



**ELEMENTARY**

AUGUST 2024

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**FOR LEADERS ONLY**

**GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN WISDOM AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY**

Sometimes it's easy to know what the wise choice would be. Let's say you're choosing between having expired milk with your cereal or eating some fruit and a sandwich. You probably aren't reaching for the milk! What about choosing to stay up all night when you have a road trip the next day, or getting some sleep because you're driving first? Every decision you make starts out with a choice. As we "dive deep" into the Bible this month, we'll discover that God is always there to help us make wise choices. God has given us people who can help us make those wise choices too.

**CORE INSIGHT: The theological foundation for WISDOM**

**Truth** according to God's Message

What Jesus said and did impacts how I should respond to God's Word in my everyday life.

When Jesus was a boy, He grew in wisdom. God wants us to discover wisdom too. When we make the wise choice, we reflect the character of Jesus to people around us.

**WISDOM is about finding out what you should do and doing it.**

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WEEK  
**ONE**

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus Grows in Wisdom  
Luke 2:41-52

**BOTTOM LINE**

Wisdom is worth searching for.

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WEEK  
**ONE**  
AUGUST 2024

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### WEEK 1

We start the month in **Luke 2:41-52**. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus had just traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast and were headed home. Except . . . Jesus was no longer with them. Instead, He was at the temple, listening and asking questions. Jesus knew how important it was to gain wisdom. When we ask God for wisdom, we will find it too.

Bottom Line: **Wisdom is worth searching for.** Think back to when you were a kid, playing pretend as you went off in search of hidden treasures. Remember the joy and excitement you got as you dug deeper and deeper into the clues—and maybe even the earth? Searching for wisdom, in a way, is like finding that hidden treasure. When we find God's wisdom, its riches are infinitely more valuable.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Growin' Up**  
Jesus Grows in Wisdom  
Luke 2:41-52

### 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 VIRTUE

Wisdom—Finding out what you  
should do and doing it

### BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

### Host

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Tarp
- Floor tape
- Large inflatable or plastic pool, filled with water
- Small plastic sea creatures—at least one per kid, plus plenty of extras (like these: <https://bit.ly/3Q80mEx>)
- Small aquarium scoop nets—one per Small Group (like these: <https://bit.ly/3W5qhAx>)

### 2. WORSHIP

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Worship Leader(s)

### 3. BIBLE STORY

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Backpack with the following props inside:
  - Matzah bread
  - Large "1" and "2" birthday candles (not lit)
  - Speech bubble sign with a question mark
  - Running shoes

#### LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Theme Slide
- Virtue Slide
- Memory Verse Slide



WEEK  
**ONE**  
AUGUST 2024

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

PRELUDE SOCIAL **STORY** WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Growin' Up**  
Jesus Grows in Wisdom  
Luke 2:41-52

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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### 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.**  
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### MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Wisdom—Finding out what you should do and doing it**

### BASIC TRUTH

**I can trust God no matter what.**

## 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 KIDS ENTER.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

Host enters.

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME INTRO**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

### OPENER

**HOST:** "Hi, everybody! I'm so glad you're here with us today at [name of your environment]. This month we get to 'Dive Deep' and find out how we can grow in wisdom like Jesus did.

"We've got lots of fun planned, starting with this really cool game!

*Walk over to the inflatable pool filled with water*

"In this pool, we have lots of little sea creatures like this.

*Hold up one of the plastic sea creatures, then toss it back into the pool with the others.*

"In this game, your small group is your team. When I say 'go,' the first person in line for your team will head over to the pool. But they can't just walk. They have to swim—like this. *(Do a silly swimming motion.)* Remember? We're diving deep!

"When your teammate gets to the pool, they'll reach into the water with a scoop to pull up a sea creature. *(Demonstrate.)* If they pick up more than one creature with their scoop, they can keep one and toss the others back.

"Once that person has a creature, they'll carry it back to their teammates. Then the next person on their team gets a turn, and so on. We'll keep playing until the music stops.

"Okay, go ahead and line up with your small group behind this line. *(Reference the tape line.)* Are you ready to scoop some sea creatures? Then the first person in line can go . . . starting now!

**AUDIO: FUN MUSIC**



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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

*Comment on the action as the kids play the game. Play long enough so every kid has had at least one turn to go up and get a sea creature.*

"Wow—you all did an amazing job picking up those cute little creatures. Let me see you hold them up. (Pause for response.) I love it!"

*You can either collect the sea creatures to use for next week's game . . . or let the kids keep them!*

"Now let's all jump up on our feet and get ready to sing, dance, and worship God together."



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

## WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Hello, friends! I love that we get to worship God together. One thing I know is true: I want to follow God with everything I've got. Let me hear you say, 'I will follow, follow, follow.' (Get a response. Repeat as needed.) All right—now let's sing it!

**AUDIO:** "FOLLOW YOU" / TRACK 5 FROM CAN'T STOP WON'T STOP

**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** "FOLLOW YOU" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"That's so good! We can choose to follow God every day. Before we continue in worship, let's watch this.

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE):** LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL

"We have a new song to sing today. It's called 'Further Faster.' This song helps us remember that true wisdom comes from God. As we read in Proverbs 2:6: *'The LORD gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth.'* (NIRV) With God's help, we can grow in wisdom so that we can be ready to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice**. Let's learn this new song together. Sing along as you catch on."

**AUDIO:** "FURTHER FASTER" / TRACK 6 FROM THIS LITTLE LIGHT

**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** "FURTHER FASTER" LIVE LYRICS VIDEO, OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE)



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25 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** "Hi, friends! Our story today is from the book of Luke, in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) This book was written by a man named Luke who wanted to share the amazing things Jesus did and said.

(*Flip to the beginning of the Bible.*) "If we look all the way back to the very beginning of the Bible, we see how God made the world and everything in it—including people. But people turned away from God and tried to do things their own way. Still, God had a good plan to bring people back into relationship.

"When the time was right, God sent Jesus to be our Rescuer.

(*Hold up the backpack.*) "I've got some props here to help us see what happened in this story. When I raise my hand (*raise your hand*), raise YOUR hand if you want to stand up and hold up a prop. Then you'll stay standing until I tell you to sit back down. Sound good?"

### PASSOVER JOURNEY

**STORYTELLER:** "Jesus grew up in an everyday family in a small, everyday town. His family had traditions to do special things each year to celebrate holidays, just like your family probably does. Every year, Jesus and His family would travel to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.

*Start to walk through the audience. Raise your hand to cue the kids to raise their hands. Choose a kid to stand up. Open the backpack and pull out the matzah bread. Hand the matzah bread to the kid and have them hold it up.*

"The Passover was a very special holiday for God's people. It was a time for them to remember and celebrate how God rescued the Israelites from being enslaved in Egypt, long, long, before. The Passover meal included different types of food that would remind the people of what God had done—things like herbs and flat bread like this. (*Reference the matzah bread.*)

*Start to walk through the audience. Raise your hand to cue the kids to raise their hands. Choose a kid (in a different part of the room) to stand up. Open the backpack and pull out the "1" and "2" birthday candles. Hand the candles to the kid and have them hold them up.*

"When Jesus was 12 years old, He and His family traveled to Jerusalem like they did every year. They probably spent the week with family and friends, and they likely shared a special Passover meal together. (*Reference the matzah bread again.*)

### ROAD TRIP HOME

**STORYTELLER:** "At the end of the week, Jesus' family started the long trip home.

*Start to walk through the audience.*



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PRELUDE

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HOME

25 MINUTES

“But after the first day of travel, Jesus was nowhere to be found!

*Raise your hand to cue the kids to raise their hands. Choose a kid to stand up. Open the backpack and pull out the question mark speech bubble sign. Hand the sign to the kid and have her hold it up.*

“Jesus’ parents, Mary and Joseph, had probably assumed Jesus was with His cousins or friends—somewhere in the group of travelers. As you might imagine, they were very worried! They raced the whole way back to Jerusalem.

*Raise your hand to cue the kids to raise their hands. Choose a kid (in a different part of the room) to stand up. Open the backpack and pull out the running shoes. Hand the shoes to the kid and have him hold them up.*

### WE FOUND HIM!

**STORYTELLER:** “After three days, Mary and Joseph found Jesus! Can you guess where He was? *(Pause for response.)* He was in the temple courtyard. He was sitting with the teachers, listening to them and asking questions.

*Walk back to the kid who’s holding the question mark speech bubble sign.*

“Everyone who heard Jesus was amazed at how much He understood!

“Listen to what Mary said to Jesus when they finally found Him. She said:

*Open the Bible to Luke 2:48-49 (NirV) and read.*

*“Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been worried about you. We have been looking for you everywhere.”*

*“Why were you looking for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” (NirV)*

“Mary and Joseph didn’t really understand what Jesus meant when He said this. But they were just so happy to have found Jesus after losing Him for so long!

“Thank you to everyone who helped me with the props for the story. You can give me your props and then sit down.

*Collect the props in the backpack. Have the kids sit down.*

### WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** “After all of this happened, Jesus returned home to Nazareth with His parents. We can read here in the book of Luke about how Jesus grew up:

*Open the 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. (NirV)*

“Here—do these hand motions with me.



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25 MINUTES

*Jesus became wiser . . .*

*Read again from Luke 2:52. With your other hand, point to your head.*

*. . . and stronger.*

*Flex your arm.*

*He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people. (NIRV)*

*Give a thumbs-up.*

"One more time!

*Jesus became wiser . . .*

*Point to your head.*

*. . . and stronger.*

*Flex your arm.*

*He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people. (NIRV)*

*Give a thumbs-up.*

"Nice job, everyone.

"As Jesus grew, He looked for and grew in wisdom. Jesus is God's Son, but still He grew and learned!

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

"Jesus knew that **wisdom is worth searching for**. Say that with me."

**STORYTELLER AND KIDS: "Wisdom is worth searching for."**

*Host enters.*

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

## WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

**HOST:** "It was really important to Jesus to grow in wisdom. That's why He stayed to talk to the teachers in the temple. And if Jesus searched for wisdom, that's definitely something we should do too."

**STORYTELLER:** "That's right! Wisdom is about more than just being smart or knowing lots of things."





WEEK  
**ONE**  
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PRELUDE SOCIAL **STORY** WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

**SLIDE: VIRTUE**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE**

“Wisdom is about **finding out what you should do and doing it.**”

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

**HOST:** “That brings up a really good question. **HOW** can we grow in wisdom? What are some ways that we can grow and become wiser, like Jesus did?”

**STORYTELLER:** “We can talk to wise people—people who love God and who show God’s love to others. We can also learn from the times we make mistakes. We can ask God to help us make a different choice the next time.”

**HOST:** “And remember, we can **ALWAYS** pray and ask God to give us wisdom. All wisdom comes from God to begin with! That’s what we read in our Memory Verse for this month, James 1:5.

**SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE**

*If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. (James 1:5, NIV)*

**STORYTELLER:** “What a great verse! That reminds me that I can find true wisdom when I put my trust in God . . . and as we like to say around here, **[Basic Truth] I can trust God no matter what.**”

“Let’s pray and ask God to give us wisdom.”

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

## PRAYER

**STORYTELLER OR HOST:** “Dear God, we know that all wisdom comes from You. We want to live with Your wisdom each day. Help us to search for wisdom by spending time with wise people, and by praying and talking to You. Help us to grow in wisdom like Jesus did. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**