



WEEK FOUR – AUGUST 2024 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Renew Your Mind | Romans 12:2*

Key Question: *How are you wiser than you used to be?*

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: How are you wiser than you used to be? Think back to the first time you learned something new, like tying your shoes or learning how to read. It wasn’t enough just to see someone do it. You had to practice it for yourself too. This question allows preteens to begin exploring all the different ways they’ve grown . . . and to consider what steps they can take to continue learning and growing as they gain wisdom.

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

Opening Small Group Activity

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

What You Need: “Wisdom Mash-Up” Activity Page, pens

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Give each kid a pen and two cards from the “Wisdom Mash-Up” Activity Page. (Be sure each kid gets one question card and one solution card.)
 - If you have more than 10 kids, pair some kids up.
- Invite kids to silently read their question, then write a one-sentence solution or answer on the solution card.
- When kids are finished writing, collect the cards, keeping the question and solution cards separate.
 - If you have fewer than 10 kids, give an additional question and answer card to those who finish first.
- Shuffle the “Wisdom Mash-Up Solution” cards.
- Choose a “Wisdom Mash-Up Question” card, then read a random answer from the “Wisdom Mash-Up Solution” cards.
 - You’ll end up with some very funny scenarios.
- Continue choosing questions, then pairing them with random solutions until all the cards have been read.

What You Say:

“Life is full of questions. Being wise means knowing the best or wise answer and then doing it. Unlike our mismatched answers in this activity, God always has the right answer. Searching and finding God’s wisdom never ends. We’re always growing from the inside out when we choose to follow Jesus. *[Transition]* Let’s

go to Large Group and learn how God’s wisdom can help us *THINK* the right thoughts so we can *DO* the right things.”

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

Discussion Questions

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Would you say that you are growing in wisdom? How are you wiser than you used to be?
- What can you do to give your mind good and right things to think about so that your choices and actions are wise?
- What wisdom would you offer about the following topics?
 - How we think of ourselves

- How we treat people we don't particularly like or get along with
- How we spend our money
- How we spend our time
- How we respond to those in authority

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, crepe paper, markers, timer

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible and ask them to look up Philippians 4:8 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.
- Invite any kids who would like to read the verse out loud.
- Ask:
 - What are some of the words you read in Philippians 4:8 that describe good and healthy thoughts?
 - Give some examples of thoughts that fit into those descriptions. (*Name words from Philippians 4:8 as needed.*)
 - Which ones do you think are the hardest to think about? Why?

- If you could choose one of these words as most important, which would it be and why?
- Give each kid a 3-foot length piece of crepe paper and a marker. (Make sure half of the group has one color crepe paper and the other half has a different color.)
- Ask kids to carefully write some of the words from Philippians 4:8 that they want to remember on their length of crepe paper.
- If anyone is willing, invite them to share the words they chose and why.
- Instruct kids to tie their crepe paper to their ankles, leaving a long strip at the end.
- Divide the group into two teams based on the two colors of crepe paper.
- Explain that once kids begin moving around the room, they will need to protect their own paper strips while also trying to remove the paper strips from kids of the other team. (You might designate a small area so kids are forced to stay in close proximity to one another.)
- Explain that neither team can use their hands to protect their crepe paper strip or pull off someone else's.
- Set the timer for one minute and tell the kids to begin. Remind them to “guard” their crepe paper strips as the opposing team attempts to step on and remove theirs.
- When time is up, bring kids together and ask:
 - What are some ways you can guard or protect your thoughts as diligently as the crepe paper?
 - When you need to change a wrong or unhealthy thought, what can you replace it with?
 - ***[Make it Personal] Share a verse you've memorized that is a particular favorite. When does it come to mind most often? How does it help you get your thoughts back on track?***
- Remind kids that wise choices start with wise thinking. Just because a thought pops into your head doesn't mean that it's true! When you follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live with you and guide you.

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 share their biggest wisdom takeaways from this month.
- Prompt ideas by asking questions such as the following:
 - What's one thing you learned about God?
 - What did you learn about yourself?
 - What is something you learned that will help you to be wiser?
 - How are you showing more wisdom today than you did in the past?
- Close by asking kids to thank God for the things they have learned and to help them where they still need to grow in making wise choices.
- Encourage them to pray silently or out loud about that thing, asking God to help them discover the wisdom they need through God's Word and the wise people God has put into their lives.