



ELEMENTARY

AUGUST 2024

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.

**WEEK
THREE**

BIBLE STORY

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

BOTTOM LINE

Hang out with wise people.



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WEEK 3

For week 3, we head to **2 Chronicles 10**. King Solomon's son, Rehoboam, was now king, and the people came to ask him to lighten their workload. However, when presented with the opportunity to gain the people's trust, King Rehoboam sought out wise counsel . . . and *unwise* counsel. Unfortunately, Rehoboam chose to listen to his unwise friends, which led to catastrophic consequences for him and for God's people.

Bottom Line: **Hang out with wise people.** There's a famous saying: "Show me your friends and I'll show you your future." The people we allow into our lives have the power to influence us, both positively and negatively. That doesn't mean we should cast people off and ignore them, but it does mean that we need to be aware of who we let speak into our lives and our situation. If we spend time with wise people, then we know it'll be worth it in the end.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

Host

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Ten kid volunteers
- Gaffer's or masking tape to make lines on the floor (see "What You Do")
- Inflatable beach balls that look like soccer balls (like these: <https://bit.ly/49KXd4P>)
- Host's phone

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Hang out with wise people.

2. WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Worship Leader(s)

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, NIRV

3. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Table
- Prop box containing the following adult-size hats/props:
 - King's crown
 - Baseball cap with a "J" on it
 - Gray beard and flat cap
 - Multicolored clown wig

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Wisdom—Finding out what you should do and doing it

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Theme Slide
- Virtue Slide

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.



WEEK
THREE
AUGUST 2024

LARGE GROUP
K-3

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Much Needed Advice
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2 Chronicles 10
(supporting: Proverbs 13:20)

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

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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 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: "Hey, everybody! I'm so glad you're here! How's everyone feeling? If you're pumped to be here, give me a thumbs-up like this. *(Demonstrate.)* Great!

"All month we're 'diving deep' to see how we can live with God's wisdom. To kick off our time today, I'd love to teach you a new game. I'll need a few volunteers who would like to play soccer . . . with a bit of an underwater twist. Raise your hand if you want to play.

Choose five kids to be on one team and five kids to be on the other team.

"Everyone else, you can stand around the edge of the field of play. *(Reference the tape lines on the floor.)*

Show the kids how you want them to stand, around the edges of the tape lines. Then hold up one of the soccer beach balls.

(To contestants) "Okay, contestants, you're about to play crab soccer. Have you ever done a crab walk in P.E. at school? Can anybody demonstrate a crab walk? *(Choose a kid to demonstrate.)* Perfect! Well, in crab soccer, you're playing soccer while doing a crab walk!

"Each person will have to stay in their lane that's marked by tape on the floor. You can crab-walk back and forth, but you can't step out of your lane. When one of the soccer balls gets close to you, you'll try to kick it over to the other side—crab-style. *(Demonstrate.)* When the timer goes off, the team with the least amount of soccer balls on their side wins!

"Everyone else, be sure to cheer for our contestants as they play. *(To contestants)* Good luck, teams. Let's play crab soccer!



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

AUDIO: FUN, INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC—FOR EACH ROUND

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30-SECOND VERSION)—FOR EACH ROUND

If you're not using an on-screen countdown, set a 30-second timer on your phone.

Toss a few soccer beach balls into the field of play, on the center line. Comment on the action as the kids play the game. Add some more soccer beach balls gradually as play continues.

When time's up, count how many soccer balls are on each team's side and declare the winning team (i.e. the team with the fewest soccer balls on their side).

Play two or three more rounds of the game, choosing two new teams of kids for each round. Get the kids to help you collect the soccer balls when you've finished.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

"That was so much fun! I really think crab soccer might catch on as a sport, don't you? You can all head back to where you were sitting before . . . but don't sit down, because it's time to sing and worship God!"



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K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY **WORSHIP** GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "That's right—everybody stay up on your feet, because it's time for us to move and sing together in worship. I'm so glad that we can trust God to give us wisdom. God can help us find out what we should do . . . and do it! **[Basic Truth] We can trust God no matter what.** That's what this song is about. Sing this with me.

AUDIO: "OVER AND OVER" / TRACK 8 FROM EVERYTHING TO ME

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "OVER AND OVER" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"Listen to these wise words from Proverbs 1:7: *'If you really want to gain knowledge, you must begin by having respect for the LORD.'* (NIV) Did you know that when we worship God, we're showing respect to God? Our worship is a way for us to honor God and say thank You for all that God is doing in our lives. I want to follow God with every step I take. How about you? (Pause for response.) Great! Let's sing this together."

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

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



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PRELUDE

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25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! I've got a story to share with you from the Bible (*hold up Bible*) about someone who DIDN'T make the wise choice. This story shows us something important about wisdom that we can put into practice today.

"As we look back to the beginning of God's story, we see how God made a promise to a man named Abraham. God promised to bless the world through Abraham's family . . . who eventually became a group of people called the Israelites.

"At first, the Israelites didn't have a king to rule over them. But they really, really wanted a king . . . so God gave them one. The first king, Saul, didn't follow God. But the NEXT king, King David, was a really wise ruler.

"David had a son named Solomon who also ruled over God's people. When Solomon was young, he asked God for wisdom so that he could lead God's people well. And sure enough, God made Solomon one of the wisest people who ever lived. In fact, many of Solomon's wise sayings are collected in Proverbs, which is a book of the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*)

"Here's one of them.

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

Walk with wise people and become wise.

A companion of foolish people suffers harm. (NirV)

"That IS wise, isn't it? If we spend time with wise people . . . we'll BECOME wise.

Move behind the table with the box full of hats.

OVERWORKED ISRAELITES

STORYTELLER: "Solomon had a son named Rehoboam. Say that with me."

STORYTELLER AND KIDS: "Rehoboam."

STORYTELLER: "Good. Rehoboam became king after his father Solomon . . .

Put on the crown.

". . . but unfortunately, even though God had made Solomon very wise, Solomon didn't follow God's wisdom at the end of his life. So Rehoboam had not seen his father act very wisely.

"Once Rehoboam became king, the Israelite people were VERY tired and worn out because King Solomon had made them work so hard. So, soon after Rehoboam became king, a man named Jeroboam and a lot of the Israelites came to see him.



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25 MINUTES

Take off the crown and put on the baseball cap with the "J" on it.

"Jeroboam and the rest of the people came to ask if King Rehoboam would go a little easier on them. They said:

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

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

Take off the "J" baseball cap and put on the crown.

"King Rehoboam needed some time to think about this request. He told Jeroboam and the people to come back in three days.

ASKING FOR ADVICE

STORYTELLER: "First, King Rehoboam made a wise choice. He went to talk with the elders.

Take off the crown. Put on the gray beard and flat cap.

"These were wise, experienced advisers who had helped his father Solomon in years past.

Take off the gray beard and flat cap. Put on the crown.

"Rehoboam figured these elders would be able to give him some good advice. He asked them how he should answer the people. Here's what they said.

Take off the crown. Put on the gray beard and flat cap. Then 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." (NirV)

"That seems like wise advice, right?"

Take off the gray beard and flat cap. Put on the crown.

"Well, Rehoboam didn't stop there. He went to find his own buddies—the guys who had grown up with him and were now working for him.

Take off the crown. Put on the clown wig.

"These guys weren't clowns, exactly . . . but they had no experience running a kingdom. They told King Rehoboam that he should NOT make it easier on the people. They said he should make them work even harder!

THE KINGDOM SPLITS

Take off the clown wig. Put on the crown.



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25 MINUTES

STORYTELLER: "King Rehoboam liked what the young guys told him. He liked the idea of showing off his power.

Take off the crown and put on the "J" baseball cap.

"When Jeroboam and the people returned three days later, they were hoping to hear a wise, kind answer from King Rehoboam.

"But this is what happened instead.

Take off the "J" baseball cap and put on the crown. With your other hand, open the Bible to 2 Chronicles 10:13-14 (NirV) and read.

The king answered them in a mean way. He didn't accept the advice of the elders.

Set down the Bible. Quickly take off the crown and put on the gray beard and flat cap. Then pick up the Bible and continue reading.

Instead, he followed the advice of the young men.

Set down the Bible. Quickly take off the gray beard and flat cap and put on the clown wig. Then pick up the Bible and continue reading.

He said,

Take off the clown wig and put on the crown.

"My father put a heavy load on your shoulders. But I'll make it even heavier." (NirV)

Take off the crown and put on the "J" baseball cap.

"As you can imagine, Jeroboam and the people were NOT happy to hear this. King Rehoboam was choosing to make things even worse for them! They could see that Rehoboam wasn't going to listen to them, so they left. And I don't just mean that they went home. They were so upset that they completely left the kingdom!

Take off the "J" baseball cap and put on the crown.

"King Rehoboam still ruled over the Israelites who were living in the towns of Judah . . . but a big part of the kingdom had simply left because of the way he had treated them.

Take off the crown and move in front of the table.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "King Rehoboam chose to listen to the foolish words of his friends rather than the wise words of the elders. And that led to disaster! The Israelites ended up splitting into two groups: Israel and Judah. And the people continued to stray farther and farther from God.



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25 MINUTES

"This story shows what can happen when we let other people lead us into making an unwise choice. We need to be really careful to do this:

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Hang out with wise people. Say that with me."

STORYTELLER AND KIDS: "Hang out with wise people."

Host enters.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: "Wow. That story didn't end well, [Storyteller's name]."

STORYTELLER: "You're right. King Rehoboam made a big mistake by listening to his unwise friends instead of the wise elders."

HOST: "But I'm glad that we can learn from our mistakes—or in this case, Rehoboam's mistake. It's really important that we spend time with people who follow God and make wise choices . . . because that will help us grow in wisdom."

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

STORYTELLER: "God has put wise people in our lives who can give us good advice and help us make wise choices. They can help us become more like Jesus in everything we do."

Share a brief, kid-appropriate example of someone you know who follows God and helps you make wise choices.

HOST: "If you're in a situation where you're stuck and not sure what to do, you can talk to your parents or other wise adults and ask for help. And it's also important to think about the friends and classmates who you spend most of your time with. Who are the people you know who make wise choices and who follow God? It's important to be friendly and kind to everyone, but you want to spend the **MOST** time with people who you know will lead you toward wise choices."

"Let's pray and ask God to help us learn wisdom from the people around us."



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

25 MINUTES

PRAYER

STORYTELLER OR HOST: "Dear God, thank You for reminding us through this story that we need to spend time with wise people. Help us to learn from the mistakes King Rehoboam made. Give us the wisdom to listen to good advice from the people around us. Please guide us toward people who love You, follow You, and who can lead us toward Your wisdom. 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