



## WEEK ONE – AUGUST 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *Growin' Up* | Luke 2:41-52

**Bottom Line:** *Wisdom is worth searching for*

**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)*

**Virtue:** *Wisdom – Finding out what you should do + doing it*

**Basic Truth:** *I can trust God no matter what*

**Series Overview:** Sometimes it's easy to know what the wise choice would be. Let's say you're choosing between having expired milk with your cereal or eating some fruit and a sandwich. You probably aren't reaching for the milk! What about choosing to stay up all night when you have a road trip the next day, or getting some sleep because you're driving first? Every decision you make starts out with a choice. As we "dive deep" into the Bible this month, we'll discover that God is always there to help us make wise choices. God has given us people who can help us make those wise choices too.

**Bottom Line: Wisdom is worth searching for.** Think back to when you were a kid, playing pretend as you went off in search of hidden treasures. Remember the joy and excitement you got as you dug deeper and deeper into the clues—and maybe even the earth? Searching for wisdom, in a way, is like finding that hidden treasure. When we find God's wisdom, its riches are infinitely more valuable.

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## 9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

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### Opening Small Group Activity

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

### What You Need: Blindfold

### What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Ask for one kid to volunteer to start the game.
- Instruct the volunteer to stand away from the group and close their eyes (or, optionally, wear a blindfold).
- Change one thing about the room or someone in the room.
- Do so quietly and encourage the kids who are gathered not to give it away.
- Start with more obvious changes, then, as rounds continue, make changes that are less obvious. For example:
  - Choose one kid to leave the group area.
  - Turn chairs or other items a different way.
  - Move the placement of a rug.
  - Direct certain kids to switch places.
  - Invite kids to help decide what should change!
- Invite the kid back to the group area and open their eyes (or remove their blindfold).
- Instruct the kid to try to guess and find out what is different.
  - If the kid guesses correctly, encourage them to choose the next kid to step away from the group (or wear the blindfold).
  - If the kid doesn't guess correctly, invite the group to share what's different and choose another kid to go next.
- Continue to play as time and interest allow.

**What You Say:**

“Great job with that game! It was fun looking for what was different. Sometimes it was easier to find, and sometimes it was a little harder! *[Transition]* **Today, we’re going to hear about a very special Someone who went searching for a very special something.** Let’s go!”

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**9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP**

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**Large Group Overview:** We start the month in Luke 2:41-52. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus had just traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast and were headed home. Except . . . Jesus was no longer with them. Instead, He was at the temple, listening and asking questions. Jesus knew how important it was to gain wisdom. When we ask God for wisdom, we will find it too.

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**9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP**

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**Looking for Treasure**

**[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]**

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

**What You Need:** “Looking for Treasure” Activity Page; “Looking for Treasure Leader Guide” Activity Page; floor tape; timer; and prepared, hidden envelopes

**What You Do:**

- If you have not already done so, ask the kids to close their eyes while you “hide” or set out the prepared envelopes around your group space.
- Use the floor tape to create two large circles about two feet wide.
- Divide the group into two teams.

- Instruct each team to choose a circle to be their “base.”
- Direct each group to choose two or three kids at a time to be searchers who will search for an envelope.
- Share that the searchers will have two minutes to retrieve one envelope, then return to the “base” in the special way you call out.
- Set a timer for two minutes.
- Invite the first two or three kids from each team to search for an envelope together.
- Once searchers have found an envelope, instruct them to return to their team’s “base” in a special way:
  - hopping on one foot
  - crab walking
  - “swimming”
  - walking on tiptoes
  - skipping
- Instruct the group to choose two or three new kids to be searchers.
- Repeat with the different two or three kids from each team until all envelopes have been retrieved.
- Instruct teams to open up their envelopes.
- Direct both teams to come together as one large group to read and put the story events in the correct order.
- Verify the order using the “Looking for Treasure Leader Guide” Activity Page.
- If needed, quickly read the events from the page in order as kids scramble to re-order their strips.

**What You Say:**

*“It was wonderful watching everyone work together today—both as a team and as a whole group! Finding those envelopes were a lot like finding knowledge. You were looking for information. But putting the pieces of our Bible Story in the right order was a lot like seeking wisdom. It’s one thing to have knowledge, but knowing what to do with it makes all the difference.”*

*“We learned that when Mary and Joseph found Jesus, He was with the teachers, listening and asking questions. If Jesus searched for wisdom, then it’s important for us to seek out wisdom too! In every situation, **[Bottom Line]** wisdom is worth searching for.”*

***Make It Personal]** (Explain a kid-friendly time when you had to be wise with the knowledge you had. Maybe you learned something from someone and applied it to your own life. Maybe you learned from a mistake and did better next time. Maybe you prayed and asked God for wisdom.)*

## Signals

### [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Bibles

### What You Do:

- DTeach the kids a few signals that scuba divers use when underwater!
  - **Octopus:** Back of hand covering mouth, all fingers pointing outward from mouth and wiggling
  - **Shark:** Hands flat together on top of head, like a fin
  - **Turtle:** Hands flat on top of each other, palms down, waving thumbs up and down together
  - **Watch me:** Point at divers (kids) with one finger, point at own eyes with two fingers
  - **You try now:** Gesture with open palm up towards kids
- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up the Memory Verse, James 1:5, using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
  - **Finding verses with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders:** Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks

like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find “James” in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find James, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find James. Help the kids find the page. When they find James, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 1. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 5 in chapter 1.

- Read the verse a few times together.
- Ask kids to help you come up with some *signals* (or hand signs) to represent this month’s Memory Verse.
- After a few practices with signals AND words, invite the kids to practice making the signals and not saying the words.

### **What You Say:**

*“Scuba divers can’t communicate with words underwater, so they have to use signals to communicate! You all did a great job coming up with signals to represent our Memory Verse. Just like it says in James chapter 1, verse 5. (Read the verse one more time to the kids.) While we can find wisdom from others and from our mistakes, we can also always find it from God! All we need to do is ask. There are many ways to seek wisdom, and after all, **[Bottom Line] wisdom is worth searching for.**”*

*As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to share our Bottom Line for today + give out Parent Cue cards!*