



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What does it mean to be wise?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Wisdom is worth searching for.

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.

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

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship
Bible Story (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

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

DIVE DEEP

There's Always More to Explore

WEEK
ONE
AUGUST 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



Before kids arrive, take a few minutes to pray for wisdom for how to help your kids grab onto the difference between knowledge and wisdom today and that they would start to value the importance of wisdom in their lives.

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1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, blue crepe paper (or tape)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids as they arrive. If they brought an offering, direct them to place it in the container.
- Place blue crepe paper or tape in a straight line on the floor to represent an ocean shoreline.
- Point out the blue crepe paper (or tape) on the floor and explain it represents an ocean shoreline.
- Invite kids to share an ocean-related memory. Ask if anyone has been scuba diving or snorkeling before.
- When enough kids have arrived, ask everyone to line up shoulder-to-shoulder along the line.
 - The shoreline should be long enough for all the kids to fit, with 1-2 feet of space between each person.
- Challenge the kids to rearrange themselves alphabetically according to first names without stepping off the shoreline.
- When finished, check the order by having each kid say their name down the line.
- Repeat as time allows varying the order and adding more "Shoreline Line-Up" variations, such as some of the following ideas:
 - Challenge kids to play the game without speaking by coming up with other ways to communicate.
 - Assign each kid a number, then have everyone arrange themselves in numerical order.
 - Line up by birthday month, first letter of their middle name, or other ideas kids choose.

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: Prepared beach towels with “Flapjack Octopus Facts” Activity Page taped to the back

WHAT YOU DO:

- Spread out the prepared beach towels with “Flapjack Octopus Facts” attached on the floor throughout your group space with the Activity Page card facedown.
- Form groups of 2-3 kids (preferably girls with girls and boys with boys) and assign them to one of the towels.
- Invite each group to stand on their assigned towel. Make sure the side with the “Flapjack Octopus Fact” is on the back where kids cannot see it.
- Explain that teams will race to be the first to turn their towel completely over without anyone stepping off.
 - Kids will have to carefully step close together to different parts of the beach towel as they flip over one section at a time.
- Tell kids to look for the card taped to the other side of their towel.
- Once their team has successfully flipped their towel, they can remove the card and read the interesting fact about a sea creature that lives in the ocean.
- When each team has completed the task, invite them to take turns sharing their “Flapjack Octopus Fact.”

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James 1:5, NIrV

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Has anyone ever seen a Flapjack Octopus? *(Pause to let kids share.)* The Flapjack Octopus is an interesting creature, and maybe you learned something about it that you didn't already know. There's always more to learn about our amazing world that God created. Even more important is learning about God and what God says in the Bible. **[Transition] This month we're going to dive deep and explore what wisdom is all about. You're going to love what's coming next, so let's dive in.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Wisdom—Finding out what you should do and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

DIVE DEEP

There's Always More to Explore

WEEK
ONE
AUGUST 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the kids to gather in a circle.
- Tell kids that you will share a type of job or task such as a dog trainer.
- Go around the circle and ask each kid to share something that would be important for the person doing that task to know.
 - If your group is large, consider jotting them down because you'll need to remember the ideas that are shared.
- Share the first job (dog trainer), then go around the circle as kids share. After everyone has shared, ask the group to decide which of the ideas would be the most important and why.
- Repeat with a few additional jobs such as a barista, astronaut, circus clown, taxi driver, brain surgeon, or others you or the kids come up with.
- For the final round, ask kids what a person who wants to be wise needs to know.
- Challenge kids to explain the difference between being smart (being an expert on something) and being wise.
- Ask:
 - Would you say that people who are smart are also always wise? Why or why not?
 - How would you define wisdom in 10 words or less?
 - What are some wise choices you've made recently?
 - If you've made some unwise choices, what have you learned from that experience?
 - **[Make it Personal] Share an age-appropriate example of a time when you made an unwise choice as a kid. What did you learn from it that sticks with you even today?**

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MADE TO PLAY

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



2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, notecards, pens, and diving items of your choice; *Optional: water-soaked sponges in two different colors*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Open the Bible to Luke 2:41-52; Briefly review it by inviting kids who would like to take turns reading.
- Ask:
 - What is something that surprised you about this story?
 - What are some things Jesus did in this story that are similar to things we do today?
 - What's one thing you learned about Jesus from this story?
- Ask the kids to form partners (It's okay if they're a team of three). Give each pair a Bible, four note cards, and pens.
- Help kids locate Luke 2:41-52 in their Bibles.
- Explain that kids should work with their partners to read the passage, then write two true facts or statements about the events in the Bible story and two false statements about it.
- Give kids some time to read and write their ideas, then collect and shuffle all the notecards.
- Bring kids together and stand in a circle.
- Depending on the size of your group, create teams by counting off by 2s, 3s or 4s. There should be at least two kids with the same number.
- Place the two pieces of diving gear (or other items) in the center of the circle.
- Explain that you will read one of the true or false statements on a card, then you'll call out a number. The kids on each team who were assigned that number race to pick up the goggles (or other dive item) if the statement is true and the fins (or other dive item) if it's false.
- Award a point to the kid who is first to grab the appropriate item.
- Repeat with each card, keep track of each team's points, and celebrate the team with the most points.
- After the game, discuss the story being sure to emphasize that if Jesus searched for wisdom, then it's important for us to seek out wisdom, too.
- Ask:
 - How do we find wisdom?
 - How do you go from just knowing stuff to being wise?
 - Who do you know that can help you be wise?
 - How does the Bible help us be wise?
 - Why is wisdom worth searching for?
- *NOTE: Point out that even though we don't have many details about Jesus as a kid, the little bit that we have shows us that learning, understanding, and living out God's truth was important to Him. We don't know what specific things Jesus was learning and discussing at the temple, but He knew that God's Word was worth exploring and understanding. Like Jesus, we can do that, too.*

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DIVE DEEP



There's Always More to Explore

WEEK
ONE

AUGUST 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- What does it mean to be wise?
- Name some things we sometimes care about more than making wise choices. Why do you think we make those things more important?
- What questions do you think Jesus as a young boy about your age may have been asking the men at the temple?
- What's a question you would like to ask someone who is wise?

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MADE TO PLAY

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



4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, prepared beach balls, "James 1:5" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Invite kids to look up and read James 1:5 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Our verse is from James. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (New) So we know it's toward the back of the Bible. When they find James, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 1. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to then find verse 5 in chapter 1.*

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Wisdom—Finding out what you should do and doing it

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- After looking up and reading the verse together, ask:
 - How would you paraphrase James 1:5 in your own words?
 - How does God give us wisdom?
 - Name times when kids your age might need to ask God for wisdom.
 - How can you use your Bible to find wisdom in the choices you make? How might God use people in your life to give you wisdom?
 - What could keep you from being wise?
 - How can you know whether you're making a wise choice?
- Play a game to help kids memorize James 1:5.
- Spread the cards from the "James 1:5" Activity Page out on the floor, face down.
- Invite kids to form a large circle around the cards.
- Hand the duct-taped-covered beach balls to kids in various places around the circle.
- At your signal, direct the kids to begin rolling the beach balls across the circle and over the cards on the floor, back and forth, to get as many cards attached to each one as possible.
- When no more cards remain on the floor or the balls are covered, tell the group to stop rolling the beach balls.
 - If any cards remain and are difficult to pick up, quickly attach them by hand to a few of the beach balls.
- Direct the kids who are holding the beach balls to stand in different parts of your group area, then assign kids to each team as evenly as possible.
- Explain that teams will carefully remove all the cards from the ball then arrange as many sets of the verse cards in order as possible.
 - Provide a Bible for each team to look up James 1:5 if needed.
 - If any teams are missing cards to complete a full set, let them trade cards with other teams.
- When all the cards have been arranged, the team with the most complete sets is the winner.
- Invite the winning team to lead the others in saying James 1:5 together.

DIVE DEEP

There's Always More to Explore

WEEK
ONE

AUGUST 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal understanding
and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible

WHAT YOU DO

- Open your Bible to Psalm 119 as you share how this Psalm reminds us that we can turn to God's Word for help and wisdom.
- Point out that in every verse of Psalm 119, God's Word is mentioned at least one time. It's referred to as the law, statutes, precepts, decrees, word, commands, promises, and so on.
- Encourage kids once again to read through all of Psalm 119 on their own this week.
 - If helpful, remember the chapter reference by using the numbers 911 (119 backwards).
- Lead the group by reading Psalm 119:11-16 aloud as a prayer.
- Pause after each verse to let kids pray silently in agreement with the words you read.
- Close in prayer.

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HOME

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. JUST FOR FUN

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering Container
- Blue crepe paper or tape
- Before group time: spread out the crepe paper or lay out a tape line long enough for all the kids to fit with 1-2-feet of space between them.

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print and cut apart "Flapjack Octopus Facts" Activity Page, one card for every 2-3 kids
- Beach towel or large bath towel, one for every 2-3 kids
- Clear packing tape
- Before group time: Use the tape to attach at least one of the "Flapjack Octopus Facts" to the back of each towel. Use all of the cards. It's okay if some have more than others.

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.)

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles
- Notecards, four for every two kids
- Pens
- Different diving or theme-related items such as goggles, snorkel, or swim fins; two different items for each Small Group
- *Optional:* Use two sponges of different colors instead

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[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:

- Bibles, one for each kid
- Beach ball, one for every 3-5 kids
- Duct tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Print "James 1:5" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, tens set for each Small Group
- Before group time: Wrap duct tape with sticky side out around each beach ball so that a significant amount of the ball is covered.

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible



WEEK
ONE
AUGUST 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

GETTING READY

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

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.**