



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Foolish Heart

Rehoboam Listens to Fools
2 Chronicles 10
(supporting: Proverbs 13:20)

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Who is the wisest person you know?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Hang out with wise people.

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

LARGE GROUP SUPPLIES

- Four pool noodles
- Three pairs of safety goggles
- (Optional) Duct tape

STORY SUPPLIES

- Dry erase marker
- Two dry erase boards
- Two dry erase board stands

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.

WORSHIP:

- THERE'S NOTHING THAT OUR GOD CAN'T DO
- I 3K? 3=7D'

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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MONTHLY LIFE APP

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: "I love it when we can come together and sing to Jesus. It's so good to worship Him with all of you! He is our best Friend forever.

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 Little League World Series), movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, holiday (National Potato Day, National Chocolate Pecan Pie Day, National Waffle 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: "What's up, everyone? I couldn't be more pumped about your decision to join us today in Mission! My name is [Name of Host] and whether this is your first time or you're a regular here, we think you're in for a great time."



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

"Let's have a show of hands. How many of you love a good adventure? (Pause for response.) Awesome! Adventures come in all shapes and sizes. One could be found rafting down a raging river or simply buying eggs at the grocery store! You never know what might happen when you're out and about. Think back on all of your adventures. Have you ever needed to joust a much more experienced swordsman? (Pause for response.) Such a shame. I was expecting more hands to go up. Regardless, would anybody like to test their skills against an expert sword slinger in a game we like to call NOODLE JOUST?" (Pause for response.)

SLIDE: NOODLE JOUST TITLE

"Before you volunteer and overcommit, you need to know you'll be going against an expert swashbuckler. This person forges carbon steel blades during their lunch break. Pesky flies are eliminated with darts. This blade expert cuts the grass using a machete! If that isn't enough, this sword master peels apples using an axe. Give a rowdy welcome to the stage a truly expert sword fighter, [Name of unsuspecting Small Group Leader]!"

Host brings up Small Group Leader and supplies them with safety goggles and a pool noodle. Consider giving the Small Group Leader two pool noodles.

"Anybody want to test their skill against this truly accomplished fighter? (Pause for response.)"

Host brings up two kid volunteers from the unsuspecting Small Group Leaders group and supplies them with safety goggles and a pool noodle.

"In our game, NOODLE JOUST, our two kid volunteers will team up to compete against our gifted buccaneer at the same time! To score a point, your noodle must touch your opponent's body anywhere other than their head. The first team, the amateurs or the ace ruffian, to score three points is the UNDISPUTED, UNDEFEATED NOODLE JOUST CHAMP! Any questions? (Pause for response.) Excellent! Then let the jousting begin!"

AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC

Host gets the jousters in position and starts the game. The two kids will play together on the same team. If their team cumulatively gets three points, they win. After each point, stop the fight to tally the point and restart the joust. This should be a fun, lighthearted moment for a Small Group Leader to connect with a couple of their students.

"WOW! WOW! WOW! This was a duel for the ages! It's safe to say none of us have ever seen this kind of swordsmanship displayed on this stage today! Great job to all three of our volunteers! However, we can't all be the UNDISPUTED, UNDEFEATED NOODLE JOUST CHAMP! Let's give our winner(s) a huge applause for this major accomplishment as they head back to their seats. (Pause for response.)"



COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit. Wheel out a dry erase boards if not out on stage yet.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "What's up, everybody? Welcome! Thanks for showing up today! Throughout the week, you have all sorts of voices or influencers speaking to you from all different directions. Take a moment and brainstorm some of those influences. I'd like to capture some of them on this on dry erase board. Everybody think of one place or person who influences your life. If you can think of someone specific or even more of a general category, raise your hand and I'll call on you to share. Make sense? Let's get to it."

Communicator calls on students to share voices in their lives. The list could include their mom, dad, Small Group Leader, pastor, teacher, coach, YouTuber, Twitch Streamers, musicians, actors, athletes, politicians, cartoon characters, friends, family, etc. Communicator writes down the broad category instead of the specific names mentioned. For example, don't write "Mrs. Johnson." Instead write "teacher." Spend a couple minutes filling up the dry erase board.

"What a list! Now let's think of something a bit more challenging. Think about the sort of things these different voices say. In other words, what's the message they share with you or their audience? For example, a coach may say 'Perfect practice makes perfect.' Or a YouTuber might say, what? Yep, 'Subscribe Now!' (Optional: write those on the board.) If you can think of a common phrase, raise your hand and again, I'll call on you to share. I'll try to capture some of them on the blank dry erase board."

Communicator calls on students to share common phrases or messages these influencers say. Communicator writes down paraphrases on the extra dry erase board. Upon completion, Communicator steps back to look at both lists in its entirety.

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "Look at both of these boards. This list and the messages you hear every day far exceeds my expectations. Does this list surprise anybody else? (Pause for response.) There are so many people in this world who we listen to! People from school, from our neighborhood, from our family, celebrities, Small Group Leaders, athletes, and more all speak into our lives!"

"But let me ask you this: with so many voices coming at you, how do you know who to listen to? I mean, what happens when those voices disagree with each other or you? What then?"

"With so many opinions and beliefs, how do we know the correct voice? Who will point us in the correct direction? These are great questions to think about, especially at your age as the voices will only grow louder and louder. But where do we go find the answers?"

"Well, the first place we should look is the Bible. The Bible was written by people who experienced God first hand. God inspired them to write their stories and ideas to help people just like us follow God, too. They are definitely voices we should pay attention to."



WEEK
FOUR
AUGUST 2021

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "For the past two weeks, we've talked a bit about Solomon. As king of Israel, Solomon reigned for 40 years. During that time, he accomplished some amazing things, like building the temple for the Lord. Remember, God also gave Solomon wisdom, which Solomon shared with others. Much of this wisdom was penned in the book of Proverbs, including this one verse that actually talks about this idea of listening to the right voices. Check it out:"

Open the Bible to Proverbs 13:20 (NirV) and read.

"Walk with wise people and become wise. A companion of foolish people suffers harm."

"Unfortunately, this is a bit of wisdom that went right over the head of the next king, Solomon's son, Rehoboam. But I'm getting ahead of myself."

"Although Solomon was often wise and built a strong nation while sitting on the throne, he didn't always make the wise choice. Actually, toward the end of his reign, he made some really unwise choices. And he was also known for working his people extremely hard. By the time Solomon passed away, some of God's people felt extremely overworked and hoped the new king would lighten their load. Not long into his reign as king, the people, led by a man named Jeroboam, came to Rehoboam and asked the new king how he was going to run the nation."

Communicator erases both dry erase boards. On the first dry erase board, communicator writes the name "Jeroboam."

"Jeroboam and the people asked,"

Open the Bible to 2 Chronicles 10:4 (NirV) and read.

"Your father put a heavy load on our shoulders. But now make our work easier. Make the heavy load on us lighter. Then we'll serve you."

Communicator moves to the second board and writes "make our hard work easier."

"King Solomon was an ambitious builder with big plans. Without hard work from the Israelites, his big plans would go nowhere. The Israelites wanted a king who would allow them to take it a little easier than they had with Solomon. Jeroboam and the people were asking the new king (*referencing dry erase board*). Please make our hard work easier! Rehoboam took their request into consideration. The new king gathered the wise elders who served under his father."

Communicator writes "Elders" on the first dry erase board.

"Rehoboam wanted to know their opinion. The elders advised,"

Open the Bible to 2 Chronicles 10:7 (NirV) and read.

"Be kind to them. Please them. Give them what they are asking for. Then they'll always serve you."



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Communicator writes on the second board "Be kind to them."

"Yet again, another voice encouraged the king to lessen the work of God's people. Although the advice sounded solid, Rehoboam moved to another source for input. His friends."

Communicator writes "Friends" on the first dry erase board.

"When speaking to the peers he grew up with, the new king wanted to know if the words from the elders about the people's request was good. The young men certainly did not hold back. They responded,"

Open the Bible to 2 Chronicles 10:10b-11 (NirV) and read.

"The people have said to you, "Your father put a heavy load on our shoulders. Make it lighter." Now tell them, "My little finger is stronger than my father's legs. My father put a heavy load on your shoulders. But I'll make it even heavier. My father beat you with whips. But I'll beat you with bigger whips.""

Communicator writes "make the people work harder" on the second dry erase board.

"The king considered his options and weighed the input from others. After three days, Jeroboam and other Israelites gathered before King Rehoboam to hear his decision. Before the crowd, the new king rolled out his plan to make the Israelites work harder than ever before! Instead of taking the advice of the wise men, Rehoboam opted to listen to his buddies."

"Disappointed, Jeroboam and the people with him marched out and returned to their own homes. From that day, the nation was split into two kingdoms. Rehoboam still ruled Judah, but Jeroboam was made king of Israel."

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "This story is completely unexpected. King Rehoboam was the son of King Solomon, one of the wisest men to walk this world. Rehoboam received advice from multiple voices (*referencing dry erase board #1*) with differing opinions (*referencing dry erase board #2*). Some guidance was wise and some wasn't. One would think the son of one of the wisest men would listen to and follow good advice. But when he took the advice of his friends, Israel split into two nations!"

"One of the proverbs God gave Solomon said,"

Open the Bible to Proverbs 13:20 (NirV) and read.

"Walk with wise people and become wise. A companion of foolish people suffers harm."

"Rehoboam's story reminds us that there's a cost for listening to foolish people! To become wise, we must spend time with others who are wiser than us!"

"When you look at the voices of influence speaking into Rehoboam's life, there is a glaring omission. Does anybody see who's missing? (*Pause for response.*)"



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Communicator moves to dry erase board and writes "God."

"Not one time did the new king seek advice from God. The best starting point for any big decision you're trying to make is asking God for help. You can even ask God to help you find wise people in your life. God wants you to have wisdom, and God often uses other people to help show you the way."

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Think back to how we started our conversation. We asked everybody to think of one place or person who influences your life. Like Rehoboam, I have to imagine some are wise and some are not wise. As you head to your small groups, we want you to consider this one question."

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"Who is the wisest person you know?" Maybe it's a family member, a teacher, or coach. Think through the people you know who are always giving you the best advice. In Small Group, you'll talk more about how you can make sure you're listening to what they have to say. Before you head to groups, let's take a moment and thank God for putting wise people in our life and ask God to help us find people who will help us grow in our relationship with Him. 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