



## WEEK ONE – AUGUST 2024 – PRETEEN

**Bible Story:** *Growin' Up | Luke 2:41-52*

**Key Question:** *What does it mean to be wise?*

**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.

**Key Question: What does it mean to be wise?** Just because something is the wise choice to make doesn't always mean it's the most obvious choice to make. Sometimes we have to dive a little deeper to figure out what true wisdom looks like. As preteens think about this question, our hope is that it helps give them a starting point for making the best decision they can when they don't know what to do.

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

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### Opening Small Group Activity

*Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** Blue Tape

### What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Place blue tape in a straight line on the floor to represent an ocean shoreline.
- Point out the blue crepe paper (or tape) on the floor and explain it represents an ocean shoreline.
- Invite kids to share an ocean-related memory. Ask if anyone has been scuba diving or snorkeling before.
- When enough kids have arrived, ask everyone to line up shoulder-to-shoulder along the line.
  - The shoreline should be long enough for all the kids to fit, with 1-2 feet of space between each person.
- Challenge the kids to rearrange themselves alphabetically according to first names without stepping off the shoreline.
- When finished, check the order by having each kid say their name down the line.
- Repeat as time allows varying the order and adding more “Shoreline Line-Up” variations, such as some of the following ideas:
  - Challenge kids to play the game without speaking by coming up with other ways to communicate.
  - Assign each kid a number, then have everyone arrange themselves in numerical order.
  - Line up by birthday month, first letter of their middle name, or other ideas kids choose.

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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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**Take a Snapshot**

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

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

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Tell kids that you will share a type of job or task such as a dog trainer.
- Go around the circle and ask each kid to share something that would be important for the person doing that task to know.
  - If your group is large, consider jotting them down because you'll need to remember the ideas that are shared.
- Share the first job (dog trainer), then go around the circle as kids share. After everyone has shared, ask the group to decide which of the ideas would be the most important and why.
- Repeat with a few additional jobs such as a barista, astronaut, circus clown, taxi driver, brain surgeon, or others you or the kids come up with.
- For the final round, ask kids what a person who wants to be wise needs to know.

- Challenge kids to explain the difference between being smart (being an expert on something) and being wise.
- Ask:
  - Would you say that people who are smart are also always wise? Why or why not?
  - How would you define wisdom in 10 words or less?
  - What are some wise choices you've made recently?
  - If you've made some unwise choices, what have you learned from that experience?
  - *[Make it Personal] Share an age-appropriate example of a time when you made an unwise choice as a kid. What did you learn from it that sticks with you even today?*

### **Make It Personal With Prayer**

#### **[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]**

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

#### **What You Need:** Bibles

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

- Open your Bible to Psalm 119 as you share how this Psalm reminds us that we can turn to God's Word for help and wisdom.
- Point out that in every verse of Psalm 119, God's Word is mentioned at least one time. It's referred to as the law, statutes, precepts, decrees, word, commands, promises, and so on.
- Encourage kids once again to read through all of Psalm 119 on their own this week.
  - If helpful, remember the chapter reference by using the numbers 911 (119 backwards).
- Lead the group by reading Psalm 119:11-16 aloud as a prayer.
- Pause after each verse to let kids pray silently in agreement with the words you read and then close in prayer