



BIG IDEA:

I CAN BE WISE BY CHOOSING
TO DO GOOD



BIBLE:

PSALM 1

GRADE:

RRR - 7

WEEK:

3

ICEBREAKER

CAPTAIN'S ORDERS

INSTRUCTIONS: Have Captain Solly (the Big Idea character) lead this activity. Designate one section of the room with painter's tape to be the brig. Have the captain demonstrate each of the commands below. Then, start the game. The captain will call out any one of the commands at a time and the last person to join in the action must go to the brig (have other leaders help spot them). Have Captain Solly make fun comments while the kids are carrying out the commands.

SPECIAL NEEDS HACK: Make sure to model the commands as you call them out so it's easier for kids to recall each of the motions. You could also simplify this activity and play it like you would a game of "Simon Says."

Oy, me hearties! Well, you done it. This ship is nowhere near ready to sail! But don't worry, Cap'n Solly is here. Just follow me orders and you'll be fine. Each time I say one of the special pirate commands, ye must do what I show you.

Roll call: Form a single file line, salute, and say, "Aye-aye, captain!" The crew may not lower their salute until the captain salutes back and says, "At ease."

Crow's nest: Pretend to look through a spyglass.

Swab the deck: Pretend to mop.

Shark attack: Dance and sing the song, "Baby Shark."

Break time: Go tag someone in the brig.

Sailor overboard: Pretend to swim around.

Drop anchor: Lie on their backs with legs up and act like an anchor.

Row to shore: Pretend to row a boat while singing, "Row, row, row your boat."
Well done, lassies and laddies! Ye all are in ship-shape now!



POLL

PIRATE CHOICES

What would be a good thing to do in each of the following situations?

A fellow pirate fell down and skinned their knee, but the galley crew just told you dinner is ready, and if you're late, the captain will be angry!

You accidentally dropped the first mate's sword into the ocean.

The first mate thinks it was one of your shipmates, so it looks like you're off the hook. A new matey just joined your ship's crew and is doing everything wrong.

Today, we are going to talk about how wise choices and the right choices are almost always the same things.

BIBLE STORY

WISDOM AND ACTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS: Set up the two planks from last week to share today's Bible story from Psalm 1. Read the Bible passage or ask one or more volunteers to help you.

Let's read Psalm 1:1.

What do you think "blessed" means?

A lot of times, people think of blessings as only the good things that we have in our life, such as health, family, food, and other comforts. But we can be blessed even when we don't have everything we want. In some translations of the Bible, they use the word "happy" for "blessed." Now, it might not always feel that way, but living the way God wants us to is how we can be truly happy, because only God knows what the absolute best is for us!



Read Psalm 1:2. What does a blessed person delight in?

Exactly! God's Law. For us, we could say that means pretty much anything that God says in the Bible. Not only do they obey God's instructions, but they also love having the chance to listen to God!

Let's keep going. **What does Psalm 1:3 say?**

Someone who delights in what God says and follows what God says to do is like a strong tree. But not just any tree — a tree that is planted by a stream. That means the tree gets plenty of water and nutrients and is less likely to wither away.

In pirate terms, we will be a ship that can't be sunk!

But check out Psalm 1:4-6. What happens if we choose not to live by God's word?

Someone who disobeys God and doesn't love what God has to say is like a plant with no root that can easily be blown away. Again, in pirate speak, a ship that strays off course.

Psalm 1 shows us the difference between people who try to make wise decisions and those who don't. The people who make wise choices obey God because they truly love God and believe God knows what's best for them.

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

The Wise Plank: Spend more time with God and learn what the Bible says.

The Unwise Plank: Ignore what the Bible says and do whatever feels right to us at the moment.

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



In Matthew 19, there's a story about a very rich man who asked Jesus what good thing he needed to do to go to heaven.

He told Jesus that he obeyed all the commandments, so he must be a good person! But then Jesus told him to go and sell all his things and give them to the poor, and that answer made the man sad.

It's not that Jesus didn't like rich people, Jesus just knew the man's heart. The rich man was obeying the commandments, but only with action and not his whole heart.

It's important to understand what motivates us to do good. Sometimes, it's because it makes us feel good. Or maybe we want a reward or a compliment.

Or it might even be that we don't want to get in trouble.

But the main reason we should make a wise choice is that it's what God wants us to do. And we can't go wrong when we're obeying God because God knows what's best!

DISCUSSION

- What does "blessed" mean?
- What does a blessed person delight in?
- What does Psalm 1 compare a "righteous" person to?
How about a "wicked" person?
- Read James 3:17. What are some words to describe the wisdom that comes from God?
- Why do we need God's wisdom to do good?
- What might be an example of the wrong kind of wisdom?
- What is something good you can do this week?



BIG IDEA

I CAN BE WISE BY CHOOSING TO DO GOOD

Avast, ye! It's Captain Solly again with another Big Idea this week! Cap'n Solly spends most days on me ship, lookin' at the briny deep from the crow's nest, and searching for doubloons. Well, yesterday us buccaneers mapped a treasure out and, shiver me timbers! The loot was huge! Now, me has to choose what to do with my doubloons. What's a pirate to do: Use the doubloons to buy me a shiny ship, or help me other mateys out? Let's see our new Big Idea!

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 to do good.**

REFLECTION

WISE ON THE INSIDE

INSTRUCTIONS: *Divide the kids into groups of three or four and discuss a good deed someone might do. Then, encourage them to talk about all the reasons — both good and bad — that a person might do that good deed. Have them share their discussion with the large group.*

PRETEEN HACK: *Name a good deed that people do and write it on a board or large piece of paper. Then hand out two different colored sticky notes to each kid and a pen. Have them write out one good reason people might do this deed, and a less noble reason. Have them put their responses on the board then discuss as a group. Do this a few more times with a different good deed.*



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."

