



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
AUGUST 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**K-5**  
STARTER

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

**NOTE:** This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.

### 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.

### PRELUDE: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSzi> for a visual on some of the activities.

### SMALL GROUP

**15**  
MIN

#### SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Early Arriver  
Opening Activity

### LARGE GROUP

**35**  
MIN

#### STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener  
Worship  
Bible Story  
Bottom Line  
What's Our Part in the Story?  
Prayer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

#### GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Eight-Legged Wisdom  
Application Activity: Brain Power  
Memory Verse Activity: Verse Tower  
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

### HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)  
Devotionals for Kids  
Parent Cue App



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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. Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit guiding you to make wise choices. Pray for the kids of your group to be open to feeding their brains with good things that draw them close to God and point them toward loving God and others.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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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.

### 1. EARLY ARRIVER

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, "Today Years Old" Activity Page, and pens or markers

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Greet kids with a fist bump or high-five as they arrive.
- Encourage kids who have brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Show kids the "Today Years Old" Activity Page.
- Set out the pens or markers.
- One at a time, read a fact.
- Pause after reading each fact to invite kids to initial next to it if the fact is new to them, meaning they just learned about it.
- After reading through all of the facts and inviting kids to initial them, invite kids to share additional information, facts, or life lessons they have learned recently.
  - You can fill in their responses, or invite them to do it.
- One by one, read through the newly added facts.
- Again, invite kids to initial the facts that are new to them.
- Ask kids where they get information and learn new things. (*the Internet, friends, school, ads, etc.*)



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



### 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Chenille wires (pipe cleaners)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out the chenille wires (pipe cleaners).
- Invite kids to guess how many pipe cleaners there are. (It's okay if you don't know!)
- Show the kids how to twist the ends of two pipe cleaners together, attaching them to one another.
- Challenge kids to work together to twist them together to form "the world's longest pipe-cleaner line."
- Encourage kids to keep working until all of the pipe cleaners from the pile have been used.
- Stretch out their pipe cleaner line to see how far it will reach!
- Roll up the line and set it aside for later.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job working together! This pipe cleaner line you twisted together is enormous! What would we need to make this line grow even more? (*more pipe cleaners*) Imagine if we added enough for this line to reach the [parking lot, main entrance, or other identifying area at your location]?"

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Never stop growing in wisdom.

"Did you know that when you learn new facts, see new places, hear new songs, and eat new foods, your brain actually grows? It creates new neural pathways for new experiences—these are like tiny roads that connect one thought or feeling to another. If we stretched out these pathways that wind around inside our brain, it would reach more than 500,000 miles!

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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James 1:5, NIV

**[Transition]** "This month we've discovered that growing in knowledge isn't the same as growing in wisdom. Today, we'll find out how to use your minds to grow in wisdom!"

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Wisdom—Finding out what you should do and doing it

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

### BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.



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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. EIGHT-LEGGED WISDOM

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Prepared Bible, "Octopus Template" Activity Page, device with Internet access, tape loops, and blindfolds

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the group around the device to view the video of an octopus opening a jar.
  - [bit.ly/3UeFxIM](https://bit.ly/3UeFxIM) (or similar)



- NOTE: If you do not have the option to watch the video during group time, view it ahead of time and be prepared to describe it to the kids.*
- Tell kids that octopi (or octopuses) are very intelligent because they have nine brains - one in their center and one in each tentacle, and they use those brains to do impressive things like: escape jars, fit through mazes, and face new challenges. All of these experiences make them wise.
- Use the tape loops on the back of the heads of both octopuses to attach the head of each octopus from the "Octopus Template" Activity Page on the opposite sides of your group space. (Attach tape loops if the tape loops weren't attached prior to group time.)
  - If using wall space is not possible, lay out each "Octopus Template" Activity Page on the floor with space between them.
- Divide your group into two teams.
- Direct each team to line up across from one of the octopus heads.
- Place the eight tape-looped (if desired) octopus tentacles from the "Octopus Template" in front of each group on the floor.
- Give a blindfold to the first kid on each team and direct them to put it on.
- Instruct the kid wearing the blindfold on each team to pick up a tentacle from the "Octopus Template" Activity Page off the floor with tape loops on the back.
- When you say "go," direct the kids to move toward their team's octopus and try to attach the tentacle to it, similar to a game of Pin the Tail on the Donkey.
- Once a kid has done their best to place their tentacle, instruct them to remove their blindfold, see how close they were to putting the tentacle on accurately, and return to their team.
- Direct the first kid to pass the blindfold to the next kid in line.
- Instruct the next kid to put the blindfold on, grab a tentacle with tape loops on it, move toward their team's octopus, and try to put the tentacle on.
- Continue until each team has attached all eight of their tentacles.
- Either celebrate the team with the closest tentacles attached as the winner or identify individual kids who attached tentacles the closest as the winners.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Wisdom—Finding out what you  
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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## (1. EIGHT-LEGGED WISDOM, CONTINUED)

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"We've been diving deep into wisdom this month! One of the wisest creatures in the ocean is the octopus because of how they adapt to new situations—they keep learning and applying their knowledge in new ways. As we encounter new situations, we can apply what we've learned in life to help us make wise choices.

"Let's remember what we discovered today. *(Use the marked Bible to read Romans 12:2 to the kids.)* As you can see, God wants us to **never stop growing in wisdom!**

"What are some ways we can be ready to make wise choices? *(Invite responses, like: memorizing God's Word, asking the Holy Spirit to guide us, hang out with wise people, ask wise people their advice when we need it, etc.)* Those are all great ways to **never stop growing in wisdom!**"



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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. BRAIN POWER

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Brain Templates" Activity Page, pens or markers, prepared yarn, scissors, school glue, and hand wipes

### WHAT YOU DO:

- *NOTE: If you did not already cut the yarn into smaller pieces, ask an older kid to help you prepare.*
- Give each kid a "Brain Template" Activity Page.
- Invite a volunteer to read the Bottom Line from the "Brain Template" Activity Page.
- Give each kid a pen or marker.
- Instruct them to write their name on the back of their "Brain Template" Activity Page. (Help younger kids as needed).
- Set out the yarn, glue, and scissors.
- Direct kids to apply the glue in a thin layer to one section of the brain, then choose a color yarn.
- Instruct the kids to swirl the yarn in any pattern onto that section, pressing down lightly so it sticks, cutting off the excess, or grabbing more pieces of the same color yarn, if necessary.
- Direct the kids to repeat with each section until they have a colorful, swirly mosaic.
- As kids are working, invite them to share ideas for how they can **never stop growing in wisdom.**
- Set the yarn brain creations aside to dry.
- Provide hand wipes for anyone who may need to clean up.

### 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

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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:

"Look at these colorful brains! It reminds me of how many different thoughts we all have! Many models of the human brain that focus on thinking use vibrant colors—just like you've created! Today, we heard about how God wants us to change our ways of thinking. We can create a new path in our brains—a new way of thinking. Just because a thought pops into our head doesn't mean that it's true!

"When we follow Jesus' example, read about wise people in the Bible, memorize verses, and spend time with wise people, our thinking can change! What is one wise habit you would like to focus on this week? (*Invite responses, like: choosing positive media, limiting time on social sites, cutting down on video game time, making plans with a wise friend, having a conversation with a wise grown-up, memorize a new verse, etc.*) These habits will help you **never stop growing in wisdom!**"

**[Make It Personal]** (*Share something you will do this week to cultivate a wise habit, something kids can do as well, like the suggestions above. If you are really benefiting already from a choice like those above, share how you started and how it has helped you grow in wisdom and follow Jesus better.*)



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25 MINUTES

## (\* 2. BRAIN POWER, CONTINUED)

*Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids*

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- How are you wiser than you used to be?
- When you spend time with wise people, what is the best way to share in their wisdom?
- What verse have you learned in the past year that has helped you **never stop growing in wisdom?**



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO PLAY

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



### 3. VERSE TOWER

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]  
WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, and Jenga® blocks (or similar)

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Look up this month's Memory Verse, James 1:5, in the Bible, and read it out loud to the group.
- Invite any other kids who would like to also read (or recite from memory) James 1:5.
- Circle the group around the Jenga blocks (or similar).
- Instruct the kids to work together to build up the tower by reciting one word from the verse and adding one block to the tower during their turn.
- Set out the Bible for kids to reference, if needed.
- Continue until all the blocks are used and the tower is complete.
  - You may need to recite the words from the verse several times.
- Challenge kids to take one stick away on each turn until the tower falls.
- Instruct the kids also to say the next word from James 1:5 before removing a block.
- Continue this way until the tower falls.
- Play as many rounds as time allows.

### 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

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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:

"What are some wise choices that build up? (Invite responses.) What choices could tear down? (Invite responses.)"

"During our game, it may have been hard to decide which block to pull, which choice would leave the tower standing. In real life, when you're not sure which is the wise choice, what can you do? (Invite responses, like: ask a trusted grown-up or wise friend, look for wisdom in what you've learned before, think about what might happen in the future if you make this choice, etc.)"

"And of course, when you don't know which choice to make, you can do exactly what our verse says and ask God to give us wisdom! What do you think that looks like? Does God write the answer in clouds in the sky? (Invite responses.)"

"Usually when God gives us wisdom, it comes through a wise friend or grown-up, through the Bible, through our previous skills and knowledge that we can apply to this situation. You might feel that a verse in a worship song helps you see the wise choice, or even feel that your thinking is changing, like our Bible Story reminded us to change the way we think. When you follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live with you and guide you."

"Be on the lookout for ways God is showing you how to **never stop growing in wisdom.**"





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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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:** Jar with a lid, strips of paper (or notecards), and pens or pencils

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give each kid a strip of paper (or notecard) and a pen (or pencil).
- Invite kids to think of an unwise choice they might be tempted to make this upcoming week.
  - If needed, prompt them with ideas like—when might you become impatient, lose your temper, or choose not to follow directions.
- Instruct the kids to write about or draw their unwise choice on their strips of paper—share that no one will see it.
- Instruct kids to fold up their papers and put them in the jar.
- When everyone has added theirs, screw the lid on tight.
- Close your group time in prayer.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

“Let’s plan to leave these unwise choices here in this jar. Unlike our friend the octopus, they’re not wise enough to get out on their own! When you’re tempted to make an unwise choice this week, remember to **never stop growing in wisdom**. Let’s ask God for help.

“Dear God, thank You for giving us wisdom so generously! Please help us to make the wise choice whenever we get the chance! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, send kids home with their “Brain Template” Activity Page and invite them to read the Bottom Line.

**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**

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**MONTHLY VIRTUE**

Wisdom—Finding out what you should do and doing it

**BASIC TRUTH**

I need to make the wise choice.



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## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

### SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

**(Choose one or both of these activities.)**

#### 1. EARLY ARRIVER

*Made to Connect:* an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Print "Today Years Old" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- Pens or markers, one for each kid

#### 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

*Made to Explore:* an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Chenille wires (pipe cleaners), a lot for each Small Group (see activity)

### GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

**(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)**

\* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.

#### 1. EIGHT-LEGGED WISDOM

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

*Made to Move:* an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible marked at Romans 12:2, one for each Small Group
- Print "Octopus Template" Activity Pages on two colors of cardstock and cut apart, two sets (in two different colors) for each Small Group
- Device with Internet access

- [bit.ly/3UeFxIM](https://bit.ly/3UeFxIM) (or similar)
- *NOTE: If you do not have the option to watch the video during group time, view it ahead of time and be prepared to describe it to the kids.*
- Tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Blindfolds, two for each Small Group
- Before group time:
  - Create several loops of tape.
  - Put the tape loops on every tentacle, as well as the octopus head from the "Octopus Template" Activity Page, so the head can be hung on the wall (if so desired) and the tentacles placed underneath by the kids.

#### \* 2. BRAIN POWER

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

*Made to Create:* an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Brain Template" Activity Page on cardstock, one for each kid
- Pens or markers, enough for each Small Group to share
- Yarn in a variety of colors, at least 4 different skeins for each Small Group
- Scissors, enough pairs for each Small Group to share
- School glue, enough for each Small Group to share
- Hand wipes, enough for each Small Group to share
- Before group time:
  - Cut the yarn into different-size pieces that will fit inside the section of the "Brain Templates" Activity Page.

#### 3. VERSE TOWER

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

*Made to Play:* an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible, one for each Small Group
- Jenga® blocks (or similar), one set for each Small Group



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## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

### 4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

*Made to Reflect:* an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Jar with a lid, one for each Small Group
- Strips of paper (or notecards), one for each kid
- Pens or pencils, one for each kid

#### HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**