



## WEEK THREE – AUGUST 2024 – PRETEEN

**Bible Story:** *Rehoboam Listens to Fools* | 2 Chronicles 10; Proverbs 13:20

**Key Question:** *Who are some wise people in your life?*

**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 need to make the wise choice*

**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.

**Key Question: Who are some wise people in your life?** Who’s someone you know who gives good advice? What made you think of that person? Is it because they teach you new things or help you make hard decisions? Or maybe it’s because you trust them and they offer a great outside perspective. Whatever the reasoning, we hope this question begins to help preteens identify the wise people in their lives . . . and think about how they can learn from those people over time

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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
- Invite kids to share who they enjoy hanging out with and why.
- When enough kids have gathered, direct them to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid a note card and pen.
- Direct kids to write the following sentence starter at the top of their notecard:  
"Does anyone know . . . ?"
- Tell kids to finish the sentence, without others seeing what they write, by filling in a random question such as, "Does anyone know...how to snorkel . . . what's for lunch . . . where to buy a kangaroo . . .?"
- Collect the cards, mix them up, then place them face down in the middle of the circle.
- Invite the kids to take turns choosing a card, reading it, then guessing who wrote it.
  - If they guess correctly, they keep the card.
  - If incorrect, the card is placed in a random spot in the deck.
- Continue until all the cards have been guessed correctly. The kid with the most cards is the winner.

**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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**Take a Snapshot**

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

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

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Invite kids to share some of the things they like about their friends. If kids aren’t sure what to say, prompt some ideas with a few of the following questions:
  - What do you enjoy doing with friends?
  - What’s the nicest thing a friend has ever done for you?
  - What makes a good friend?
  - How do you choose your friends?
  - If you could have one quality in a friend, what would it be?
  - Would you rather have 20 friends that you don’t know very well or one best friend?

- ***[Make it Personal] Share some of your ideas about what makes a good friend.***
- Invite kids to pair up. (It's okay if there's one group of three.)
- Explain that one kid will be the “mirror” and imitate the movements of the other kid without speaking as if looking in a mirror. (For groups of 3, there will be two “mirrors”.)
  - Additionally, they must do their motions as if they were deep sea divers floating underwater.
- Lead each pair to decide who will lead the movements first. Give them a moment to think of something friends do together or something they do for one another. If any kids need prompting:
  - Playing baseball
  - Hiking
  - Reading or studying
  - Laughing
  - Watching a movie
  - Playing a video game
  - Listening to music
  - Talking
  - Praying
- Choose one team to begin their mirroring as the remaining kids try to guess what the divers are acting out.
  - If the group has not gotten it after 10 or so guesses, direct the pairs to stop and for the kid leading the movements to reveal the correct answer.
- Switch and repeat until all the partners have had at least one turn.
- In closing, encourage kids to think about the following questions:
  - Would you consider yourself to be a wise person that people would want to hang out with? Why or why not?
  - If not, in what ways might you need to change?
- Invite kids to share their thoughts or think about their answers silently.

## Verses to Take With You

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

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

**What You Need:** Bibles, white tissue paper, pens, “Wisdom” Activity Page

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Invite kids to look up Proverbs 13:20 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:
  - ***Finding verses with 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Invite kids who would like to read the verse aloud to the group.
- Ask:
  - How would you define “bad company”? (*or whatever phrase is used in your translation*)
  - How would you define “good company”?
  - Why are we sometimes drawn to friends who are not following God?
  - What kind of harm might come to someone who hangs out with others who make a lot of bad choices?
  - How do you look for and become friends with someone who is wise?
- Point out that being someone’s friend doesn’t mean we have to always agree with the choices they make. We can be kind to others without behaving like them.

- Challenge kids to take note of who in their life seems to make good choices. Being friendly and kind to everyone is important, but encourage kids to spend the MOST time with wise people.
- Give each kid a Wisdom” Activity Page and a pen.
- Give each kid sheets of tissue paper in random amounts ranging from 1 – 5 sheets.
- Direct kids to place all of their tissue paper on top of the Activity Page then trace the word while trying to keep as much detail as possible.
- When kids have finished tracing, let them compare.
- Ask what this activity illustrates can happen when we surround ourselves with those who make poor choices. (*Help kids arrive at the idea that we can gradually lose focus on wisdom if we surround ourselves with foolish friends instead of wise ones.*)
  - How might foolish friends blur the lines between wise and unwise choices?
  - What should you do if you have friends who make a lot of unwise choices?
- Remind kids that even when those around them are being unwise, they can choose to be wise and ask for God’s wisdom.

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

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

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

**What You Need:** N/A

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

- Encourage kids to give an example of a time when a friend helped them make a wise choice.
- ***[Make it Personal] Share a time when a friend helped you avoid an unwise decision by giving you wise advice that helped you make a wise choice.***
- Remind kids that sometimes the wisest people in our lives are those who are older than us.

- Invite the kids to name wise people in their lives – friends, teachers, coaches, and family members, etc. then thank God for their influence.
- Lead kids in prompted prayer:
  - “God, You are . . . *(pause for kids to finish the sentence out loud or silently)*
  - “Thank You for the wise people You have put in my life. Thank You especially for . . .
  - “Please help me be a wise friend this week by . . .
- Close in a prayer, asking God to provide wise friends for each of the kids in your group and for them to be that wise friend to someone else.