



**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  
FOUR**

**BIBLE STORY**  
Renew Your Mind  
Romans 12:2

**BOTTOM LINE**  
Never stop growing in wisdom.



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
AUGUST 2024

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### WEEK 4

We wrap up the month in **Romans 12:2**. Paul was writing a letter to the Romans in which he encouraged them to “let [their] way of thinking be completely changed.” Paul wanted to remind the believers that God could continually change the way they thought, which would allow them to focus on God’s plan. When we spend time talking to God, learning from Scripture, and listening to others who follow God, we’ll be able to figure out what God wants to do in our lives.

Bottom Line: **Never stop growing in wisdom.** Wisdom isn’t something that we find one time and then we’re done. It’s a continuous learning process that we’ll encounter for the rest of our lives. As we gain knowledge, we should *want* to gain God’s wisdom too. It’s not enough just to *know* something. We have to *do* something with what we know in order for it to make a difference.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Don't Stop**  
Renew Your Mind  
Romans 12:2

### 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 VIRTUE

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

### BASIC TRUTH

**I need to make the wise choice.**

### Host

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Two Worship Leaders (to hold the limbo stick)
- Long curtain rod, broom handle, dowel, etc., with artificial plants wrapped around and hanging off of it to look like seaweed
- 10 to 15 helium-filled balloons with streamers hanging down, and balloon weights, to represent jellyfish (or you could suspend paper lanterns with streamers hanging down)
- Several artificial water plants, like these: <https://bit.ly/3U6Y2Pp>
- cardboard
- Gaffer's or masking tape

### 2. WORSHIP

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Worship Leader(s)

### 3. BIBLE STORY

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Table with a game show-style button attached to it (with no batteries)

#### MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- Story Sounds (provided)
- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

#### LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

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



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
AUGUST 2024

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Don't Stop**  
Renew Your Mind  
Romans 12:2

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Never stop growing in wisdom.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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### 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:** "Hi, friends! Today is a great day to be at [name of your environment]. We're finding out how we can 'dive deep' and find God's wisdom. And I've got a fun game to start us off!

Walk over to the obstacle course.

"As you can see, we've created an obstacle course that everyone can do! You'll just need to complete a series of challenges to make it to the other side of the ocean.

"First, you'll limbo under the seaweed.

*Worship Leaders enter, carrying the rod covered in artificial plants. Demonstrate the limbo while the Worship Leaders hold the rod in place.*

"Then you'll weave your way through the jellyfish. Be careful not to touch them so you don't get zapped!

*Reference the jellyfish balloons (or paper lanterns). Demonstrate by weaving through them.*

"After that, you'll swim like an eel over to these water plants.

*Put your palms together in front of you (like you're about to dive), and weave them (and your body) from side to side.*

"You'll hop over each plant, like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Then, for the grand finale, you'll do a starfish jump across the finish line—like this.



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STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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10 MINUTES

*Jump forward with both arms and legs spread out so you look like a starfish.*

"Fun, right? Let's all line up behind [kid's name] here at the starting line.

*Choose a kid who's near the starting line that will also be comfortable leading the way. Guide everyone else to line up behind that kid.*

"Let's all make our way through the sea—all of you AND your Small Group Leaders! We'll keep going until everyone has made it through. Remember, first, seaweed limbo, then dodge the jellyfish, then hop over the sea plants, and finish with the starfish jump. On your mark, get set, go!

**AUDIO: FUN MUSIC**

*Comment on the action as the kids play the game. Remind them what to do, if necessary. Get behind the last kid in line and go through the obstacle course yourself to finish the game.*

"That was amazing! I'm so impressed with your under-the-sea skills. Your leaders were especially fun to watch. Now let's take a deep dive into some fun worship songs. Everyone get ready to sing!"



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10 MINUTES

## WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “Hi, everybody! It’s so good to be here to praise God with all of you. I don’t know about you, but I’m really glad to know that God is always there to help me. I can trust that God is there to give me wisdom when I need it most. Let’s sing about how good God is to us.

**AUDIO:** “OVER AND OVER” / TRACK 8 FROM EVERYTHING TO ME  
**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** “OVER AND OVER” LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

“I love it! And it’s really true—**[Basic Truth] we can trust God no matter what.** Before we continue in worship, let’s watch this.

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

“In Proverbs 16:16, we read this: *‘It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver.’* (NirV) Wow! God’s wisdom is so important and so valuable. It really makes a huge difference in our lives. Wisdom helps us know what to do when we feel scared or confused. Let’s keep searching for God’s wisdom—always! Sing this with me.”

**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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STORY

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## BIBLE STORY

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** "Hi, everyone! (*Hold up Bible.*) Today we're looking in the book of Romans to find an important way that we can grow in wisdom.

"The book of Romans was originally a letter written by the apostle Paul to the believers in Rome. The interesting thing is that Paul wasn't always a Jesus-follower. In fact, at first Paul tried to STOP people from putting their faith in Jesus. But one day, Paul saw a blinding light and heard the voice of Jesus—and everything changed!

"Paul began to follow Jesus, and he started new churches in lots of different places. Paul wrote letters to these churches and other believers to help them understand who Jesus is and how He wants us to live.

"To help us understand this part of Paul's letter, I've got this sound effect button. Here, can one of you come up and hit it to test it out?"

*Call on a kid to come up and hit the button.*

**AUDIO: STORY SOUND 1 (ROOSTER CROW)**

"Perfect. Thanks, [kid's name]. You can sit back down.

*The kid returns to her seat.*

"When I give this signal (*put your hand by your ear*), raise your hand if you want to come hit the button. If I call on you, then come up, hit the button, listen to the sound, then sit back down. Cool? Cool.

### THE WAY OF THE WORLD

**STORYTELLER:** "When Paul wrote his letter, he had never been to Rome. He hadn't met the believers there, but he wanted to! He also wanted to help them grow closer to Jesus. Let's listen to some of what Paul wrote to the believers in Rome. We can find this in Romans, chapter 12. (*Hold up Bible.*) Here we go.

*Put your hand by your ear to cue the kids to raise their hands. Quickly pick a kid to come up and hit the button, listen to the audio cue, then sit back down.*

*Note: Make sure you pick kids from all parts of the room, not just up front.*

**AUDIO: STORY SOUND 2 (ROMANS 12:2)**

**AUDIO CUE:** *Don't live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect. (Romans 12:2, NIV)*



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25 MINUTES

**STORYTELLER:** "Wow. Did you catch that? Let's listen again."

*Put your hand by your ear to cue the kids to raise their hands. Quickly pick a different kid to come up and hit the button, listen to the audio cue, then sit back down.*

**AUDIO: STORY SOUND 2 (ROMANS 12:2)**

**AUDIO CUE:** *Don't live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect. (Romans 12:2, NIRV)*

**STORYTELLER:** "Okay. So Paul wanted the believers in Rome to understand that they shouldn't live the way the world lives. But what does that mean, exactly? Well, we can think about what it means in our world today.

"We see and hear a LOT of messages every day about what's important . . . from TV shows to music to YouTube ads. Some of those things are totally fine. But not everything we see or hear is good or true. It can be easy to get confused.

*Put your hand by your ear to cue the kids to raise their hands. Quickly pick a kid to come up and hit the button, listen to the audio cue, then sit back down.*

**AUDIO: STORY SOUND 3 (CONFUSED BOING)**

"We see and hear and experience so many things that it can be hard to see and hear what matters MOST.

"If we look at the world around us, we might get the idea that we can only be happy if we have lots of nice stuff . . .

*Put your hand by your ear to cue the kids to raise their hands. Quickly pick a kid to come up and hit the button, listen to the audio cue, then sit back down.*

**AUDIO: STORY SOUND 4 (CASH REGISTER)**

". . . or if other people think we're successful and important.

*Put your hand by your ear to cue the kids to raise their hands. Quickly pick a kid to come up and hit the button, listen to the audio cue, then sit back down.*

**AUDIO: STORY SOUND 5 (TRUMPET FANFARE)**

"But the truth is, we can't find real joy that lasts by having stuff and having people like us. We find our true purpose in life by knowing that we are deeply loved by God . . . and that God has a good plan for our lives. We can live each day by doing what is most important: loving God and loving the people around us.

### **CHANGE YOUR MIND**

**STORYTELLER:** "So how do we remember God's purpose for us instead of getting distracted by the things we see and hear around us? Remember what Paul said in his letter:



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**K-3**

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SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

Open the Bible to Romans 12:2 (NirV) and read.

*Don't live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. (NirV)*

"That's how we can find wisdom—by asking God to help us change the way we think!

*Put your hand by your ear to cue the kids to raise their hands. Quickly pick a kid to come up and hit the button, listen to the audio cue, then sit back down.*

**AUDIO: STORY SOUND 6 (VIDEO GAME POWER-UP)**

"We can pray and ask God to help us focus on things that are good, true, and wise.

*Put your hand by your ear to cue the kids to raise their hands. Quickly pick a kid to come up and hit the button, listen to the audio cue, then sit back down.*

**AUDIO: STORY SOUND 6 (VIDEO GAME POWER-UP)**

"We can take time to read the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) We can focus on things that are true about God that we find in Scripture. We can even memorize verses from the Bible . . . and God can bring those verses to mind when we need them most.

*Put your hand by your ear to cue the kids to raise their hands. Quickly pick a kid to come up and hit the button, listen to the audio cue, then sit back down.*

**AUDIO: STORY SOUND 6 (VIDEO GAME POWER-UP)**

"Whenever we can, we can choose stories, shows, music, and activities that point us toward God . . . and toward the things that are right and beautiful in this world.

*Put your hand by your ear to cue the kids to raise their hands. Quickly pick a kid to come up and hit the button, listen to the audio cue, then sit back down.*

**AUDIO: STORY SOUND 6 (VIDEO GAME POWER-UP)**

"We can also can talk with adults and friends we trust who follow Jesus. They can help us keep our focus on God no matter what's going on around us."

*Put your hand by your ear to cue the kids to raise their hands. Quickly pick a kid to come up and hit the button, listen to the audio cue, then sit back down.*

**AUDIO: STORY SOUND 6 (VIDEO GAME POWER-UP)**

## GROWING IN WISDOM

**STORYTELLER:** "Those are all important ways that we can put our focus on God. As we put our focus on God, that will help us change the way we think, so we can live out our true purpose and share God's love with the world.





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**FOUR**  
AUGUST 2024

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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"It's like Paul wrote in his letter:

*Put your hand by your ear to cue the kids to raise their hands. Quickly pick a different kid to come up and hit the button, listen to the audio cue, then sit back down.*

**AUDIO: STORY SOUND 2 (ROMANS 12:2)**

**AUDIO CUE:** *Don't live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect. (Romans 12:2, NIRV)*

"If we keep asking God to help us focus on the right things, then our thinking will start to shift. We'll be able to see how God wants us to live. We'll be able to grow in wisdom.

*Put your hand by your ear to cue the kids to raise their hands. Quickly pick a kid to come up and hit the button, listen to the audio cue, then sit back down.*

**AUDIO: STORY SOUND 6 (VIDEO GAME POWER-UP)**

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** "Paul wanted the people in Rome to understand that we need to keep our focus on God in order to find wisdom. It's not something that happens just one time. It's a part of our lives as followers of Jesus.

"We need to keep praying and asking God for wisdom. We need to read the Bible and notice the things that matter most to God. We need to spend time with wise friends who God has put in our lives. Then we won't get distracted by things that might SEEM important . . . but really AREN'T important at all. Because what matters most is our relationship with God, and learning how to show God's love in the way we live each day.

"Here's the thing:

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**"Never stop growing in wisdom.** Say that with me."

**STORYTELLER AND KIDS: "Never stop growing in wisdom."**

*Host enters.*

**SLIDE: THEME**

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

## WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

**HOST:** "It's pretty cool that we can find wisdom by thinking about what we THINK about!"

**STORYTELLER:** "Yep! Just because a thought pops into your head, that doesn't mean it's true. If we can learn to think wisely, we'll be able to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice.**"



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STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

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**HOST:** "Like Paul wrote in his letter—we can 'let [our] way of thinking be completely changed' (Romans 12:2 NIV). And that's a great way that we can find God's wisdom.

**SLIDE: VIRTUE**

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

"Remember, 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:** "When we put our faith in Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside us. God's Spirit can help us and guide us as we follow Jesus with the way we live each day."

**HOST:** "And there are things we can do to make sure we're focusing on God and continuing to change our way of thinking. We can make sure we're putting good things into our hearts and minds—by memorizing Bible verses, talking to God in prayer, and choosing to watch and listen to things that remind us about God."

**STORYTELLER:** "We can also talk to friends and adults who follow God who can help point us toward what's true. I'm so glad we have small groups where we can do that for each other!"

**HOST:** "In fact, you're about to head to Small Group to talk some more about how we can keep growing in wisdom. But first, let's pray together."

## PRAYER

**STORYTELLER OR HOST:** "Dear God, thank You for this wise idea that we find in Paul's letter to the believers in Rome. Thank You for changing our minds and showing us what to do when we put our focus on You. Please give us the courage to follow You each day. Help us to grow in wisdom as we trust You. 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**