



WEEK FOUR – AUGUST 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Renew Your Mind | Romans 12:2*

Bottom Line: *Never stop growing in wisdom*

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.

Bottom Line: Never stop growing in wisdom. Wisdom isn’t something that we find one time and then we’re done. It’s a continuous learning process that we’ll encounter for the rest of our lives. As we gain knowledge, we should want to gain God’s wisdom too. It’s not enough just to know something. We have to do something with what we know in order for it to make a difference

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

Opening Small Group Activity

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Explain that they are going to play a memory game where they get to share some of their favorite things!
- Choose a kid in the circle to go first.
- Choose a category to discuss the first round, like:
 - Favorite underwater creature
 - Favorite water activity
 - Favorite color
 - Favorite cereal
 - Favorite season
 - Favorite animal
 - Favorite cartoon character
 - Favorite subject in school
- Instruct the first kid to say their name and one of their favorite things in the category.
- Direct the next kid in the circle to say their name, repeat the first kid's answer, then add their own.
- Instruct the next kid in the circle to say the first two kids' answers, and add their own, and so on!
- Continue to play different rounds with different category prompts (feel free to come up with your own!) as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

“Thanks for sharing so many of your favorite things with our group! Some of our answers were similar, and some of them were very different. We learned so much about each other—and the favorite things that we all think about. *[Transition]* Today, we’re going to discover how our thinking can change everything. Let’s go hear about it!”

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

Large Group Overview: We wrap up the month in Romans 12:2. Paul was writing a letter to the Romans in which he encouraged them to “let [their] way of thinking be completely changed.” Paul wanted to remind the believers that God could continually change the way they thought, which would allow them to focus on God’s plan. When we spend time talking to God, learning from Scripture, and listening to others who follow God, we’ll be able to figure out what God wants to do in our lives.

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

Sink or Swim

[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: N/A

What You Do:

- Direct the kids to line up, shoulder to shoulder, on one side of your group area.
- Stand in front of the kids on the other side of your group space.

- Explain that they will play a game similar to Red Light, Green Light!
- Read a clue from the list of Bible Story Review Clues below and choose a kid to answer.
 - If a kid guesses correctly, shout, “SWIM!” and instruct *everyone* to “swim” (take a step forward).
 - If a kid guesses incorrectly, shout, “SINK!” and instruct *everyone* to “sink” (take a step backward). Invite another kid to try to find the answer to the clue.
- Repeat with each Bible Story Review Clue, and celebrate as kids make it to the end of the group area, with you.
 - This is the book that today’s Bible Story came from. (*Romans*)
 - This is the person who wrote the letter that today’s Bible Story came from. (*Paul*)
 - When Paul met this Person on the road to Damascus, it changed everything. (*Jesus*)
 - Bonus Question: This was another name that Paul went by. (*Saul*)
 - Romans 12:2 (NIRV) says, “Don’t live the way this _____ lives.” (*world*)
 - Romans 12:2 says (NIRV), “Let your way of _____ be completely changed.” (*thinking*)
 - You can ask this Person to help change your thinking. (*God*)
 - This word means: finding out what you should do and doing it. (*wisdom*)
 - Today’s Bottom Line is, “Never stop _____ in wisdom.” (*growing*)

What You Say:

“Great job remembering today’s Bible Story! Paul knew that as your way of thinking changes, everything changes! Wise choices start with wise thinking. Just because a thought pops into your head doesn’t mean it’s true! We can make a habit of thinking about our thoughts and asking if they are true. If you’re struggling with difficult or anxious thoughts, you can always talk to a trusted adult

*to help point you to what's true. And you can always ask God for help too! As you go through life, you can continue to learn and grow and choose to fill your mind with good things—which is one way you can **[Bottom Line]** never stop growing in wisdom.”*

***[Make It Personal]** (Talk about an age-appropriate time when you felt down or sad or confused and how you changed your thinking to turn it around. Maybe you talked to a trusted adult or a friend, maybe you prayed to God, or maybe you filled your mind with some of your favorite things.)*

Dive Deep

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible, “Wisdom” Activity Page, number two pencils, and Silly Putty®

What You Do:

- 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 2nd and 3rd 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.

- Instruct the kids to stand in a circle.
- Repeat the Memory Verse together a few times.
- Instruct kids to take turns going around the circle, saying the Memory Verse one word at a time.
- If a kid forgets or uses the wrong word, direct them to “swim” down (sit down).
- Encourage the kids who are remaining to start the Memory Verse over from the beginning.
- Lead each round with a faster speed each time.
- Repeat a few times and celebrate the kids who remained in the game.
- Invite anyone who would like to recite or read the verse from the Bible.

What You Say:

*“Amazing job remembering this month’s Memory Verse! This verse is a perfect reminder of how we can **[Bottom Line] never stop growing in wisdom.** There are so many ways to grow in wisdom—learning from other people, growing from our mistakes, or talking to God. Remember, you can always ask God for wisdom!”*