



## WEEK ONE – AUGUST 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

**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:** “Gems” Activity Page

**What You Do:**

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- If you have not already done so, ask kids to close their eyes as you “hide” the gems all around your group area.
- Show kids one of the gems so they know what to look for.
- Explain that they will be working together to find a different kind of gem each round.
- Describe the first type of gem that you’d like the kids to look for.
- While the kids are still seated, direct the kids to look around the group space to see if they can find that gem.
- Invite kids to stand up, retrieve the matching gem, and bring it to you.
  - Depending on your group size, kids can search all at once for all of the gems, or they can take turns finding one gem at a time.
- After each round, look at the gem that was found to make sure it is the correct gem.
- Describe the next type of gem to search for, and repeat until all gems have been found.

**What You Say:**

“Excellent searching, friends! Great job finding all of the treasure that was hidden!  
**[Transition] Today we’re discovering something else that’s worth searching for. Let’s find out what Jesus searched for!”**

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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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**Treasure Map**

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

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

**What You Need:** “Story Images” Activity Pages, “Treasure Map” Activity Page, and pencils (or crayons or markers)

**What You Do:**

- Review the events from the Bible Story by showing kids the pictures from the “Story Images” Activity Pages.
- Read the caption at the bottom of each page to review the story.
- Give each kid a “Treasure Map” Activity Page and a pencil to draw with.
  - Or, set out crayons or markers for kids to share, if that’s a better fit for your group.
- Explain that kids will fill in each empty bubble of their “Treasure Map” Activity Page by drawing pictures that go along with today’s story.
- Direct the kids to find the first bubble on their “Treasure Map” Activity Page with “Start” and the “1” near it.

- Show kids the first picture from the “Story Images” Activity Pages by holding it up.
- Read the caption at the bottom of the “Story Images” Activity Page to review that part of the story.
- Ask kids to illustrate their own drawing of this part of the story inside the first bubble on their “Treasure Map” Activity Page.
  - Encourage kids to be creative and come up with their own drawings based on that part of the story.
  - Continue to hold up the first picture for reference for kids who need it.
- When kids have finished drawing in the first bubble, continue in the same way until kids have finished filling in each bubble on their “Treasure Map” Activity Page.
- Help kids write their names somewhere on their paper, then set them aside for later.

### **What You Say:**

*“Your treasure maps look amazing! Treasure maps help you find something special if you follow them carefully. Mary and Joseph were definitely searching for something, well, Someone, very special!”*

*“When they finally found Jesus, where was He? (Invite responses.) Yes! Jesus was in the temple, listening and asking questions. He was in a place where wisdom could be found! After that, Jesus returned home to Nazareth with His parents and continued to obey them. As He grew up, Jesus became wiser and stronger and grew in His relationships with God and other people.”*

*“It’s important for us to remember that if Jesus was searching and growing in wisdom, then it’s important for us too! His example shows us that **[Bottom Line]** wisdom is worth searching for.”*

***[Make It Personal]** (Share an age-appropriate story from your life where you had to search for wisdom to know what to do in a situation, and then had to put it into practice. It could be a time you had to comfort someone or a time you*

*reacted to a situation where you were being honored and had to decide between humility or pride, etc. )*

### **Pray + Dismiss**

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

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

**What You Need:** “Pearls of Wisdom” Activity Pages; Bible

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

- Direct the kids to sit or stand with a pearl from the “Pearls of Wisdom” Activity Page.
- Open the Bible to James 1:5.
- Instruct the kids to hold their pearls up in the air each time they hear the words “wisdom” or “God” in the Memory Verse you’re going to read.
- Read the Memory Verse to the kids, pausing for them to raise and then lower their pearl each time you say “wisdom” or “God.”
- Remind kids that they can ask God for wisdom anytime, and God will give it to them.
- Close the group time in prayer.

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

*“God, thank You for today! Thank You for giving us such great Bible Stories to learn more about You! And, thank You for showing us that even Jesus searched for wisdom! Please give us wisdom to make good, wise choices this week in everything we do. Thank You for promising to give us wisdom when we ask. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”*

*As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show their “Treasure Map” Activity Page to retell today’s Bible Story.*