

**Upper Elementary  
Large Group**

**SEPTEMBER 2025**



**How many times recently have you heard a celebrity or influencer promote “you do you” or “live your truth”?**

**Though it’s true God has created each of us with unique gifts and desires, it all falls apart if we don’t seek wisdom from God in everything we say and do.**

**Our world is all about popularity, appearance, and intelligence, but in God’s kingdom, wisdom is of far greater value. Jesus showed us perfectly what a wise life looks like: stay connected to God and seek God’s best in every circumstance. Then follow through and do it!**

**As we continue to journey with God’s people through the story of Scripture, we meet the kings of Israel and Judah—those who made wise choices and those whose foolish choices brought down a nation. Through the lives of David and Solomon, we also take a look at the Bible’s wisdom literature in the Psalms and Proverbs. Kids will discover that true wisdom comes through constant connection with God, just as a well-rooted tree on river banks draws life from the water. And the best news of all? God wants us to ask for wisdom and delights to give it.**

God View

## **The connection between truth and God's character, as shown through God's Big Story**

Insight

### **God's Message/Truth**

What Jesus said and did impacts how I should respond to God's Word in my everyday life.

Application

### **Wisdom: Finding out God's best and doing it.**

HEADS UP



About Wisdom David and Solomon are referred to as Israel's greatest kings, and Solomon is often referenced as one of the wisest men to ever live. Truth is, they were both deeply flawed men and, especially toward the end of their lives, made many unwise choices. While you do not need to detail this for kids, you can point out that even the seemingly wisest, smartest people can make foolish choices when they fail to stay connected to God.

About Turning to God We cover a lot of territory in this month's stories—especially in Week 4 where we talk through all the kings of Israel and Judah following Solomon. Don't worry about trying to help kids remember every single name. Instead focus on the repeated pattern of God's people to turn to God for a time and then slide back into old, foolish pattern and choices. We will fall into the same trap unless we rely on the Holy Spirit to enable us to continue making wise choices.

# September Monthly Overview

Week	Bible Story	Bottom Line	Conversation Starter
1	Samuel Anoints David 1 Samuel 16:1-13	God helps you make the wise choice.	What does it mean to be wise?
2	David and the Psalms Psalm 1:1-4 Supporting: Psalm 23:1-2; 8:1; 18:2	If you want to be wise, focus on God.	How do you know what's wise?
3	Solomon Chooses Wisdom 1 Kings 3:4-15 Supporting: Proverbs 15:1; 3:5-6; 17:17	You can ask God for wisdom.	When do you need wisdom?
4	The Kings 1 & 2 Kings	Be wise because your choices matter.	Why do your choices matter?

Core Insight

**God's Message / Truth**

Key Application

**Wisdom**

**It is much better to get wisdom than gold.  
It is much better to choose understanding than silver.  
Proverbs 16:16, NIV**





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SEPTEMBER 2025  
Week 1

## Notes

- Yellow highlighted text are cues for audio and visual slides.
- Game, Worship, and the Bible verse from the stage
- Intro and Bible story are on video.

## GAME/STORY SUPPLIES

- 9 Papers for Each Small Group
- 1 Pen for Each Small Group
- Slides

## WORSHIP

- Lions
- Beautiful

THIS MONTH



## Today's Bible Story

### Samuel Anoints David

1 Samuel 16:1-13

## Conversation Starter

**What does it mean to be wise?**

## Bottom Line

**God can help you make the wise choice.**

## Memory Verse

**"It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver."**

Proverbs 16:16 NIV



## Inclusive Pro Tips

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces

**WELCOME 3 minutes**

(Welcome kids)

**Show Series Theme Graphic: Wisdomland**

Hey kids! Welcome to Wisdomland—the theme park where every day is an adventure, and every moment is a chance to make a wise choice!

My name is [HOST NAME], and I'm your Wisdomland guide today. Who here loves going to theme parks? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.) Me too! What's your favorite part—roller coasters, snacks, the games, or maybe all the funny hats? Shout it out! (ENCOURAGE SOME ANSWERS AND RESPOND TO A FEW!)

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**GAME TIME**

**Show Slide: What is THAT? Intro Slide**

**Say:** Today, we're playing a game called “**What is THAT?**”. Before we can play the game, let's split into our small groups! (Help kids find their color/small group leader).

Now that we're in our groups, let's learn how to play.... I'm going to show you a *very zoomed in* photo, and with your small group, you'll have to *guess* what that photo is of! Whoever gets the most right, WINS! Let's get started... (See Key below).

**How to Play:**

- 1. Split into groups** – Divide the room into their small groups.
- 2. Pass out whiteboards** – Give each small group a whiteboard and dry erase marker
- 3. Explain the rules** – Tell them:
  - You'll see a very **zoomed-in photo** on the screen.
  - **As a group**, guess what you think the photo is of.

- **Write your answer** on your board for that round.
- When your group is ready, **everyone in the group raises their hands.**

**4. Share answers** – One group at a time, have them say what they guessed.

**5. Reveal the answer** – Show the next slide to reveal what the photo really was!

**6. Scoring** – Groups keep track of their own points. (1 point for each correct guess.)

**7. Celebrate the winner** – After all 9 rounds, tally points and cheer for the group with the most correct answers!

### **Key (Answers):**

**Group 1:** Lebron James

**Group 2:** Nerds Gummy Clusters

**Group 3:** The Minecraft Movie / Chicken Jockey

**Group 4:** Taylor Swift

**Group 5:** Nike Dunks/Nike Shoes

**Group 6:** In-N-out Burger

**Group 7:** Roblox

**Group 8:** Takis

**Group 9:** Super Mario Bros Movie/Super Mario Bros

### **Transition to Lesson:**

**Say:** Sometimes, looks can be deceiving. What we *think* we see isn't always the full picture. That's exactly what happened to a guy named Samuel in today's Bible story. But before we hear more about that, let's stand and worship together!

## **WORSHIP**

One of the ways we worship is by giving praise and honor to God by singing and dancing. Now, it's your time to jump in and give all you've got as we worship! You can follow along with the moves or worship in your own way. Let's sing! **(Encourage kids to worship God through song and dance. Play worship songs.)**

## Show Worship Song: Goodbye Yesterday

## Show Worship Song: Gratitude

Great work everyone! I love worshipping God with all of you. Let's go ahead and sit down and get ready for our Bible Story today.

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### INTRO

## Show Series Theme Graphic: Wisdomland

Today, we're moving right along in the Bible to a book called 1 Samuel. **(HOLD UP BIBLE.)** Today's Bible Story is about someone who had to follow God's leading to make the wise choice, but God walked him through it every step of the way. There were confusing moments and moments this person didn't understand, but God still went with him through it all and told him what the wise thing to do was. It's the man who this book is named after—Samuel! As we'll see, Samuel learned how important it is to listen to God. God helped him see what really matters. Let's check out this week's story.

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### BIBLE TRUTH

## Show Video: Video\_WK1\_So&SoShow

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### APPLICATION

## Show Series Theme Graphic: Wisdomland

Samuel left a legacy: he showed God's people, and us, that it's wise to ask God for help, to wait for His answer, and to do what's right no matter what. Every day, you get to make choices. Some will be big, some will be small. Some will be hard. But you don't have to figure it out alone. Here's what we need to remember:

## Show Graphic: WK1\_Bottom Line

***[BOTTOM LINE]*** God can help you make the wise choice.

Say that with me! **(Repeat with leaders and kids)**

Every day, you face choices—some easy, some hard, and some that might even make you a little nervous. Maybe you have a big test coming up, or you're having trouble with a friend, or you're not sure how to help when you see someone left out. Wisdom is not just about having the right answer.

It's about pausing, listening for God's voice, and choosing what He wants, even if it's not what everyone else would do.

### **Show Graphic: Virtue**

**Wisdom is finding out God's best and doing it.**

You might feel like David sometimes—young, not as experienced, maybe even like no one ever sees you. But God sees you, just like He saw David out with the sheep. You don't have to be perfect or know everything—just willing to ask God for help, to wait and listen, and to trust Him, step by step. This is what the Bible has to say about it.

### **Show Verse: Proverbs 16:16 (NirV)**

**“It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver.” Proverbs (NirV)**

Let's say it together! (Repeat with leaders and kids)

On your way to small groups, think about this question:

### **SLIDE: Wk1 Conversation Starter**

**What does it mean to be wise?** Does wisdom always mean having the right answer? Or is it about going with God through everything, and asking Him for help as you go? Think about where you need wisdom most right now. Who can you talk to? What's one step you can take to listen for God's voice and live out wisdom this week? Don't rush past the question—let it shape your prayers, your friendships, and your choices. God is ready to guide you, moment by moment. But before we head out, let's talk to God together now!

## **PRAYER**

God, thank You for seeing us and loving us. Thank You for helping Samuel listen, for choosing David, and for sending Jesus. Please give us wisdom for the moments ahead—at school, at home, and everywhere we go. Help us listen, trust, and follow You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

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## **SMALL GROUPS**

### **Show Graphic: Small Group**

(Dismiss kids to their small groups)