



WEEK
FIVE
AUGUST 2021

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

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

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



Before kids arrive, pray that you would have an amazing time together during Small Group. Pray that your kids would be excited by the idea of growing in wisdom throughout their lives. Ask God for the wisdom to know what to say when they ask questions today.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Brand New
Renew Your Mind
Romans 12:2

JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, (optional) mobile device

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to put their offering in the container as they arrive.
- Share some crazy facts with kids.
- Prepare three to five facts based on your group's interests or use the facts from the list below.
- Provide kids an opportunity to share fun facts they may know by asking the group: Did you know . . . ?
- "Did you know . . .
 - Snails can sleep for up to three years?
 - You don't smell when you are asleep?
 - Kangaroos don't hop backwards?
 - Hummingbirds can fly upside down?
 - It's impossible to lick your elbow?
 - You can't talk and inhale or exhale at the same time?
 - A tiger's skin is striped, just like its fur?
 - You produce enough saliva each year to fill two bathtubs?

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How are you wiser than you used to be?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Never stop growing in wisdom.

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 SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, "Flower" Activity Page, pencils, plates, water, scissors, (optional) mobile device

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give kids a Bible and look up Romans 12:2 and read the verse together.
- Give each kid a "Flower" Activity Page and instruct kids to cut out the flower.
- As they work, read Romans 12:1a.
 - Ask: What does it mean to not live the way the world lives? What does the world say is important?
- Ask kids to use a pencil and write the examples of what the world values on the petals. (It's important kids use a pencil and don't use markers or pens.)
- Tell kids to flip the flower over.
- Brainstorm what you can do when you realize you are focusing on the things of the world rather than making a wise choice to focus on what God says is important. To prompt kids, ask:
 - When my thoughts are focused on what the world says, I need to . . .
 - When my thoughts are focused on who the world says I am, I need to . . .
- Tell kids to write the ideas on the other side of the petals.
 - Potential ideas could include: memorize/read scripture, sing a song to worship, pray and ask a friend to pray for you, etc.
- Ask: When we don't focus on the world, what does Romans 12:2 say will be the result?
- Instruct kids to write their answer in the center of the flower.
- Demonstrate how to fold the petals to cover the answer written in the center of the flower.
- With the petals folded correctly, kids should be able to see their examples of what the world values.
- Give each kid a plate and pour about a tablespoon of water on it.
- Ask: What do you think will happen when you put your flower on your plate? (*the petals will open, the flower grows*)
- Instruct kids to put their flower on their plates and watch what happens.
- Wrap-up the activity by saying: Just like your flowers grew, when you focus on God and let Him change the way you think, you will grow in wisdom.
- Explain that when their flowers dry, they can repeat the activity at home to show their family.
- For a visual of this activity, go to: <https://bit.ly/2POrH2e>

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Pro-Tip: Be prepared to talk about the fact that not every thought that pops into our head is going to be happy and positive. We can't control the thoughts that may pop in our heads, but we can choose what we to focus on. Encourage kids that while we may not be able to "control" what pops into our head, we can ask God to help us focus on positive thoughts instead of dwelling on the



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(BIBLE STORY EXTENSION, CONTINUED)

negative ones. We can also ask for His help to focus on what He values instead of focusing on what the world says is important. **[Make it Personal]** (Share what you do when negative thoughts pop into your head or when you start to focus on the world's view instead of God's wisdom. Consider sharing an example of how you have become wiser.)





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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



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:
Ask:

- How did you grow in wisdom this past school year? For example, do you do what you're asked to do at home more often without complaining? Is there a subject at school that you struggle with but you put some extra time into it last year?
- What are some things you can do to grow in wisdom?
- How do you know if you are growing in wisdom?
- How does the world around us influence what we 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: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Remind kids: Jesus didn't live the way the world lived; He showed us a different way to live. Jesus taught us to obey God, to forgive, to love others—even to love our enemies. It is not easy to remember to think like Jesus, but what we can remember is the power of Jesus' name. Sometimes you don't have words to pray or your mind is so full of thoughts it is hard to determine what is wise.
- Teach kids a "Breath Prayer" to use for times when they are struggling to focus their thoughts on God's wisdom.
 - Gather kids sitting in a circle.
 - Tell them to close their eyes and inhale slowly.
 - Then exhale slowly.
 - Tell kids to take another breath but this time say silently in their head "Jesus" and when they exhale say silently, "Your way is wise."
 - Allow kids time to pray these words for several breaths.
- Close in prayer.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"God, You are generous! When we need Your wisdom, You give it to us. Your ways are wise! Help us continue to grow in Your wisdom. Help us to make wise choices, to know Your Word and to follow the ways Jesus taught us to live. God, we know we aren't perfect, and we will spend our lives growing in Your wisdom. We don't want to live as the world, but it is our desire to live in Your wisdom. In Jesus' name we pray! Amen!"

