



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

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

SUPPLIES LARGE GR

- Water Word Cards
- Water gun filled
- (optional) Tarp
- Four towels

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; K TO SCHOOL BASH
 - LAST WEEK -- everyone got boxes... but if you didn't we have some extras. Make sure you get those from your leader before you leave today!!
- YOU WILL ALL GET A BOX that has some COOL stuff, but also some things to start off your school year the best way possible!**

WORSHIP:

- THE BEST IS YET TO COME
- GRAVES INTO GARDENS

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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Wisdom—Finding out what you
should do and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hello, everyone! This is our chance to lift our voices and praise God together. Let's celebrate and crank the music as we sing and dance. Here we go!

AUDIO:

AUDIO:

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 [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game (2021 Men's Youth World Handball Championship), movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, holiday (World Honey Bee Day, National Tell a Joke Day, National I LOVE My Feet Day, National Fajita 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.



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THREE
AUGUST 2021

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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25 MINUTES

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OPENER

HOST: "Good day to you! And you! And you! Welcome to Mission, where every day is an adventure! My name is [Name of Host], and I have a question. Does anybody in this room have a thirst for danger? I hope so, because we're about to introduce a new game we like to call WATER WORDS! I need four volunteers. Anyone takers?"

SLIDE: WATER WORDS TITLE

Host selects two Small Group Leaders. Host directs both Small Group Leaders to select one kid from their small group to join them on stage.

"To play WATER WORDS, we will show our Small Group Leaders a card with two words on it. The top word is the winning word, and the bottom word is the WATER WORD. Our small group leaders must get their partner to say the winning word and not say the WATER WORD. For example, a card might say Walrus and Elephant. Walrus is the winning word and elephant is the WATER WORD. Small Group Leaders are allowed to say two-word prompts to help their teammate guess the winning word. (*i.e., large mammal*). If the teammate guesses the WATER WORD, they will get blasted with water! If a teammate guesses the wrong word but not the WATER WORD, then the other team will be given a chance to guess. Teams rotate until someone guesses either the winning word or the water word. If a winning word is said, the other team gets blasted with water. Don't worry—we have towels. The first team to get sprayed three times loses! Make sense? (*Pause for response.*) Great! Let's play!"

AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC

Host allows teams to play. To spray the kids, Host should use a water gun. If water is not a possibility, consider using silly string or a cream pie.

"Man! That was fantastic! Great job to all our volunteers. Let's use our words to congratulate both teams on a job well done! But let's get especially loud for our WATER WORD CHAMPIONS! (*Pause for response.*)



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, everybody. You know, I once heard someone say, 'The adventure starts when everything goes wrong.' Now, whether you agree with that statement or not, let's pretend everything has gone wrong with a classic game of WOULD YOU RATHER. To play, I'll describe a scenario. You must determine what you'd rather deal with during the dilemma. To indicate your decision, point to the left side of the room for one choice or point to the right side of the room for the other choice. Make sense? *(Pause for response.)*"

"While paddling down a river, your boat springs a catastrophic leak, causing you to jump out of the boat into the water. So would you rather wrestle a crocodile *(pointing left)* or tango with an angry hippopotamus *(pointing right)*?"

Communicator allows response and finds out from a couple of kids why they made their decision.

"Interesting answers! I would take my chances with a croc any day over a hippo! Next, your SUV breaks down in the middle of the jungle. You need to move quickly. Would you rather ride on the back of an Ostrich *(pointing right)* or be carried by a massive gorilla *(pointing left)*?"

Communicator allows response and finds out from a couple of kids why they made their decision.

"I don't think I can trust the back of an ostrich. Finally, you are being chased by a pack of angry lemurs! To get away, would you rather jump into a river infested with hungry piranhas *(pointing right)* or swing across the river using the tail of an unsuspecting python *(pointing left)*?"

Communicator allows response and finds out from a couple of kids why they made their decision.

"I would go swimming with the piranhas instead of messing with a snake. Snakes are not my friends!"

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "Thanks for playing the game. There wasn't a right or wrong answer to any of the scenarios, and I really enjoyed hearing why you made your decisions. For some, you selected the option that sounded the most fun. For others, you selected the option that was less risky. Regardless, everyone in this room gave the scenarios a little thought before reacting."

"Now, think about your life. Think about the situations and conflicts you face throughout your week. Your sister screams at you for changing the channel. Your bicycle is missing from your front porch. Someone accidentally steps on your new shoes. When moments like that happen, how much effort do you put into thinking about how to respond?"

"If I can be honest with you for a minute, I've never had to face off against a pack of angry lemurs. However, I have argued with my brother many times. And you know what? So many times in my life, I have not given any thought whatsoever to my reaction toward my brother. I never considered the consequences of my actions or how my actions might make the situation worse! I'm pretty confident I'm not the only one who has had this problem."



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“Every day we react to situations without thinking, and most of the time, the consequences aren’t too great. So how do we change? How do we make sure we take time to stop and think about how our responses may or may not be wise choices?”

“That’s a great question. And like we’ve been saying all month, if we want to know how to make the wise choice, we need to gain some wisdom. One of the best places to find wisdom is the Bible. Let’s head there now and discover something about God that can help us.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Last week we talked about the wisest man who ever lived, a king named Solomon. Solomon’s wisdom—along with the wisdom from a few other people—was written down in the book of Proverbs. I’m really excited you came today because we are going to look at something written in an ancient proverb of Solomon’s that will help us when faced with tough situations.”

“Imagine being a young king with the opportunity for the God of the universe to give you whatever you wanted. What would you ask for? When this happened to King Solomon, he asked for wisdom. God was impressed and gave Solomon a whole lot of it. Much of the wisdom God gave Solomon was written down in the book of Proverbs. Following the advice in the book of Proverbs can help us live wiser and better lives—since that wasn’t just God’s heart for Solomon, it’s God’s heart for us, too.”

For today, let’s check out some of that wise advice God gave Solomon. Proverbs 22:3 says,”

Open the Bible to Proverbs 22:3 (NirV) and read.

“*Wise people see danger and go to a safe place. But childish people keep going and suffer for it.*”

“For many of us, this will be pretty easy to understand. When faced with danger, protect yourself by finding shelter. When we think of danger, it’s important to broaden the definition beyond the most extreme situations like a tornado coming to your town or a fire in your home. Dangerous situations could also include lying to avoid getting in trouble or talking negatively about your friends to others. All situations in life have an element of risk when not treated with wisdom.”

“First, let’s suppose a friend of yours named Jake finds the answer key to a really important science test. It has the answers to the entire thing—multiple choice, true or false, and the dreaded short-answer. Your friend has always been quick to include you in the happenings. This situation is no different. Jake seeks you out to give you the answers and help you score well on the test, too. It’s a tempting proposition. Science has never been your strongest subject, and a good test score would definitely boost your overall grade.”

“Now, you could let your brain think of all the praise you would receive from your classmates, teachers, and even the principal for the perfect score you’d receive on your difficult science test. Or you could dream of all the riches you’d receive when your parents bump up your allowance for such an incredible science score. But obviously, cheating is not the wisest choice.”

“At this point you might be asking, well then what IS the wise choice? Well, I’m glad you asked. Using this scenario, let’s check out three easy steps we can take to avoid the danger.”



“First of all, STOP.”

SLIDE: STOP

“It’s important to take time in your day to STOP! When you stop, it keeps you from jumping straight into a bad decision. Although acing the test would have you dreaming about receiving your college acceptance letter to the top university you’ve dreamed of attending since birth, you would want to STOP because STOP gives you a chance to process the right choice.”

“Next up, THINK.”

SLIDE: THINK

“Thinking gives you a moment to consider the consequences of a poor decision. This could give you the clarity to avoid whipping out your phone as quickly as you can to snap a photo of each of the test pages. Thinking would give you better judgement than sharing the entire test to all of your classmates via text or pulling out your phone in the middle of the test to copy down the answers. Not thinking does not always lead to the wisest choice. THINK would allow you to ask yourself, ‘If I cheat on my science test, what’s going to happen? If I take pictures of the answer key and share it with everyone, is this what Jesus would do? If I take out my phone during the test to copy answers, is this godly wisdom?’”

“THINK leads to the third step to avoid the danger—ACT.”

SLIDE: ACT

“Once you’ve STOPPED and taken time to THINK it through, then it’s time to make your move. It’s time to go to your safe place.”

“Back to our scenario. When offered the opportunity to cheat on a science test, the safe place is to decline looking at the answer key. The safe place is finding extra opportunities to study for the science test before you walk into science class. Maybe your safe place is encouraging Jake not to cheat and asking him to turn in the answer sheet to the teacher.”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “From the very beginning, God designed people with the ability to think and act according to His wisdom.”

SLIDE: STOP THINK ACT

“With God’s help we can STOP, THINK, and ACT on the wise choice. The safe place is not always the easiest option, but following God will lead to the wisest option. At times, this will be easy. At other times, it might be very difficult. Regardless, God is always with you. Through all situations, God is there to help us make the wise choice.”

“Don’t forget what we read in Proverbs 22:3!”



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Open the Bible to Proverbs 22:3 (NirV) and read.

“Wise people see danger and go to a safe place. But childish people keep going and suffer for it.”

“Danger takes all shapes and sizes. God gives us the ability to recognize it. To do this, we must not plow through the situation without thought. We must STOP and THINK! If you need help thinking, find someone who is wise to help. Then we must act and move to our safe place.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Wisdom is only effective when it is put into action. As we move into Small Group, we would love for you to think about your life, your situations, your influences, your danger. Then answer this question:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

“What could keep you from being wise?” Remember, it’s important to STOP and THINK before we ACT to help us live our lives with God’s wisdom, but some things might get in the way. Take some time to think about those things. As a Small Group, you’ll work on a game plan to help you move past those things and make the wise choice. Let’s pray and ask God to help us discover His wisdom and how to make the wise choice. 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