



WEEK
ONE
AUGUST 2024

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray for insight to keep learning from your mistakes and from the people around you. Ask God to help the kids of your group discover what to do with the wisdom they gain from your time together.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, "Seek and Find" Activity Page, "Seek and Find Answer Key" Activity Page, and coloring supplies

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Wisdom is worth searching for.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids with a high-five as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought offerings to place them in the offering container.
- One by one, ask a kid to act like an undersea creature, but not share what it is.
- Encourage the rest of the kids who have arrived to guess which undersea creature the kid is portraying.
- When enough kids have gathered, set out the coloring supplies.
- Give each kid a "Seek and Find" Activity Page.
- Instruct the kids to look for the hidden items listed on the key and color them in when they do.
- Invite kids to share any stories they have related to the undersea items as they're coloring.

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.



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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: *Optional: Blindfold*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask for one kid to volunteer to start the game.
- Instruct the volunteer to stand away from the group and close their eyes (or, optionally, wear a blindfold).
- Change one thing about the room or someone in the room.
- Do so quietly and encourage the kids who are gathered not to give it away.
- Start with more obvious changes, then, as rounds continue, make changes that are less obvious. For example:
 - Choose one kid to leave the group area.
 - Turn chairs or other items a different way.
 - Move the placement of a rug.
 - Direct certain kids to switch places.
 - Invite kids to help decide what should change!
- Invite the kid back to the group area and open their eyes (or remove their blindfold).
- Instruct the kid to try to guess and find out what is different.
 - If the kid guesses correctly, encourage them to choose the next kid to step away from the group (or wear the blindfold).
 - If the kid doesn't guess correctly, invite the group to share what's different and choose another kid to go next.
- Continue to play as time and interest allow.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job with that game! It was fun looking for what was different. Sometimes it was easier to find, and sometimes it was a little harder! **[Transition] Today, we're going to hear about a very special Someone who went searching for a very special something. Let's go!"**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



* 2. SAND JARS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic tablecloth; prepared sand; funnels or plastic cups; small, plastic containers with lids; and a permanent marker; *Optional: "Sand Jars" Activity Page and glue sticks*

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WHAT YOU DO:

- Spread out the tablecloth.
- Invite the kids to gather on the tablecloth.
- Set out the three containers of prepared, colorful sand.
- Give each kid a small, plastic container (or a copy of the "Sand Jars" Activity Page).
- Set out the funnels or plastic cups (or glue sticks if using the "Sand Jars" Activity Page).
- Invite kids to choose one color of sand to layer the bottom of their container.
 - If using the plastic containers, instruct the kids to use the funnels or plastic cups to carefully pour their chosen color sand into the jar.
 - If using "Sand Jars" Activity Page, instruct the kids to cover one section of their "Sand Jars" Activity Page with glue, carefully dump one color of sand onto that section, give it some time to dry, then carefully pour the excess sand back into the container.
- Repeat with two additional colors, so each kid has created a sand jar with three layers.
- As kids are working, explain that each layer of sand represents one way that we can gain wisdom.
- Ask: "What are some ways we can gain wisdom?"
- If using plastic containers, help kids carefully seal their containers.
 - Instruct the kids not to shake the container.
- If using the "Sand Jars" Activity Page, help kids set their papers aside to let them fully dry and settle.
- Use the permanent marker to help kids write their names on their jars or papers.
- Invite the kids to help you clean up as needed.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"We can get wisdom in so many different ways! One way is by learning from someone else! Listening to someone's stories and experiences can help us learn the wise way to handle situations in our lives too.

"Another way to gain wisdom is by learning from a mistake we made. Understanding when we've done something wrong and taking steps to do things the wise way next time is a way to gain wisdom.

"A third way to gain wisdom is by asking God for it! God is always ready to help us gain wisdom. James 1:5 tells us that God gives wisdom freely to everyone.



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(* 2. SAND JARS, CONTINUED)

“When you look at the three colors of sand in your Wisdom Jars this week, remember: learn from others, learn from mistakes, and ask God for wisdom. No matter what, **wisdom is worth searching for.**”



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Floor tape; *Optional:* device for playing calm music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Using floor tape, create a winding path throughout your group space.
- Invite kids to spend a few minutes slowly walking the path around the group space, silently thanking God for what they see, notice, and appreciate.
 - *Optional:* Play music as kids are walking and praying.
- Give kids several minutes for this activity.
- Allow the kids to walk the path more than once, if needed.
- Close your group time in prayer.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Everyone did a great job paying attention to your surroundings and finding things to thank God for. What types of things did you notice or think about? (*Invite responses.*) These are wonderful things to be thankful for! We know that wisdom is finding out what you should do and doing it. In every situation, we can pray to God and be thankful. We can also pray to God to ask for wisdom. The Bible tells us that if we ask God for wisdom, God will give it to us! Remember, **wisdom is worth searching for.**

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Wisdom is worth searching for.

"Dear God, we want to be wise. Our whole lives, we want to make wise decisions. Please make us wise. Help us listen to Your Spirit inside of us, leading us to make wise decisions. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show off their sand jars and explain how the three layers remind us where we can find wisdom (from others, from their mistakes, from God).

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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