



WEEK TWO – AUGUST 2024 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *See Yourself | Matthew 7:1-5*

Key Question: *What are you learning about yourself?*

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 are you learning about yourself? Preteens are living through a time of change. We hope this question allows kids to begin to see how they can offer grace to others as they learn and grow with one another.

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: 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.
- Explain that kids will go around the circle stating things they know about themselves and repeating what others said before them.
- Follow this pattern:
 - **First Kid** – I know that I like . . . *(something that begins with “A”)*
 - **Second Kid** – I know that I like . . . *(something that begins with “B”)* and you (pointing to first kid) like *(whatever that kid named that began with “A”).*
 - **Third Kid** – I know that I like . . . *(something that begins with “C”)* and you (pointing to second kid) like *(whatever that kid named that began with “B”),* and you (pointing to first kid) like *(whatever that kid named that began with “A”).*
- Continue around the circle progressing through the alphabet until someone forgets a previous kid’s answer.

What You Say:

“This activity helped us get to know one another better and OURSELVES better. Maybe there were things about others that were not at all true of you. Maybe there were other things that were exactly the same. Sometimes, it’s easy to point out all the stuff and notice what’s different or what we think needs to change in someone else, but we forget to take a look at what needs to change in US. *[Transition]* Let’s

keep diving deeper into the topic of wisdom and hear what Jesus has to say about how we view others.”

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

Take a Snapshot

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils; “Self Portrait” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Set out markers, colored pencils, and/or crayons.
- Give each kid a “Self-Portrait” Activity Page.
- Invite kids to fill in each section of the Activity Page with something they know about themselves. They can write words describing them or draw pictures of things that make them unique. If needed, prompt them with a few questions:
 - When do you feel the most excited?

- What makes you sad?
- What is one thing you wish everyone knew about you?
- What makes you angry?
- What is something you're really good at?
- What is really hard for you to do?
- Challenge kids to do more than simply write words but to draw or get creative, and fill in all of the white space in each section by using a variety of letter sizes, font styles, colors, and designs.
- ***[Make it Personal] Join the kids in creating your own self-portrait.***
- If time allows, you can invite the children to add hair, a hat, etc. to their Self-Portrait.
- When finished, let kids share their Self-Portraits with the group.
- Connect with the importance of knowing ourselves as well as knowing others. Every person has their own story, and every story is important.
- Expand the discussion by going a step further with the prompts used earlier:
 - When do you feel the most excited? How should you react when someone is excited about something you don't find exciting?
 - What makes you sad? How can that sadness help you relate to others?
 - What is one thing you wish everyone knew about you? What's something that's good to keep in mind about every person you meet?
 - What makes you angry? How do you sometimes make people angry?
 - What is something you're really good at? What's a wise thing to remember when you meet others who are not as talented at the stuff you're great at?
 - What is really hard for you to do? How might that help you be patient or sympathize with others?
- Invite kids to share some things they are learning about themselves.
 - Maybe they tried something new for the first time this year and discovered that they are really good (or really bad) at it. They can share both the good things they are finding out about themselves as well as the stuff they see that they don't like and want to change.

- Encourage kids to keep being curious about themselves—why they think, feel, and do what they do. Remind them when they see ways they need to change, let them know they can always talk to God about whatever they are facing.

Verses to Take With You

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles; spiral notepads; markers

What You Do:

- Invite kids to look up and read John 7:24 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:
 - ***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:*** Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.
- Say the verse together several times to help kids remember it.
 - You might invite half of the group to say the first part and the other half to say the second part in response.
- Switch and repeat or let kids take turns leading the others in echoing the words.
- Ask:
 - When we judge others based only on what we see or how we feel, what might we miss?

- Is there a right way to judge others?
- What are some things that are important to think about before we make a decision about someone else's actions?
- What are some situations where John 7:24 would be a helpful reminder for you?
- Form teams of 2-3 kids.
- Give each team a notepad, pens or markers, and a Bible.
- Help each team locate John 7:24 in their Bible, if needed.
- Challenge teams to write the words of John 7:24—each word on a separate page throughout the notebook.
 - They can write the words in large or small print anywhere on the front or back of a page anywhere in the notebook, but should copy words in the correct order to keep track.
- When finished, let teams exchange notebooks then race to search and find each word.
- As they find the words, they can tear the pages from the notebook and place them in order on the floor.
- If time allows, repeat but tell kids to leave out one word then play again so teams can discover and fill in the missing word.