



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### 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, NIRV

### 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> or 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: Wise Ways  
Application Activity: Wisdom Water  
Memory Verse Activity: Growing Wisdom  
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

### HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

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



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
AUGUST 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**K-1**

**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

**1. EARLY ARRIVER**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, paper plates, and playdough

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Greet each kid by name as they arrive.
- Encourage kids who have brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Ask kids to take turns sharing things that live under the sea.
- When enough kids have arrived, give each one a paper plate and a lump of playdough.
- Direct kids to create an underwater object with their playdough (fish, coral, oysters, treasures, divers, pearls, etc.).
- Invite kids to share their creations with the group.

**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.**



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
AUGUST 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**K-1**

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

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:** "Underwater Adventure Mad Libs" Activity Page, pen or pencil

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Tell kids they are going to help you form a silly story by thinking of different words to help you fill in the blanks.
- Read the first word clue from the "Underwater Adventure Mad Libs" Activity Page, (describing word).
- Choose a kid to provide a word.
- Fill in the word the kid shares in the blank.
- Repeat until all of the clue words have been provided.
- Read the funny adventure to the kids.
- Repeat the activity with the second copy of the "Underwater Adventure Mad Libs" Activity Page.
  - Direct the kids to provide different suggestions this time around.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Those were some silly stories! Did you notice I asked you for the same type of words both times? And the story changed both times? The same story changed when we had different words! **[Transition] Today we're going to discover how the words and things we think about can change EVERYTHING! Let's go!**"

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Never stop growing in wisdom.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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### MONTHLY VIRTUE

Wisdom—Finding out what you  
should do and doing it

### BASIC TRUTH

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WEEK  
**FOUR**  
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SMALL GROUP  
**K-1**

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. WISE WAYS [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into four teams.
- Direct each team to gather in different parts of your

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### BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

- group space.
- Secretly assign each team something to act out based on the suggestions below.
  - watching a show
  - praying to God
  - reading the Bible
  - talking with a grown-up
- Encourage the teams to talk about and practice how to act out that action for the other groups to guess.
- Challenge each team to come up with dialogue and act out their scene in a way that includes all the kids from their team.
  - Kids can narrate, be characters with dialogue, become "props," etc.
- After groups have had enough time to practice their scenes, give each team a turn to perform their action.
- After each team has finished acting, encourage the other groups to guess what their prompt was.
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle once everyone has acted and the prompts have been guessed.
- Ask which team had the prompt about watching a show, and invite that team to stand.
- Ask the other kids who didn't act out that prompt what they remembered about the scene that team acted out.
- Invite the team who acted out the prompt to sit down.
- Open the Bible and read the first part of Romans 12:2 to the group.
  - *Don't live the way this world lives. (NIV)*
  - *Do not conform to the pattern of this world. (NIV)*
- Talk about how the shows we watch, the music we listen to, and the people we talk to tell us different things. Remind kids what God tells us – that we were made to love God and love others.
- Ask which team had the prompt about praying.
- Invite that team to stand (or raise both their arms).
- Ask the other kids who didn't act out that prompt what they remembered about the scene that team acted out.
- Invite the team who acted out that prompt to sit down (or lower their arms).
- Talk about how we can talk to God about anything. We can ask God for wisdom and God will give it to us!
- Ask which team had the prompt about reading the Bible, and invite that team to stand.



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**K-1**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## (1. WISE WAYS, CONTINUED)

- Ask the other kids who didn't act out that prompt what they remembered about the scene that team acted out.
- Invite the team who acted out that prompt to sit down.
- Talk about how God has given us the Bible so we can read it and learn about God and God's ways.
- Ask which team had the prompt about talking with a grown-up, and invite that team to stand.
- Ask the other kids who didn't act out that prompt what they remembered about the scene that team acted out.
- Invite the team that acted out the prompt to sit down.
- Talk about how God has given us grown-ups in our lives who follow Jesus so we can learn from them.
- After you've reviewed all four acting prompts, read the next part of Romans 12:2.
  - *Let your way of thinking be completely changed. (NirV)*
  - *Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (NIV)*
- Remind kids we can ask God to help us remember what's true. We can discover what God says is true from the Bible, and we can talk to grownups and friends we trust to show us how to think about how we can grow in wisdom.
- Read the last part of Romans 12:2.
  - *Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect. (NirV)*
  - *Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (NIV)*
- Remind kids that God has given us lots of different ways we can grow in wisdom. When we do wise things, we will start to think more wisely! And thinking wisely is just thinking more and more like God does!

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wise choices start with wise thinking. We just saw a lot of different ways that God can use to change the way we think! When we do that, we will **never stop growing in wisdom!** God wants us to think wisely and make wise choices so we will live the best lives because God loves us so much."



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PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



## 2. WISDOM WATER

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Prepared Bible, tablecloth, zip-top snack bag, prepared cardstock, permanent marker, clear bucket or bowl, and water

### 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 DO:

- Set out the tablecloth.
- Place the bowl or bucket in the middle of the tablecloth.
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle around the bowl or bucket.
- On the piece of prepared cardstock, draw a simple stick figure with a straight face and a large thought bubble with plenty of room to write inside.
- Write "Romans 12:12" in the speech bubble.
- Use the marked Bible to read Romans 12:2 to the group.
- Ask:
  - Who should we ask for help? (God!)
  - What can we do to help us grow in wisdom? (read the Bible, talk to wise people, think about good things, pray to ask God for wisdom, etc.)
  - Who does God send to those who follow Jesus to help guide us? (the Holy Spirit)
  - What are some things you can do to help you make wise choices? (hang out with wise people, talk to trusted adults, read the Bible, choose stories or games or songs that help us focus on good things, etc.)
  - What are things that make it difficult to make wise choices? (hanging out with foolish people, complaining, choosing to be grumpy, thinking about things that are not true or that are wrong, etc.)
  - Write these ideas on the cardstock, around the stick figure.
- Place the cardstock in the snack bag and seal it tightly, removing as much air as possible.
- Use the permanent marker directly on the bag to trace over the stick figure and the outline of the thought bubble. Make the following changes to the image on the bag:
  - Give the stick figure a smile.
  - Write, "Ask God" inside the thought bubble.
- Invite a kid to help you pour the water into the bowl or bucket.
- Dip the card enclosed in the bag into the water.
  - When you dip the card in, you should just see the stick figure with a smile, the thought bubble, and the words "Ask God" in the thought bubble!
  - If the kids aren't seeing the smile or the "Ask God," you may need to adjust the angle kids are viewing from.
  - See the video link or scan the QR code below for reference: <https://bit.ly/3QN3AOr>





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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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25 MINUTES

## (2. WISDOM WATER, CONTINUED)

- Explain that when we ask God for help, God can help us make wise choices. We can change our way of thinking from wrong things to true, wise things.
- Give each child a chance to dip the card and say: **"Never stop growing in wisdom!"**

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"The stick figure on our card got a big smile on his face when he asked God for wisdom. When we ask God for wisdom, we can discover new ways to think about things that are true and good and will help us make wise choices.

"To change the way we think, we can read or listen to stories about wise people in the Bible, memorize Scripture, talk to God, talk to trusted adults, and read, listen to, or watch good things! When we do those things, we will **never stop growing in wisdom!** The more we fill our heads with the good things of God, the easier it will be for us to make wise choices!"

**[Make It Personal]** (Share an age-appropriate example of when you had to ask God for help to make a wise choice. Share what helped you make a wise choice and the outcome.)



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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



### \*3. GROWING WISDOM

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, "Wisdom" Activity Page, number two pencils, and Silly Putty®

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Use the Bible to read the Memory Verse, James 1:5, to the group.
- Invite any kids who would like, to try to read the verse, recite it from memory, or repeat it after you to do so.
- Give each kid a card from the "Wisdom" Activity Page.
- See if kids can read the word on the card from the "Wisdom" Activity Page—even though it's backward. (*wisdom*)
- Give each kid a number two pencil.
- Direct the kids to trace over the letters from the word "wisdom" a few times on their card—making the lines darker and darker.
- Give each kid some Silly Putty.
- Show the kids how to flatten the putty over the word on their card, then carefully lift it to reveal the word on their silly putty.
- Direct them to stretch/bend the putty to watch "wisdom" grow.
- Set the cards and silly putty aside for kids to take home later.

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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:**

"We should **never stop growing in wisdom!** It's not always easy to make wise choices, but remember that making wise choices starts with wise thinking! The more we fill our minds with the amazing things God has put on this Earth and given us, the easier it will be to make wise choices!"





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**FOUR**  
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SMALL GROUP  
**K-1**

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:** Playdough from Early Arriver activity, and paper plate

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Show the kids a lump of playdough on the paper plate.
- Remind them how the lump of dough can be changed and be shaped into something new.
- Demonstrate by showing the kids what the playdough looks like first as a lump, then make it a sphere, then a snake, then a pyramid, etc.
- While you're forming it, talk about how God loves us and is always ready to help us grow in wisdom. When our thinking changes and becomes wise, everything changes.
- Close the group time in prayer.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Dear God, thank You for loving us and creating us so wonderfully! Help us remember that You will give us wisdom when we ask. When we have to make a tough choice or a hard decision, we can always turn to You! Thank You, God! We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, remind the kids to share how their "Wisdom" Activity Page and silly putty can be used to grow the word "wisdom."

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

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. EARLY ARRIVER

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

- Offering container
- Paper plates, one for each kid
- Playdough, one lump for each kid

#### 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Print "Underwater Adventure Mad Libs" Activity Page on paper, two for each Small Group
- Pen or pencil, one for each Small Group

### 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 #3.

#### 1. WISE WAYS

[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, one for each Small Group

#### 2. WISDOM WATER

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bible marked at Romans 12:2, one for each Small Group
- Plastic tablecloth, one for each Small Group
- Snack-sized zip-top bag, one for each Small Group
- Cardstock, one piece for each Small Group
- Permanent marker, one for each Small Group
- Scissors, one for each Small Group
- Clear bucket or bowl, one for each Small Group
- Water, enough to fill the bucket or bowl so the bag can be dipped
- Before group time:
  - Preview how the activity works: <https://bit.ly/3QN3AOR>
  - Cut the piece of cardstock to fit inside the zip-top bag, but don't stick it inside yet!
  - Fill the bucket or bowl with enough water so that the zip-top bag can be dipped in it.

#### \* 3. GROWING WISDOM

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bible, one for each Small Group
- Print "Wisdom" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, one card for each kid
- Number two pencils, one for each kid
- Silly Putty®, enough for each kid to have some to cover a small word or picture

#### 4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Playdough from Early Arriver activity
- Paper plate, one for each Small Group

### 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**.