



BIG IDEA:

**I CAN BE WISE BY
CHOOSING GOD**



BIBLE:

PROVERBS 3:1-8

GRADE:

4 - 7

WEEK:

4

ICEBREAKER

CANNONBALL BLASTER

INSTRUCTIONS: Give each kid one black balloon and a three-foot piece of string. Tie the balloon around each kid's ankle. Be sure the balloon hangs away from their leg. The kids will try to go around and pop other kids' balloons by stepping on their balloons while protecting theirs from being popped. No hands allowed!

SPECIAL NEEDS HACK: Make sure you provide noise-cancelling headphones or a separate space with sensory toys for kids who might feel anxiety about the balloons popping. You might also want to use a timer for this activity so that kids don't get overstimulated and can know when it's time to transition to the next activity.

One thing pirates are always worried about. . .cannonballs! If their cannonballs explode, their ship will sink!
Let's have a BLAST with this game . . . choose your step wisely!

QUESTION

WHERE DOES FAITH GO

The Bible tells us that faith is complete trust or confidence in someone or something, especially when we can't see the proof that that person or thing is there.

What are some things you have faith in?



We can have faith in our families, our friends, a teacher, or even the chair you're sitting in!

Today, we're going to talk about the absolute best place we can put our faith. Just like we've been talking about this entire month, where we put our faith is an important choice we have to make on our adventure.

BIBLE STORY

WISDOM AND FAITH

INSTRUCTIONS: Set up the two planks from the previous weeks to share today's Bible story from Proverbs 3:1-8. Have Captain Solly come out and read the passage dramatically from a printout you have rolled up inside a bottle. You can also have some pensive music playing.

Captain Solly, that was a beautiful letter with incredibly wise advice! Did you write that?

Captain Solly: Me wishes. I found it floating by me ship as we dropped the anchor this mornin'.

Ah, I thought it sounded familiar. Solly, that's from the Bible, found in the book of Proverbs.

Captain Solly: Blimey. No wonder it touched me soul. But I don't know what it means. Ye will explain it, right? [Sits down with the kids.]



Yes, of course! So, these verses you just read are all about who you should trust when the choice is between you or God.

Who do you think you should trust?

That was an easy question! Of course, we should trust God more. But let me tell you, it's easier said than done!

When are some times when choosing to trust God is harder to do than just doing whatever you want?

Even though we know God is the best choice, in the moment, we might be afraid or even too lazy to choose the right thing to do.

That's why this Bible passage keeps telling us to remember what we've been taught and to rely not on our own instincts and knowledge, but to always go back to what God says in the Bible for direction.

Okay, it's time to choose our wise adventure by walking one of these two planks:

1. The Wise Plank: Seek God's instruction first for everything in your life.
2. The Unwise Plank: Trust yourself. You're smart!

Which plank should we walk across based on what we talked about today?



Let's pretend this baking soda is like our faith, and this first container represents us. When we put our faith in ourselves, not much happens. [*Pour some baking soda into the container with water.*] See? It sort of just sinks to the bottom and makes the liquid cloudy.

This second container represents God, though, and when we put our faith in God, the reaction is very different. Let's check it out. [*Pour some baking soda into the container with vinegar.*]

What was different that time?

Yes! Instead of the baking soda sinking to the bottom, it rose to the top and created bubbles. It's like finding all this sunken treasure suddenly floating to the surface and overflowing!

It's good to believe in yourself and trust yourself, too. But unless our faith in God is greater and comes first, we can't expect to get very far on our own!

When we choose to put our faith in God on our adventure, God can unlock all sorts of wonderful things for us . . . things we didn't even know were possibilities!

You are a treasure, but the greatest treasure is found by putting our faith in God. Isn't it a wonderful comfort to know that **I can be wise by choosing God?**



BIG IDEA

I CAN BE WISE BY CHOOSING GOD

Yo-ho-ho, mateys! How lucky me finds that bottle today? It's going to help me as I ready meself and me crew to sail into the sunset on me sea rover! Me crew needs to swab the deck and set sail smartly with all the doubloons we've found on this adventure.

Before I weigh anchor though, **which deckhand will come to help me set sail today?** [Choose a volunteer to come help reveal the Big Idea on the sail.]

Our Big Idea today is: **I can be wise by choosing God.**

OBJECT LESSON

SUNKEN TREASURE

INSTRUCTIONS: *Fill one clear container halfway with water and another clear container halfway with vinegar. Prepare two small bags of baking soda. Dump one whole bag of baking soda into the water. It will do nothing but settle at the bottom. Dump a little bit of the other bag of baking soda in the vinegar, and there will be a bubbly reaction. Watch this video for reference.*

PRETEEN HACK: *Have a couple of your preteens dress up as scientists to help you with this part of the lesson. If you can get them white "lab coats" or even just safety goggles and long rubber gloves, that will add to the fun. If possible, do this with them before group time or at least make sure they know what to do and when so the timing and the teaching line up.*



ACTIVITY

SHIPWRECKED LIST

INSTRUCTIONS: *Divide the group into small groups of three or four kids. Give each of the groups a poster and markers. Have each group draw a large boat, and inside it, write or draw a list of at least ten things they would want with them if they knew they would be out at sea for one month.*

I don't know how your boats are staying afloat with all those things you've managed to bring on your month-long sea voyage.

But oh wait, a mean, old seagull flew by and snatched something from your stash! What did it take? *[Have the kids cross out one item from their list.]*

Well, it's a good thing you brought lots of supplies. What's that? Cannon fire! One side of your ship got hit and you lost two things this time! *[Have the kids cross off two more items.]*

That was awful, but thank goodness you were able to save the more important things. Ah! Pirates have come on board to pillage and plunder, and they got away with three of your things! *[Have the kids cross off three things.]*

You brave voyagers are not having a good day because . . . guess what? Now, your ship is going down and you're shipwrecked on a deserted island! **You managed to save only one thing from your ship. What is it?** *[Have the kids cross out everything but one thing.]*

Why did you choose this item to be the last remaining item?

The things that are most important to us are what we cherish, protect, and hold on to at all costs. We need to remember to choose God in the same way!



MEMORY VERSE

EPHESIANS 5:15 (NIV)

INSTRUCTIONS: Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/Ephesians5-15.

Let's practice this month's memory verse together!

"Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise."

