



## WEEK TWO – AUGUST 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *See Yourself | Matthew 7:1-5*

**Bottom Line:** *When you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice*

**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:** **When you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice.** It’s easy to see something that others have done to wrong you. But when we wrong someone else? That’s not always easy to see. It’s important that we take the time to examine ourselves so we can love others the way God wants us to . . . and so we can continue growing in wisdom.

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

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**Opening Small Group Activity**

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

**What You Need:** Hula-Hoops

**What You Do:**

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Set out a few Hula-Hoops on the floor
- Instruct the kids to “swim” around the group space, avoiding the Hula-Hoops (or tape squares).
- Periodically, call out: “Shark!”
- When you call out “shark!” direct the kids to get into a Hula-Hoop (or tape square) to be “safe.”
- Establish the rule that only the first two kids to get inside the Hula-Hoop (or tape square) can remain.
- Call out “swim” to start the first round, and call out “shark!” periodically.
- Instruct the kids who don’t make it in a Hula-Hoop (or tape square) to be out for that round.
- Ask kids who are out to help you remove one Hula-Hoop (or peel up one tape square) before starting the next round.
- Continue until there are a few winners.
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

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

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**Large Group Overview:** In Week 2, we head to Matthew 7:1-5, which is part of one of Jesus’ most famous recorded messages, the Sermon on the Mount.

Throughout this sermon, Jesus touched on many important lessons. One of these truths was that we shouldn't judge other people. When we judge others without first looking at ourselves, we miss out on the work God is doing in us to shape us and help us grow.

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

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### **Word Pictures**

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

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

**What You Need:** poster board, and coloring supplies

#### **What You Do:**

- Divide the kids into two groups.
- Give each group a large piece of butcher paper or poster board.
- Set out the coloring supplies for the two groups to share.
- Write one section from the Memory Verse on each large paper.
  - For the NIV, it's:
    - *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)*
- Ask each group to work together to read their part of the verse aloud.
- Ask kids to work together to illustrate that section of the Memory Verse.
- When both teams have finished, bring the groups together to read their part of the verse and share their illustrations.

#### **What You Say:**

*“Wisdom isn't just about being smart or knowing something. Wisdom is knowing what to do with what you learn. We can always talk to God about showing us*

*where we need to grow and change. God might even lead you to ask a parent or trusted adult about it too. People who love you and care about you will help you to see yourself clearly. Because **[Bottom Line]** when you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice.”*

## **Pray + Dismiss**

### **[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** Bubbles; Bubble Wand

### **What You Do:**

- Invite kids into a moment of prayer.
- Instruct the kids to find a quiet place to sit around the room, with space between each other.
- Invite the kids to reflect on their lives and quietly talk to God, asking God specifically to show them any areas where they have planks in their lives.
- As the kids are quiet, slowly begin walking around among the kids and blowing bubbles.
- While staying seated, invite kids to pop the bubbles as they imagine God taking the “planks” away from their lives.
- Close your group time in prayer.

### **What You Say:**

*“Think of the ‘planks’ in our own lives. What are the things we need to notice so we can change and become more wise? Is it unforgiveness, jealousy, selfishness, arrogance? Remember **[Bottom Line]** When you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice.*

*“Dear God, thank You that You love us so well. You are fair and truthful and kind. Thank You that You want us to love each other well too. Please show us where we have planks in our eyes so we can see more clearly. We want to love people fairly*

*and well like You do. We love You, Jesus, and we ask these things in Your name. Amen.”*

*As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show their group’s poster board or butcher paper with the illustrated Memory Verse on it. Encourage them to read the verse.*