



## WEEK TWO – AUGUST 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

**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.

---

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

---

**Opening Small Group Activity**

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

**What You Need:** Button

**What You Do:**

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Direct the kids to stand in a circle.
- Instruct the kids to clasp their hands together behind them.
- Show the kids the button, then clasp it between your hands.
- Explain that you'll give the button to one kid, but that they should keep it a secret so the rest of the group can try to guess who has it.
- Walk around the circle, placing your clasped hands (holding the button) in each child's hands.
- Choose one kid's hands to discreetly drop the button into, but keep going all the way around the circle, placing your hands in every kid's hands.
- When you've gone all the way around, stop and lead everyone to say, "Button, button, who's got the button?"
- Invite the kids to guess who is holding the button.
  - Be sure kids keep their hands clasped together behind them.
- When a kid guesses correctly, direct that kid to become the next kid to go around placing the button in someone's hands (or you can start the game again).
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

**What You Say:**

"That was fun! Sometimes it was hard not to tell when you got the button, and sometimes it was hard to figure out who had the button! Buttons are round and sort of shaped like an eye. (*Point to your eyes.*) **[Transition]** Today, we're going to

**discover something Jesus warned us about when it comes to wisdom, and it has something to do with your eyes. Let's find out what!"**

---

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

---

**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.

---

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

---

### **Create the Pearl of Wisdom**

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

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

**What You Need:** “Pearls of Wisdom” Activity Page, paper plates, googly eyes, crayons, glue sticks,

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

- Ask:
  - Have you ever seen a pearl before?
  - What do they look like?
  - Where do pearls come from?
  - If needed, explain that pearls are a type of gemstone that are made by an animal called an oyster that lives in the ocean.

- Explain how oysters create pearls in their shells. Say:
  - Something uncomfortable like sand or a leftover piece of food gets inside an oyster’s shell.
  - The oyster covers the thing that’s stuck in their shell with this shiny stuff, called *nacre* (nay-KER).
  - As oysters add more and more layers, what started as a problem becomes round and smooth over time until it eventually becomes a beautiful pearl.
  - Pearls come in many colors, shapes, and sizes and are very rare!
- Tell the kids they are now going to create an oyster with a pearl inside with a special message inside.
- Read James 1:5 from the “Pearls of Wisdom” Activity Page inside your example.
- Give each kid a paper plate.
- Show the kids how to fold their plate in half to form the oyster’s shell.
- Give each kid two googly eyes and set out the glue sticks.
- Show the kids how to glue the two eyes on the outside of their oyster shell.
- Set out the crayons.
- Encourage the kids to color and decorate their oyster shell however they would like to.
- Give each kid a cutout from the “Pearls of Wisdom” Activity Page.
- Invite the kids to color their pearls too—if they’d like to.
- As kids finish coloring, instruct them to glue their “Pearls of Wisdom” Activity Page cutout inside their shell.
- Share and celebrate everyone’s unique oysters and pearls!
- Read the verse one more time to the group—inviting them to repeat key words after you.

**What You Say:**

*“Our Memory Verse is like a pearl—a pearl of wisdom. This verse is like a treasure! When we struggle, when we feel awkward, when we’re upset or annoyed by something, or are not sure what to do, we can ask God for wisdom! God will help us! God may remind us of something or give us great parents or other trusted*

*adults who can help us. God wants us to know that [Bottom Line] when you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice.*

*[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate example of a difficult or tough situation you were in when you had to make a big decision, and how you remembered to ask God for help. If you can, share the outcome and how you saw God providing the wisdom you needed!)*

### **Pray + Dismiss**

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

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

#### **What You Need:** Mirror

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

- Direct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Show the kids the safety mirror.
- Explain that you'll hold it up so each kid can take a turn seeing themselves clearly and as the amazing and special person God made.
- Invite each kid to hold the mirror
- Encourage each kid to repeat the following prayer as they stand in front of the mirror. Kids can repeat the prayer out loud or in their head.
  - Dear God, thank You for making me amazing and wonderful.
  - I know I am made in Your image.
  - Give me wisdom this week to know what to do.
  - Thank You, God. Amen.

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

*“Each time you look in the mirror this week, remember that God made you to be amazing, and special, and has given you everything you need to make the wise choice. Ask God to help you see yourself clearly and to help you make the wise choice.”*