



WEEK THREE – SEPTEMBER 2025 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Solomon Chooses Wisdom | 1 Kings 3:4-15 (suppt. Proverbs 15:1; 3:5-6; 17:17)*

Conversation Starter: *When do you need wisdom?*

Memory Verse: *“It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver.” - Hebrews 11:1 (NirV)*

Insight: *God’s Message – 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*

Series Overview: This month’s theme—“Wisdomland: God can help you make the wise choice”—is inspired by all the ups and downs of a theme park roller coaster. The kings of Israel and Judah brought the nation to its pinnacle when they wisely chose to worship and honor God. And they led the nation down some stomach-dropping dips and ultimate derailment through their foolish decisions. Kids will discover that even though they may not be leading a nation, their choices matter deeply in their lives and the lives of the people around them.

8:45 - 9:05 | 10:45 – 11:05 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

CONNECTION CENTERS

Connect: a time that invites kids to share with others and leaders

What You Need: Game Room, Card Games + Art Room

What You Do:

- *PRE-CONNECTION TIME*
 - **Before kids arrive, pray for your group before they arrive. Think about a time the Holy Spirit helped you make a wise or hard choice. Thank God for that moment! Pray that your preteens would have the courage to ask for help when they're not sure what to do. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind them that needing help isn't weakness, it's wisdom. Pray that your words would speak life and truth to kids who may be carrying more than you realize. Ask God to show each kid that His wisdom is real, personal, and available for them right now!**
- *DURING CONNECTION TIME*
 - Greet each child by name and with a high five or fist bump!
 - **Make sure to grab second sticker from the child + place it on your sticker sheet**
 - Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
 - Interact with preteens in their respective spaces (Game Room/Art Room/Board Games, etc.)
 - Ask questions in order to connect with + get to know your few as you partake in activities alongside them:
 - ***“What's one memory from this summer that you think you'll remember for a long time? Why is it so memorable”***
 - ***“If you could invent a new app or video game, what would it be called and what would it do”***

- *“What's one skill you're hoping to learn or improve this school year, either at school or outside of it”*
- *“What's one small thing that always makes you smile or brightens your day?”*
- *AFTER CONNECTION TIME*
 - *Use this time to review over how to be successful in small group time as well as Flatirons Kids by using the SG Structure 101 sheet featured on your activity shelf*
 - Go over each rule to create a great small group experience
 - Transition into the Opening Small Group Activity

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | OPENING SMALL GROUP

OPENING ACTIVITY

What You Need: Floor tape

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Use the tape to create a line down the middle of your Small Group space.
- Explain that you'll ask a “Would You Rather?” question, and kids will choose their answer by walking to the tape line you designate for each choice.
- Mix in random, funny questions to keep the game engaging!
- Be sure to indicate which side of the tape line represents each choice.
- Play as long as time and interest allow.
 - Would You Rather Questions
 - Would you rather sneeze confetti or burp bubbles?

- Would you rather be super-strong or super-fast?
- Would you rather ask God or guess on your own?
- Would you rather be rich and unkind or wise and kind?
- Would you rather eat pizza with chocolate syrup or ice cream with ketchup?
- Would you rather have wings or a tail that glows?
- Would you rather live in a treehouse or a castle made of LEGOs®?
- Would you rather pause and pray or rush to decide?
- Would you rather get advice from a friend or the Bible?
- Would you rather have gold or God’s wisdom?
- Would you rather look smart or actually be wise?
- Would you rather make one wise decision or ten easy ones?
- Would you rather be able to talk to animals or breathe underwater?
- Would you rather have giant clown shoes or a tutu that never comes off?

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Adjust to the physical needs of your group. Consider completing the activity seated. Allow kids to point one way or the other—or raise one hand or the other to identify their answer.

What You Say:

“You all made some awesome (and hilarious) choices! You had to stop and think QUICKLY! Today we’re talking about wisdom. What is wisdom? Why do we need it?”

“We’ll hear a true story from the Bible about someone who could have had anything in the world, but instead, he asked God for wisdom! Let go find out what happened and how we can do the same!”

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

In Week 3, we take a look at David’s son Solomon. Israel was a mighty nation when Solomon became king as a young man – and he knew that he couldn’t lead the people well on his own. So instead of fame or riches, Solomon asked God for wisdom. And wow, did God deliver! Solomon became known as one of the wisest men to ever live, in spite of later mistakes he made. During his life, Solomon collected wise sayings, many of which are recorded in Proverbs. We’ll take a look at Proverbs 15:1; 3:5-6; and 17:17

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[Live for God | Application Activity]

What You Need: “Fast Pass” Activity Page; tape; writing utensil; device for music

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Fast Pass card from the “Fast Pass” Activity Page.
- Instruct them to read the Scripture on their Fast Pass and answer the questions.
 - As they read and respond, play soft worship music.
- After a few minutes, invite the kids to walk around and “trade” their cards as you play upbeat worship music.
 - Before trading, each kid must briefly explain their verse and response to the other.
- At your signal, say “switch!” and allow kids to find another kid to read their new verse and trade with.

- After several trades, ask:
 - “Did anyone hear something today that helped you think differently?”
 - “Why do you think God wants us to share wisdom with others?”
- When kids have their “final” Fast Passes, give each kid a pen or a pencil.
- Encourage them to write their name on their Fast Pass.
 - ***[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate time when you asked God for wisdom. What did He show you? A Scripture? Did a friend who follows Jesus help you talk through a situation?)***
- *NOTE: Each week, kids will receive a “Fast Pass.” Encourage them to collect them and take them home!*

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Give the kids as much time as they need to think quietly before answering.
- Some kids might struggle to put their thoughts into words. Affirm and celebrate everyone for sharing, no matter how they participate

VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

What You Need: Bible; “Proverbs 16:16 Cards” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into groups of 2-3.
- Give every group one card from the “Proverbs 16:16 Cards” Activity Page, and a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Proverbs 16:16 and read it aloud together.
- Repeat the verse together several times.
 - ***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.

- Instruct each group to discuss their two questions on the cards. Give them 4–5 minutes to do so.
- If kids finish early, challenge them to discuss a time they didn't make the wise choice. Maybe they chose what looked better or easier instead.
- Share with kids that:
 - Wisdom isn't just about knowing things. It's about knowing the all-knowing God and choosing His way over **everything** else.
 - When we follow God's wisdom, we make choices that honor Him and help us love others.

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- If a group is quiet during the discussion, give them a “starter sentence” like, “One time I had to trust God when ...” or “A wise friend would probably...”

MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[Pray To God | Prayer Activity]

What You Need: Prepared Construction paper signs; index cards; pens

What You Do:

- Place the four signs in different areas of your group space.
- Give every kid an index card and a pencil or pen.
- Say, “Today, we discovered that wisdom comes from God, and it shapes how we live, make decisions, love, and treat others. Let's wrap up by taking some time to talk to God and ask for wisdom in specific areas of our lives.”
- Point to each sign and briefly explain:

- **Loving Others:** I want to ask God to help me show love, kindness, and care.
- **Choosing Wisdom When Others Are Not:** I want to ask God to help me make wise choices.
- **Being Patient:** I want to ask God to help me wait well and stay calm when things don't happen right away.
- **Being Quick to Listen and Slow to Get Angry:** I want to ask God to help me pause and listen before I speak or act.
- Let the kids take a minute to choose one category that they really need God's help with right now.
- Invite them to travel to that sign, sit, and reflect.
- Encourage them to pray to God silently, out loud, or write or draw a prayer on the index card.

What You Say:

“God, thank You for each of my friends here today. Thank You for being the Source of true wisdom. Thank You that You want to share Your wisdom with us. Thank You for never holding back when we ask for help. Grow us in wisdom, like a seed planted DEEPLY in soil that grows beautifully. Help us remember to pause and ask You for wisdom in every situation. We want to go through life with You! We love You so much, God. We pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen!”