



**PRETEEN**

AUGUST 2024

## FOR LEADERS ONLY

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### **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.**

### **HEADS UP: IDEAS TO KEEP IN MIND AS YOU TALK ABOUT WISDOM WITH KIDS**

As you talk about wisdom this month, keep in mind that some kids approach decisions logically and anticipate what might happen, while others tend to make decisions based on experiences. Don't negate either approach to learning how to make the wise choice. Encourage them to start small by making wise choices where they can. Also, keep in mind that not every decision is one that a kid can make. Kids are heavily influenced by their surroundings, which they may not be able to control. As you have conversations, refrain from playing the blame game. Instead, remind kids of the decisions they DO have the power to make. If your environment is the first point of contact for a kid who addresses being in an unsafe situation—due to unwise caregiver decisions or decisions of any other kind—be sure to have a plan to connect that child to the help they need to ensure their safety.



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### WEEK 3

Key Question: **Who are some wise people in your life?** Who's someone you know who gives good advice? What made you think of that person? Is it because they teach you new things or help you make hard decisions? Or maybe it's because you trust them and they offer a great outside perspective. Whatever the reasoning, we hope this question begins to help preteens identify the wise people in their lives . . . and think about how they can learn from those people over time.

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  
(Proverbs 13:20)

### Host

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Large Bag of Gummy Candy Fish (Prize for Game)
- *Optional: paper or poster*

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

**Who are some wise people in your life?**

### 2. WORSHIP

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Worship Leader(s)

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Hang out with wise people.**

### 3. COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

#### WHAT YOU NEED: Optional Props

- Communicator
- Bible
- Prop Box with the following:
  - "Cool boy" volunteer props
    - A few baseball hats
    - A few collared shirts
  - King crown and robe
  - A few wigs and beards for the elders
  - Biblical costume for Jeroboam
- Chair

### 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

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

### BASIC TRUTH

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

# DIVE DEEP



There's Always More to Explore

WEEK  
**THREE**  
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LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

## TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Who are some wise people in your life?

## 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 STUDENTS ENTER.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

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

Host enters . . .

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

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

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

## 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, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, 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 is happening, everyone!? Hope you had a great week digging deep and discovering more of the wisdom that's all around you. I have to say, it SOUNDS like there is a lot of energy in the room today. And I love it!

"Speaking of sound, I have an idea for a game that gets the whole room involved. I call it 'Sea Sounds by the Seashore'!

**SLIDE: "SEA SOUNDS BY THE SEASHORE"**

"Here is how to play. In just a moment, I'll bring two volunteers on stage. They'll turn their backs to the screen and not look at what's on it. Only YOU out there will get to see the screen, which will have an image of something you might find near the ocean. Then, as a whole crowd, you'll make a sound that represents what's on the image, but you can't SAY the object or ACT out what's on the screen. Got it? No motions. No mouthing words. You can only make sounds. Each volunteer will get a chance to guess. They get a point for each one they guess correctly. Most points wins. Make sense?

"Awesome, I need two volunteers to play . . .



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<b>PRELUDE</b>	<b>SOCIAL</b>	<b>STORY</b>	<b>WORSHIP</b>	<b>GROUPS</b>	<b>HOME</b>
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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

*Host chooses two volunteers. They stand with their backs to the screen. If you do not use a screen, hold the answer up behind them on a piece paper or poster. You can also divide the room in sections and have each volunteer face a section.*

"Let's hear those sounds!

*Host will call for each image after the audience makes the sound and the volunteers guess correctly.*

- SLIDE: SEASHORE IMAGE 1 - SEAGULL**
- SLIDE: SEASHORE IMAGE 2 - TUG BOAT**
- SLIDE: SEASHORE IMAGE 3 - DOLPHIN**
- SLIDE: SEASHORE IMAGE 4 - SEAPLANE**
- SLIDE: SEASHORE IMAGE 5 - WAVES**
- SLIDE: SEASHORE IMAGE 6 - WHALE**
- SLIDE: SEASHORE IMAGE 7 - SCUBA DIVER**

*(After the game) "You all did amazing! I felt like I was out to sea! Our winner today is [name of winner], and you win a bag of gummy fish for your whole Small Group! Let's all stand together and worship!"*



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PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      **WORSHIP**      GROUPS      HOME

10 MINUTES

## WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Hello, everyone! Go ahead and get up on your feet. It's time for us to lift our voices and sing God's praise. God is SO good to us. So let's not just sing halfway. Let's give it everything we've got. Come on!

**AUDIO:** "SING YOUR PRAISE" / TRACK 2 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU

**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** "SING YOUR PRAISE" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"We really can **[Basic Truth] trust God no matter what.** Everybody say, 'My God can.' (Get a response.) 'Be trusted.' (Get a response.) 'Over and over and over again!' (Get a response.) Say that again! 'My God can.' (Get a response.) 'Be trusted.' (Get a response.) 'Over and over and over again!' Let's sing and thank God for being so faithful. Here we go!

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

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

"Listen to this part of Psalm 107:8. It's talking about people who God has set free. It says, 'Let them give thanks to the Lord for his faithful love. Let them give thanks for the wonderful things he does for people.' (NirV) There's nothing better than the love God has for us. Let's join our voices together and sing about God's amazing love."

**AUDIO:** "HOW AMAZING" / TRACK 6 FROM EVERYTHING TO ME

**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** "HOW AMAZING" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO



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25 MINUTES

## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

*Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### INTRODUCTION

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Hey, everyone! What a fun morning so far! All month we've been taking a closer look at what it means to trust God, follow Jesus, and live with wisdom. Which has me thinking about this one time when I was younger . . .

*Communicator shares a personal story of someone who has given them wise advice when they were going through a difficult decision. Use the following as an example or as a hypothetical situation you can share.*

"When I was growing up, there were two things I loved doing: playing soccer and playing piano. As I got older, though, it seemed like I would have to make a choice. I wasn't sure I could participate in both hobbies and become good at either of them. My piano teacher wanted me to think about playing soccer less. And my friends wanted me to give up the piano. So, I figured it was time to choose between them, focus on one, and leave the other behind.

"Then one day when I was hanging out with my grandfather, I must have looked like I was feeling confused or sad about something. He asked me what was going on, so I spilled it . . . told him how confused I was and how much I didn't really want to stop playing soccer or the piano.

"As it turned out, he went through a similar situation when he was growing up. He loved playing sports, but also loved studying and doing well in school. Just like me, he felt like if he wanted to be good at one of them, he'd have to stop doing the other. But then he talked about how he learned to make time for both of them. He could play on the baseball team, practice with his friends, and still become a pretty decent player while he also made time to study what he was learning in school to keep his grades up.

"His wisdom helped me see that I didn't need to give up either of these hobbies. I could get creative and find time to do both! He completely changed the way I looked at how I spent my time. Even today as an adult, I still practice what I learned from him about how to use my time wisely!"

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** "It's interesting to think that if I had only listened to my piano teacher, I might have missed out on some super-fun times with my soccer buddies. Or if I'd listened only to my teammates, I'd have stopped doing something that brought me a lot of joy. I needed an outside voice to help me figure out the wisest path forward.

"Maybe you've faced a similar situation. You have a big decision to make and need some help figuring out what's best. But we have so many people who are speaking into our lives, don't we? We have family members, friends, teachers, or coaches, and each of them gives us advice from time to time. Then we have people we follow on YouTube, the music we listen to, or shows we watch. Even they give us some ideas about what we should care about or the sort of choices we should make.

"With all the voices that are all around us, how do we know that we're surrounding ourselves with the one who will help us make WISE choices? How can we be SURE the people in our lives are the best people to help us trust God and follow Jesus? These are important questions for us to think about.



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25 MINUTES

“Thankfully, God gave us the Bible, and we can turn to it to learn about God and God’s ways when we have some big questions about life. Remember, the Bible is a library of all sorts of wisdom that was written down by people who experienced God in their lives. God inspired them to write down what they learned, so we could learn from their lives and what God showed them all these years later. Let’s check out one of those moments right now.”

**TRUTH**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “To do that, we need to head way back to the Jewish Scriptures, what we now call the Old Testament in our Bibles. The Old Testament shares all about the lives of God’s people as they grew from Abraham’s family into the nations of Israel and Judah. Today, we’ll discover more about a moment when the nation of Israel was ruled by kings. Can anybody think of the name of one of the kings of Israel we’ve talked about before?”

*Listen for responses.*

“Maybe several of you will remember King David. He might be the most famous because of how he killed the giant, Goliath. But David also had a son that many of us know . . . a son who was quite the WISE guy . . . and spoke many of the WISE sayings included in the book of Proverbs . . . anyone remember?”

*Listen for responses.*

“Solomon, yes! Well Solomon also had several sons, one of whom became a little lesser-known king. His name was Rehoboam. Can you say that with me? Rehoboam!”

“And to tell this story, I need some help. I need a few guys . . .”

*Communicator calls a few volunteer boys on stage and dresses them in backwards hats, and open-collared shirts.*

“Looking good, bros. You guys just sit over here for a bit. Alright, now, I also need a King Rehoboam.”

*Communicator calls volunteer and dresses them in a crown and robe.*

“I have a nice throne for you, King. You can sit right here.”

*Sit “Rehoboam” center stage in a chair.*

“So, before we read, I need to introduce you to another guy. His name is Jeroboam. Now I know Rehoboam and Jeroboam sound like cute names for twin brothers, but it’s just a coincidence. They’re not related. Rehoboam was Solomon’s son, and Jeroboam had previously been an important official in Solomon’s kingdom. But Jeroboam and Solomon had a falling out that led to Jeroboam refusing to listen to Solomon and Solomon trying to take his life. Yikes!”

*Host comes out on stage interrupting, dressed in biblical dress. Host will freely interact throughout the story, acting and overreacting as Jeroboam.*

**HOST AS JEROBOAM:** “And I was such a good leader for Solomon, too! Can you believe it?!”



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25 MINUTES

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Ah, looks like we have Jeroboam here as well. Continuing on . . . so Jeroboam fled the country until after Solomon's death. That is where we will pick up the story—with Rehoboam, son of Solomon (*pointing to volunteer*), sitting on his throne."

**HOST AS JEROBOAM:** (*Muttering to himself*) "Should be MY throne . . ."

**COMMUNICATOR:** "A-hem."

*Open the Bible to 2 Chronicles 10:1-3a (NirV) and read.*

*Rehoboam went to the city of Shechem. All the Israelites had gone there to make him king. Jeroboam heard about it . . . Jeroboam was in Egypt at that time. He had gone there for safety. He wanted to get away from King Solomon. But now he returned from Egypt. So the people sent for Jeroboam.*

"So, Jeroboam and some of the people of Israel came to King Rehoboam. They had an important request.

*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.*

"They were offering to end the feud that had existed between Solomon and Jeroboam. They just wanted Rehoboam's word that he would lighten up their load. Seems pretty fair, right? Rehoboam needed time.

*Open the Bible to 2 Chronicles 10:5 (NirV) and read.*

*Rehoboam answered, "Come back to me in three days."*

*Turn and look at "Rehoboam" until he catches on and says it. Repeat if necessary.*

*So the people went away.*

*(Addressing volunteer)* "King—looks like you have an important decision to make! What will you do? (*Doesn't allow volunteer to answer*) Let's find out!"

*Open the Bible to 2 Chronicles 10:6a (NirV) and read.*

*Then King Rehoboam asked the elders for advice. They had served his father Solomon while he was still living.*

*(Addressing volunteer)* "So, King—what will you do? (*"Ask the elders for advice."*) Now, these elders were experienced guys. They had served Rehoboam's dad, Solomon. (*To audience*) I need a couple of wise elders. How about [Small Group Leader's names]?"

*Communicator calls up a few small group leaders and dresses them in wigs and beards.*

"Very wise looking. Alright, the king will see you now.





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**25 MINUTES**

*Open the Bible to 2 Chronicles 10:6 (NirV) and read.*

*Then King Rehoboam asked the elders for advice. They had served his father Solomon while he was still living. Rehoboam asked them, "What advice can you give me? How should I answer these people?" (Waits for king to repeat. Prompt if necessary.)*

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

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

*Wait for leaders to repeat. Prompt if necessary.*

*"Pretty good advice. Advice that would probably lead to restoring the peace and unity in the kingdom. Nice work, elders. You truly are wise!*

*The Small Group Leaders can be seated.*

*"Seems like the matter was settled, right? Not so fast.*

*Open the Bible to 2 Chronicles 10:8a (NirV) and read.*

*But Rehoboam didn't accept the advice the elders gave him.*

*"What?! (To King) What are you doing? Come on, King! Well, maybe he had something better in mind.*

*Open the Bible to 2 Chronicles 10:8 (NirV) and read.*

*But Rehoboam didn't accept the advice the elders gave him. He asked for advice from the young men who had grown up with him and were now serving him.*

*"Rehoboam brought in a couple of his childhood bros! And we get the sense that these guys were not the kind of dudes who should be giving serious advice to the KING!*

*Volunteers seated on stage stand up. Communicator encourages them to play it up like bros.*

*"Alright, King, here are your bros.*

*Open the Bible to 2 Chronicles 10:9a NirV and read.*

*He asked them, "What's your advice? How should I answer these people?"*

*Wait for king to repeat. Prompt if necessary. Open the Bible to 2 Chronicles 10:10-11 (NirV) and read.*

*The young men who had grown up with him gave their answer. They replied, "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.'"*



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**25 MINUTES**

*Wait for volunteers to repeat. Prompt if necessary. "Young men" volunteers can be seated afterwards.*

"Thanks, dudes. You've done MORE than enough. Well King, you've got a tough choice. The elders told you to be kind and restore the peace. Your buddies are telling you to crush them even worse than your dad Solomon did. Seems pretty obvious what wisdom looks like here, right?"

"Now . . . just because something seems obviously more wise than something else doesn't mean we always make the wise choice. Do you know what I mean? Check this out:

*Open the Bible to 2 Chronicles 10:12-14a (NirV) and read.*

*Three days later Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam . . .*

*Host stands next to king and overreacts.*

*The king answered them in a mean way. He didn't accept the advice of the elders. Instead, he followed the advice of the young men.*

"Let's give our volunteers a hand!"

*Volunteers are seated.*

"Wow! So that day, King Rehoboam listened to the wrong people, and his choice ended up costing him dearly. Fast forward the story: the people of Israel would rebel against Rehoboam's HARSH rule and refuse to acknowledge him as king. Eventually, they would then set Jeroboam up as king instead (*Host grabs the crown, puts it on his head in victory, and exits*), and the nation would be torn apart. Rehoboam ruled part of the nation, Jeroboam ruled over another. King against king. People against people. All because Rehoboam listened to the wrong advice."

**APPLICATION**

**COMMUNICATOR:** "I'm guessing you can see the takeaway from this story pretty clearly. In one of the most critical moments of his life, Rehoboam chose to surround himself with the wrong people who gave him the wrong advice, which led to a disastrous outcome. When he most needed wisdom, he took advice from fools. And in the end, it ruined everything.

"Before the Bible Story, I told you a personal story about someone who gave me wise advice when I was making a difficult decision. The reality is there are so many times in our lives when we have real decisions to make, and the choices we make will impact our entire lives. It's important for us to know who we can turn to during those times. What sort of people do you have around you? Who are the people we have who can give us advice? Are they people who will only tell us the cool thing to do? The popular thing to do? Or do we have people who will tell us the wise thing to do?"

"Rehoboam's dad, Solomon, once said this Proverb . . . it certainly would have changed a lot for Rehoboam if he had followed it. Check it out.

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



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25 MINUTES

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

“Somebody once said, ‘Show me your five friends and I’ll show you who you’ll become.’ That is powerful if you think about it. Who you surround yourself with matters. Rehoboam listened to fools, and in the end, he acted like a fool.

“When you have tough choices to make, who do you ask? Who do you accept advice from? Who helps you make decisions? These are important questions, and this a great time to start asking them!”

**LANDING**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “As you head to Small Group today, think about this:”

**SLIDE: KEY QUESTION**

**“Who are some wise people in your life?** Who are your ‘go-to’ people when you need advice or don’t know what to do? Why do you go to them? Before you go, let’s pray and ask God to help us surround ourselves with wise people in our lives who will help us become wise ourselves!”

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

*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 THE KIDS EXIT.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

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