



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
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



### 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Explain that they are going to play a memory game where they get to share some of their favorite things!
- Choose a kid in the circle to go first.
- Choose a category to discuss the first round, like:
  - Favorite underwater creature
  - Favorite water activity
  - Favorite color
  - Favorite cereal
  - Favorite season
  - Favorite animal
  - Favorite cartoon character
  - Favorite subject in school
- Instruct the first kid to say their name and one of their favorite things in the category.
- Direct the next kid in the circle to say their name, repeat the first kid's answer, then add their own.
- Instruct the next kid in the circle to say the first two kids' answers, and add their own, and so on!
- Continue to play different rounds with different category prompts (feel free to come up with your own!) as time and interest allow.

### 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.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Thanks for sharing so many of your favorite things with our group! Some of our answers were similar, and some of them were very different. We learned so much about each other—and the favorite things that we all think about. **[Transition]** Today, we're going to discover how our thinking can change everything. Let's go hear about it!"

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 MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



## 1. SINK OR SWIM

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Direct the kids to line up, shoulder to shoulder, on one side of your group area.
- Stand in front of the kids on the other side of your group space.
- Explain that they will play a game similar to Red Light, Green Light!
- Read a clue from the list of Bible Story Review Clues below and choose a kid to answer.
  - If a kid guesses correctly, shout, "SWIM!" and instruct everyone to "swim" (take a step forward).
  - If a kid guesses incorrectly, shout, "SINK!" and instruct everyone to "sink" (take a step backward). Invite another kid to try to find the answer to the clue.
- Repeat with each Bible Story Review Clue, and celebrate as kids make it to the end of the group area, with you.

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### Bible Story Review Clues:

- This is the book that today's Bible Story came from. (*Romans*)
- This is the person who wrote the letter that today's Bible Story came from. (*Paul*)
- When Paul met this Person on the road to Damascus, it changed everything. (*Jesus*)
- Bonus Question: This was another name that Paul went by. (*Saul*)
- Romans 12:2 (NIV) says, "Don't live the way this \_\_\_\_\_ lives." (*world*)
  - Romans 12:2 (NIV) says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this \_\_\_\_\_." (*world*)
- Romans 12:2 says (NIV), "Let your way of \_\_\_\_\_ be completely changed." (*thinking*)
  - Romans 12:2 (NIV) says, "Be transformed by the renewing of your \_\_\_\_\_." (*mind*)
- You can ask this Person to help change your thinking. (*God*)
- This word means: finding out what you should do and doing it. (*wisdom*)
- Today's Bottom Line is, "Never stop \_\_\_\_\_ in wisdom." (*growing*)

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job remembering today's Bible Story! Paul knew that as your way of thinking changes, everything changes! Wise choices start with wise thinking. Just because a thought pops into your head doesn't mean it's true! We can make a habit of thinking about our thoughts and asking if they are true. If you're struggling with difficult or anxious thoughts, you can always talk to a trusted adult to help point you to what's true. And you can always ask God for help too!



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## (1. SINK OR SWIM, CONTINUED)

As you go through life, you can continue to learn and grow and choose to fill your mind with good things—which is one way you can **never stop growing in wisdom.**"

*[Make It Personal] (Talk about an age-appropriate time when you felt down or sad or confused and how you changed your thinking to turn it around. Maybe you talked to a trusted adult or a friend, maybe you prayed to God, or maybe you filled your mind with some of your favorite things.)*



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### MADE TO PLAY

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



### 3. DIVE DEEP [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY] WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up the Memory Verse, James 1:5, using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

Bible Navigation Tips below.

*Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find "James" in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find James, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find James. Help the kids find the page. When they find James, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 1. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 5 in chapter 1.*

- Instruct the kids to stand in a circle.
- Repeat the Memory Verse together a few times.
- Instruct kids to take turns going around the circle, saying the Memory Verse one word at a time.
- If a kid forgets or uses the wrong word, direct them to "swim" down (sit down).
- Encourage the kids who are remaining to start the Memory Verse over from the beginning.
- Lead each round with a faster speed each time.
- Repeat a few times and celebrate the kids who remained in the game.
- Invite anyone who would like to recite or read the verse from the Bible.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Amazing job remembering this month's Memory Verse! This verse is a perfect reminder of how we can **never stop growing in wisdom**. There are so many ways to grow in wisdom—learning from other people, growing from our mistakes, or talking to God. Remember, you can always ask God for wisdom!"

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### 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: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Remind kids how important it is to talk to God and ask for wisdom before you make a choice.
- Give kids scenarios and encourage them to share how they could ask God for wisdom before making a choice:
  - first day of school
  - meeting a new friend
  - joining a sports team
  - being asked to do chores
  - deciding what to watch on TV
- Close your group time in prayer.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Before making *any* choice, it's a good idea to talk to God. It's an even better idea to talk to God and ask for wisdom! Remember, we should try to **never stop growing in wisdom**. Wise choices begin with wise thoughts, and when you follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside of you and guide you too! Let's ask God to help us grow in wisdom.

"Dear God, thank You for loving us so much. Remind us that wise choices start with wise thinking. Help us pay attention to our thoughts and choose things to fill our minds with – things that are good and that remind us of how amazing You are. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to share some of their favorite "good things" to fill their minds and their lives with!

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