



## WEEK THREE – AUGUST 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

**Bible Story:** *Much Needed Advice* | 2 Chronicles 10 (suppt.: Proverbs 13:20)

**Bottom Line:** *Hang out with wise people*

**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: Hang out with wise people.** There’s a famous saying: “Show me your friends and I’ll show you your future.” The people we allow into our lives have the power to influence us, both positively and negatively. That doesn’t mean we should cast people off and ignore them, but it does mean that we need to be aware of who we let speak into our lives and our situation. If we spend time with wise people, then we know it’ll be worth it in the end.

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

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**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
- Direct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Share a time when you were a good friend to someone else.
- Ask kids if they have made the same or similar choice. If so, invite them to stand up and say, “Me too!”
- Inform them that you’re going to share the following scenarios, and if children have experienced something similar, encourage them to say, “Me too!”
- Clarify that it’s okay if the kids don’t respond that they’ve experienced each scenario.
- One at a time, read a scenario below, giving the kids time to think before inviting them to respond after each one.
- Scenarios:
  - I invited someone who was all alone to sit with me.
  - I gave another kid a turn at the playground.
  - I thought my neighbor’s dog’s haircut looked a little silly, but I didn’t tell them that.
  - I played with a kid on the playground who no one else was choosing to play with.
  - I told my teacher something I liked about our school day before going home for the day.
  - I shared an extra pencil I had with someone who forgot theirs.

- I chose to be quiet in the car when I realized I had complained a little too much.
- I sat with my friend at lunch even though her lunch was not something I would want to eat.
- I cheered for my friends while they played with their team.
- Invite the kids to share their own examples of a good choice they have made.
- Instruct the other kids to stand and say “Me too!” if it applies to them.

**What You Say:**

“Wow! You have all been wonderful friends in very special ways! *[Transition]*  
**Let’s go hear about a guy who could have used a good friend like you to help him make wise choices!”**

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

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**Large Group Overview:** For Week 3, we head to 2 Chronicles 10. King Solomon’s son, Rehoboam, was now king, and the people came to ask him to lighten their workload. However, when presented with the opportunity to gain the people’s trust, King Rehoboam sought out wise counsel . . . and unwise counsel. Unfortunately, Rehoboam chose to listen to his unwise friends, which led to catastrophic consequences for him and for God’s people.

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

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**Choose Your Dive Buddy**

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

*Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Direct the kids to form a line facing you.
- Ask kids if they know what scuba diving is, and invite them to share what they know about it.
- Say: “When scuba divers go under the water, they often have a dive buddy—someone to dive with them who also knows how to dive and is comfortable underwater. The two divers look out for each other and help each other avoid accidents or dangerous situations.”
- Explain that you will tell kids about a character from today’s Bible story then ask if they would want that person to be their “dive buddy” – someone they would trust to help them avoid dangerous situations.
  - If the kids do not think that person would make a good dive buddy, instruct them to stand still.
  - If the kids think that person would make a good dive buddy, instruct them to pretend to safely dive underwater or swim.
- One at a time read a Character Clue about a character from the list below.
- First, ask the kids if they remember and can identify which character you’re describing from today’s story.
- After the kids have identified the character, allow time for the kids to physically respond to whether or not they’d trust that character as their “dive buddy.”
- Repeat for each Character Clue.
  - I was a young king who asked God for wisdom. (*Solomon, yes*)
  - I was King Solomon’s son, but it doesn’t seem like my father passed his wisdom down to me. (*Rehoboam, no*)
  - I spoke to King Rehoboam with some of the tired, exhausted Israelite workers with ideas on how to make things better for the people. (*Jeroboam, yes*)
  - We were a group of foolish friends with no experience running a kingdom. (*Rehoboam’s young friends, no*)

- King Rehoboam came to us first for advice. We told him Jeroboam and the people had a good idea, and that King Rehoboam should try to keep the people happy. *(Wise advisers, yes)*
- I decided to make things worse for the Israelites instead of helping them. *(Rehoboam, no)*
- You can read many of the wise sayings God gave me in the book of Proverbs. *(Solomon, yes)*

**What You Say:**

*“Do you think Rehoboam should have listened to his foolish, young friends? (No!) He really needed to **[Bottom Line] hang out with wise people!** Rehoboam got some great advice from the older advisors. Even though their advice may have been the more difficult choice, it was definitely the wise choice. But Rehoboam chose to listen to the foolish advice from his friends, and it led to disaster. The Israelites were split apart because King Rehoboam chose to listen to his unwise friends. God wants us to be careful who we listen to! One great way you can do that is to **[Bottom Line] hang out with wise people!**”*

**Friends**

**[Live for God | Application Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** “Friends” Activity Page, number two pencils, wet wipes, dry-erase board and dry-erase marker or large paper and washable marker

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a “Friends” Activity Page and a pencil.
- Ask the kids to describe what it means to be a good friend.
- Every time someone shares a quality of a good friend, direct the group to color in a letter of the word FRIENDS with their pencil while you write that quality on the board or paper.

- Continue collecting qualities of good friends and writing them on the board or paper while kids finish coloring in each letter.
- When the kids have finished, show them how to rub their fingers across the letters of FRIENDS, causing their pencil shadings to spread far across the page.
- Explain that the people they choose to be friends with will definitely “rub off” on them, and spread farther than just the time they spend with that person.
- Give each kid a wet wipe and instruct them to clean their hands.

**What You Say:**

*“It really does matter who we hang out with! The people we spend time around are the people we will learn from and become more and more like. It’s important to **[Bottom Line] hang out with wise people** so they can help us become more and more like Jesus. When they make wise decisions, we can see a good example of making wise choices. When they treat people nicely, we are more likely to treat people nicely. Be kind to everyone, but be sure you make good friends too!*

*“How can we know what makes a good friend? Let’s look at the list we created together! (Read through what the kids shared earlier.) We can also ask our parents or other wise adults in our lives for help.”*

***[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate example of a time you made a choice to hang out with a wise person that had a positive effect on you and helped you later because of what you learned from that person.)***

**Pray + Dismiss**

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

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

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Direct the group to stand in a circle and hold hands.
- Explain that as a group, we are all here for each other. We should ‘rub off’ on each other and help each other find wisdom and make wise choices.
- Lead kids in the prayer below.
- After the prayer, invite anyone in the circle who would like to, to lead the group in a closing prayer as well.

**What You Say:**

*“God, thank You for all these friends here in our circle. Please help us to be a good friend to everyone here and to remember to **[Bottom Line] hang out with wise people** so we can also make wise choices. Thank You for the example You gave us with your Son, Jesus. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”*