



WEEK FOUR – AUGUST 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

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

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

What You Need: “Underwater Adventure Mad Libs” Activity Page, pen or pencil

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Tell kids they are going to help you form a silly story by thinking of different words to help you fill in the blanks.
- Read the first word clue from the “Underwater Adventure Mad Libs” Activity Page, (describing word).
- Choose a kid to provide a word.
- Fill in the word the kid shares in the blank.
- Repeat until all of the clue words have been provided.
- Read the funny adventure to the kids.
- Repeat the activity with the second copy of the “Underwater Adventure Mad Libs” Activity Page.
 - o Direct the kids to provide different suggestions this time around.

What You Say:

“Those were some silly stories! Did you notice I asked you for the same type of words both times? And the story changed both times? The same story changed when we had different words! *[Transition]* **Today we’re going to discover how the words and things we think about can change EVERYTHING! Let’s go!”**

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

Wise Ways

[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: Bible

What You Do:

- Divide the group into four teams.
- Direct each team to gather in different parts of your group space.
- Secretly assign each team something to act out based on the suggestions below.
 - watching a show
 - praying to God
 - reading the Bible
 - talking with a grown-up

- Encourage the teams to talk about and practice how to act out that action for the other groups to guess.
- Challenge each team to come up with dialogue and act out their scene in a way that includes all the kids from their team.
 - Kids can narrate, be characters with dialogue, become “props,” etc.
- After groups have had enough time to practice their scenes, give each team a turn to perform their action.
- After each team has finished acting, encourage the other groups to guess what their prompt was.
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle once everyone has acted and the prompts have been guessed.
- Ask which team had the prompt about watching a show, and invite that team to stand.
- Ask the other kids who didn’t act out that prompt what they remembered about the scene that team acted out.
- Invite the team who acted out the prompt to sit down.
- Open the Bible and read the first part of Romans 12:2 to the group.
 - *Don’t live the way this world lives. (NirV)*
- Talk about how the shows we watch, the music we listen to, and the people we talk to tell us different things. Remind kids what God tells us — that we were made to love God and love others.
- Ask which team had the prompt about praying.
- Invite that team to stand (or raise both their arms).
- Ask the other kids who didn’t act out that prompt what they remembered about the scene that team acted out.
- Invite the team who acted out that prompt to sit down (or lower their arms).
- Talk about how we can talk to God about anything. We can ask God for wisdom and God will give it to us!
- Ask which team had the prompt about reading the Bible, and invite that team to stand.
- Ask the other kids who didn’t act out that prompt what they remembered about the scene that team acted out.
- Invite the team that acted out the prompt to sit down.

- Talk about how God has given us the Bible so we can read it and learn about God and God’s ways.
- Ask which team had the prompt about talking with a grown-up, and invite that team to stand.
- Ask the other kids who didn’t act out that prompt what they remembered about the scene that team acted out.
- Invite the team that acted out the prompt to sit down.
- Talk about how God has given us grown-ups in our lives who follow Jesus so we can learn from them.
- After you’ve reviewed all four acting prompts, read the next part of Romans 12:2.
 - *Let your way of thinking be completely changed. (NIrV)*
- Remind kids we can ask God to help us remember what’s true. We can discover what God says is true from the Bible, and we can talk to grownups and friends we trust to show us how to think about how we can grow in wisdom.
- Read the last part of Romans 12:2.
 - *Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect. (NIrV)*
- Remind kids that God has given us lots of different ways we can grow in wisdom. When we do wise things, we will start to think more wisely! And thinking wisely is just thinking more and more like God does!

What You Say:

*“Wise choices start with wise thinking. We just saw a lot of different ways that God can use to change the way we think! When we do that, we will **[Bottom Line]** never stop growing in wisdom! God wants us to think wisely and make wise choices so we will live the best lives because God loves us so much.”*

Growing Wisdom

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

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

What You Do:

- Use the Bible to read the Memory Verse, James 1:5, to the group.
- Invite any kids who would like, to try to read the verse, recite it from memory, or repeat it after you to do so.
- Give each kid a card from the “Wisdom” Activity Page.
- See if kids can read the word on the card from the “Wisdom” Activity Page—even though it’s backward. (*wisdom*)
- Give each kid a number two pencil.
- Direct the kids to trace over the letters from the word “wisdom” a few times on their card—making the lines darker and darker.
- Give each kid some Silly Putty.
- Show the kids how to flatten the putty over the word on their card, then carefully lift it to reveal the word on their silly putty.
- Direct them to stretch/bend the putty to watch “wisdom” grow.
- Set the cards and silly putty aside for kids to take home later.

What You Say:

“We should [Bottom Line] never stop growing in wisdom! It’s not always easy to make wise choices, but remember that making wise choices starts with wise thinking! The more we fill our minds with the amazing things God has put on this Earth and given us, the easier it will be to make wise choices!”