your hand. I’ll call on some of you.”

“Here’s a geography question to start us off. About how many miles is Russia from the United States? *(Pause for response.)* Actually, a place in Alaska is only two or three miles from Russia! How cool is that?”

“Any budding astronomers out there? Here’s a question for you. If you traveled at the speed of light, how long would it take you to reach Pluto? *(Pause for response.)* It would only take four hours!”

“Here’s a question for the animal lovers—specifically for the crazy cat people. How many muscles does a cat have in each ear? *(Pause for response.)* A cat has 32 muscles in each ear! That’s 32 muscles working together to completely ignore you with!”

“Last question for the bug enthusiasts. Approximately how many ants live on this planet in any given moment? *(Pause for response.)* Scientists estimate 1 quadrillion or 1 million billion ants live on earth right now! That’s more than 1.4 million ants per human! That makes me squirm!”

“You all did a pretty good job. Even though you did not guess the correct answer every time, you were close. Now, what about some Bible facts? Maybe you come to church or talk about the Bible home and have moments where you can gain some knowledge about the Bible!”

NOTE: You will probably have kids in the audience who do not know the answers to these questions. There could be several reasons for this, so be sure your response is encouraging and moves kids towards wanting to know more about the wisdom found in the Bible.

“Like, does anybody know how many books are in the Bible? *(Pause for response.)* Correct! There are 66 books.”

“Or how about: what kind of tree Zacchaeus climbed? *(Pause for response.)* Yes! Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree.”

“Finally, what animal reached out and bit Paul when he was shipwrecked on the island of Malta? *(Pause for response.)* It was a snake!”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Impressive! For many of you, these questions didn’t faze you at all. It’s obvious many of you have gained incredible amounts of knowledge and tidbits in life. If you were to tell your friends all the information



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

you know about bugs, they might say, 'Stop flexing on me!' But others may say, 'Wow! You are wise!' But would that statement be accurate?"

"This month, we're looking at wisdom, which is finding out what you should do and doing it. Does knowing all there is to know about geology or cats make you wise? It makes you smart, sure! But does knowledge make you wise?"

"That's a good question for us to ask. When we have good questions, we should head to the Bible. You know why? Well, the Bible is FULL of wisdom! Check it out."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "As we've already pointed out, the Bible is lengthy! There are 66 books with more than 700,000 words on approximately 1,200 pages—you know, depending on the translation or how big the font is on a page. The Bible has two major sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The events of Jesus' life are concentrated within the first four books of the New Testament—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. But those authors only share a few stories of Jesus before He was an adult. We know about Jesus' birth with appearances from angels and shepherds. And the visit from the wise men a few years later. But after that, there's not a lot we know about Jesus' early years or how He grew up. However, we do know one very important story from when Jesus was about your age. Let's head there today. We find it Luke 2."

"Every year, God's law required every male to go to Jerusalem three times for different festivals. At this time, Jesus' entire family left Nazareth and headed to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. It was a celebration commemorating the time God delivered the Jews from slavery and escaped from Egypt!"

Communicator places "Nazareth" sign on the back wall of the stage and walks around stage illustrating the journey.

"This trip would have taken several days. Jesus' family would have traveled with lots of people. Traveling in large numbers protected you from robbers along the roads. During this time, women and children would have journeyed in the front of the caravan while the men brought up the rear. Even though Jesus wasn't an adult yet, He was close enough to travel comfortably in the front or back."

Communicator walks off stage and places "Jerusalem" sign on the right wall in the audience. Communicator continues to move around the "Jerusalem" side of the room.

"We do not know what Jesus thought or felt when He saw the city of Jerusalem perched on the rocky hillside. We can only imagine how exciting it must have been. Jerusalem would have been bustling with energy and people. Once inside, we do know His family joined the celebration all week. This would have included good food, great conversation, prayer, and praising God. However, all good parties must come to an end."

Communicator slowly returns back to the stage to imply the return to Nazareth.

"Mary and Joseph gathered up their belongings and joined their family and friends for the long journey back to Nazareth. After a day of travel, Joseph and Mary couldn't find Jesus anywhere. He wasn't with the cousins, aunts, uncles or friends! In a hurry, they returned to Jerusalem to locate Jesus."

Communicator returns to "Jerusalem" side of the room.



WEEK
ONE
AUGUST 2021

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

"I have no doubt in my mind Mary and Joseph would have crisscrossed the entire city hoping to find their Son."

Communicator points out random spots on the "Jerusalem" side of the room upon mentioning each of the following.

"Surely they would have looked at all the hang out spots. Maybe the entrance to the city, each of the springs, and the baker's house. They must have scanned the stables and markets. But they couldn't find Jesus anywhere."

Communicator moves to the left side of the room and places "Temple Courtyard" sign on the wall in the audience.

"Ultimately, Jesus' parents ended up at the temple courtyard. That's where they found Jesus. Check out what Luke records about this event:"

Open the Bible to Luke 2:46, (NirV) and read.

"After three days they found him in the temple courtyard. He was sitting with the teachers. He was listening to them and asking them questions."

Communicator takes a seat on the floor of the "Temple Courtyard" side of the room.

"Imagine the scene. After three days of searching, they found Him sitting down on the floor surrounded by rabbis and teachers. Jesus was listening to the teachers discuss and debate. However, He wasn't sitting idle. Rather, Jesus was asking probing questions and contributing to the conversation. Those surrounding Jesus were amazed at His understanding and answers to the questions being discussed."

"This was interrupted when Mary and Joseph reached their Boy. The parents, no doubt, would have embraced their Son and proceeded to question Jesus. But Jesus answered and told them the temple, God's house, was exactly where He needed to be. Listen to what Jesus said:"

Open Bible and read Luke 2:49 (NirV) and read.

"Why were you looking for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

Communicator returns to the stage.

"Afterwards, Jesus returned to Nazareth with His family obeying everything Mary and Joseph asked of Him. As He grew, the Bible says,"

Open Bible to Luke 2:52 (NirV) and read.

"Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people."



WEEK
ONE
AUGUST 2021

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "This is such an interesting story. It started out in a big party with friends and family! But then Mary and Joseph must have been frightened wondering about what happened to Jesus. Thankfully, Jesus was safe in the temple courtyard. The story ended with every parent's prayer for their children as Jesus was seeking out Godly wisdom. He was with the wisest people in His day."

"The picture I have of Jesus sitting with the teachers in Jerusalem mirrors what happens in [Name of Environment]. Each time we gather, you get to hang out with your Small Group. These groups are safe places for you to ask questions, join in the discussions, and seek out wisdom. Our Small Group Leaders bring fun and love and acceptance. Their age, life experiences, and pursuit of Jesus brings wisdom to the discussion. Yes, your leaders have lots of wisdom to share! It doesn't mean they have all the answers to every question, but it does mean they are here to help you understand wisdom from the Bible as they have learned about it through the years."

"Wisdom is a treasure worth seeking. Having wisdom isn't the same as being smart. Surrounding yourself with wise leaders is a great place to seek out wisdom. This could be parents, Small Group Leaders, coaches, grandparents, or teachers. God gives us wise leaders so we have a safe place to go and we can tell them how we're feeling or ask questions when we're not sure of something."

"The Bible is another source of God's wisdom. Maybe you have the app on your phone or you have a book like this (*referencing your Bible*). Wisdom gained from this book cannot be achieved by using it as a pillow and absorbing the information while you're sleeping. We need to spend time reading it or listening to it! After that, we should take time to think about it, pray to God about it, and ask God to help us understand and apply what we're reading."

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Gaining knowledge is good. It allows us to know facts and information and details about the world. But that's not wisdom. As you head to your Small Groups, think about this question:"

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"What does it mean to be wise?" If wisdom is not just knowledge, how can you make sure you're making the wise choice? Every single day we have an opportunity to make the wise choices and even the opportunity to make unwise choices. Seeking out wisdom from wise sources is key, which is why I'm so glad you all get to hang out more with your Small Group. Before you head out, let's pray and ask God to help us find wisdom and make the wise choice with our life. Let's pray."

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

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP