



WEEK  
**THREE**  
AUGUST 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO IMAGINE

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



*Before kids arrive, pray for your Small Group. Pray for each of them by name, asking God to help them understand their need to stop and think before they act so they can make the wise choice.*

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Think**

Wise People See Danger  
Proverbs 22:3

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

**What could keep you from being wise?**

### 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.**

### JUST FOR FUN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Invite kids to put their offering in the offering container as they arrive.
- Ask: "What would you do if . . ." and prompt kids to finish the sentence with a crazy or imaginary scenario.
- Challenge kids to give creative answers to the question.
- Below are potential "What if?" questions. *(Optional)* Allow kids to think of some "What if?" questions for the group.
  - What would you do if a lion started following you home from school? *(Potential choices could be: attempt to tame it as a pet, RUN, give it my lunch, etc.)*
  - What would you do if a spaceship landed in your backyard?
  - What would you do if your homework assignment was to swim with sharks? What about if it was to swim with dolphins?
  - What would you do if you were invisible for a day?





CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO CONNECT

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



### TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Sticky notes, markers or pencils, a trashcan lid or a lid to a plastic container

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give kids several sticky notes and a marker.
- As a group, brainstorm things that might get in the way of being wise. If necessary, prompt kids by asking:
  - You have a test tomorrow and the wise choice is to study. What could keep you from studying? (*it is boring, you want to have fun, random distractions, friends are outside, etc.*)
  - Your friends are saying unkind things about your teacher. Walking away or asking them to stop would be a wise choice. What would keep you from walking away? (*peer pressure, you don't know what to do, you don't want to draw that kind of attention to yourself, you're embarrassed to be the "good kid," etc.*)
  - Treating someone the way you would want to be treated would be the wise choice. What would keep you from being kind to someone? (*you are in a bad mood, you are in a hurry, they are annoying, you don't like them, etc.*)
- Tell kids to write their ideas on sticky notes; one idea per note.
- As you discuss the examples, stick the notes to a trashcan lid or to a lid to a plastic container; this will be the "Lid of Danger" used in the Bible Story Extension Activity.

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Ask:**

- What could keep you from being wise?
- Why is it important to STOP and THINK before you ACT? How can taking the time to STOP and THINK help you make a wise choice?
- Why is it hard to remember to STOP and THINK?
- What are some things we can THINK about to help us ACT wisely?

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### MADE TO PLAY

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



### VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, paper, pencils, erasers

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give kids a Bible.
- Ask: Does anyone have James 1:5 memorized?

Challenge kids to recite the verse before looking it up in the Bible.

- As a group, look up James 1:5.
- Give kids paper and a pencil. If the pencils don't have erasers, provide erasers for the group.
- Lead kids in a game similar to Red Light Green Light.
  - The goal is to be the first kid to write out James 1:5.
  - When you say, "STOP," kids must put down their pencils.
  - When you say, "THINK," kids must assume the THINKER pose by placing their chin on their fist as if they are deep in thought.
  - When you say, "ACT," kids start writing out the verse.
  - To motivate kids to respond quickly, when you say "STOP" or "THINK," the last kid to put their pencil down or assume the THINKER pose has to erase one word they have written.
  - *Note: Mix up the order you say STOP, THINK and ACT.*
- *Optional: Repeat the activity with today's Scripture, Proverbs 22:3.*
- Wrap up the activity by using the following to prompt discussion:
  - Sometimes we feel rushed to make a decision. Challenge kids to share examples of when they might feel this way.
  - What is something you can do if someone is rushing you to say or do something and you aren't sure it is a wise choice? *(Use this as an opportunity to provide kids with ways to STOP especially if they feel rushed. For example: It's a wise choice to say, "Let me think about that" and respond after you had time to THINK.)*

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### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



### MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Lid of Danger" from the Take a Snapshot Activity

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Set the "Lid of Danger" in the center of the circle.
- Explain that God gives us wisdom to recognize the situations and events that could keep us from being wise.
- Encourage kids to take turns selecting a danger from the "Lid of Danger" and praying for God's wisdom to recognize the specific danger they selected.
- Close in prayer.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"God, we want to be wise people! And wise people see danger! Open our eyes to recognize the things every day that can keep us from making a wise choice. Help us to know when we need to STOP and THINK about what Jesus would do before we ACT. We ask for Your wisdom, God! Amen!"

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