

Small Group Leader Guide



THIS MONTH



Today's Suggested Schedule

Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Wisdom Fast Pass
2. Sticky Prayers
3. God's Word and Wisdom
4. Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd grade guide.

Today's Bible Story

Solomon Chooses Wisdom

1 Kings 3:4-5

Supporting: Proverbs 15:1; 3:5-6; 17:17

Bottom Line

You can ask God for wisdom.

Memory Verse

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

Proverbs 16:16 NIRV

Inclusive Pro Tips



This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro-tips. Check out the Special Needs Resource Kit for more ideas for adapting each segment.

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

What You Need

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Beach Ball



Inclusive Pro Tips

Repeat the questions several times to allow kids a moment to process and answer.

Instead of throwing the ball, consider playing in a seated circle and passing the ball gently if that suits your group.

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time when the Holy Spirit helped you make a wise choice. Thank God that you don't have to figure things out all by yourself. Pray that God's Spirit would help each kid in your group be bold and brave enough to ask for help. Ask God to show them that wisdom isn't just for grown-ups—it's how God shows how to follow His ways! Ask God to help you be ready to listen, encourage, and remind them that God will always hear when they ask for wisdom.

1. Welcome the kids with a high five or fist bump as they arrive,
2. Encourage any kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
3. Invite the kids to stand in a circle.
4. Select one kid to toss the beach ball to someone else.
5. When a kid catches it, ask them a "Get to Know You" question.
6. After answering, instruct the kid to toss the ball to someone new.
7. Read another question aloud to the kid who has caught the beach ball.
8. Continue until every kid has had a turn to answer a question!

Get to Know You Questions

1. What's your favorite flavor of ice cream?
2. If you could have any superpower, what would it be?
3. What's your favorite part of an amusement park? The food, rides, or something else?
4. If you could have any animal as a pet— even a wild one—what would you pick?
5. What's your favorite thing to do on a rainy day?
6. If you opened your own restaurant, what kind of food would you serve?
7. What's the funniest thing that's ever happened to you?
8. If you could switch places with a character from a book or movie, who would it be?
9. What's your dream vacation?
10. What's your favorite color?

Continued on the next page. →

SOCIAL

Opening Activity

**What You Need**

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Beach Ball

② What You Say

"That was fun! I love learning about each of you and seeing how creative and curious you are."

"Asking questions helps us get to know each other. But did you know it's also how we get to know God?"

"Today in our true story from the Bible, we're going to hear about a king who asked God for something REALLY big. God didn't just hear his question, He answered it in an epic way. Let's go find out what happened and why it matters for us today!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Inclusive Pro Tips

Repeat the questions several times to allow kids a moment to process and answer.

Instead of throwing the ball, consider playing in a seated circle and passing the ball gently if that suits your group.

GROUPS 1/4

Wisdom Fast Pass



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Wisdomland Review" Activity Page
- ☐ "Wisdomland Fast Pass" Activity Page
- *Optional: Tape*

Inclusive Supplies

- ☐ Timer



Inclusive Pro Tips

Use a timer to share gentle reminders with the group for transitioning stations.

Adjust to the mobility of your group by creating seated stations.

① What You Do

- Before you begin, place or tape the five "Wisdomland Review" Activity Pages around your group space like stations at a theme park.
- Divide the kids into two teams.

Play Together:

- Assign one team to begin at Land #1, and the other team at Land #5 to avoid crowding.
- Say, "At each Wisdomland, your team will read and answer the Bible Story questions! We'll come together to discuss the answers at the end."
- Direct the teams to rotate clockwise through the five lands until they've answered every question.
- Give every kid a "Wisdomland Fast Pass" Activity Page to celebrate their efforts when they're finished!

Story Review Answer Key:

- When God appeared to Solomon in a dream, what did He say to Solomon?** (God said, "Ask for anything you want me to give you." —1 Kings 3:5 NIV)
- What did Solomon ask for instead of money, strength, or chicken sandwiches?** (wisdom—an understanding heart to know what is right—1 Kings 3:9)
- How did God respond to Solomon's request for wisdom?** (God was pleased and gave him wisdom, plus wealth and honor—1 Kings 3:10–13.)
- What book of the Bible includes many of Solomon's wise sayings?** (Proverbs)
- How can we seek God's wisdom in our own life?** (Read the Bible, talk to trusted people who follow Jesus, pray, and keep learning about Him at church.)

② What You Say

"Amazing job working together to answer questions from today's true story from the Bible!

"Even though Solomon was a king, he knew that he didn't have what it took to lead a kingdom on his own. Think about this: Solomon could have asked for ANYTHING. But he didn't. He asked for wisdom. The kind of wisdom that helps you know what's right, even when it's hard. And that request made God so happy! God loves to share His wisdom!

"Friends, God isn't far away. Just like Solomon asked for wisdom, we can ask for wisdom too. God is always with us, and He wants to help us make wise choices and live well. God is the source of all wisdom—He is the wisest! Remember, you can ask God for wisdom!"

GROUPS 2/4

Sticky Prayers

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Sticky Prayers" Activity Page
- ☐ Sticky notes
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Finished Sticky Prayers example



Inclusive Pro Tips

If independent reflection feels overwhelming for your group, allow them to discuss in pairs.

① What You Do

1. Sit on the floor or around a table.
2. Give every kid a "Sticky Prayers" Activity Page and nine sticky notes.
3. Set out the markers.

Imagine Together:

1. Ask: "When is a time you've needed help making a wise choice?"
→ Encourage kids to think about real-life situations like a conversation with a friend, a time they felt angry, or when they were unsure what to do.
2. Say, "We've been discovering all month long that true wisdom comes from God! He is the wisest, and He wants to give us wisdom so we can go through life well. Each of the prayers on your page are ways we can talk to God when we need His wisdom."
3. Point out the nine situations and feelings at the bottom of the page.
4. Direct the kids to write (or draw) each situation on their sticky notes.
5. Lead the kids to take each sticky note and place it on top of the nine prayer prompts on the page.

② What You Say

"Awesome job with these Sticky Prayers, friends! These are real moments when we can stop, talk to God, and say: 'God, will You give me wisdom?' Maybe you need help figuring out what to say to a friend who's sad. Or how to do the right thing, even when no one's watching. These are all moments when we should lean in to God's presence with us and ask God for help!

"Friends, following Jesus is THE best decision you'll ever make. Why? Not only does Jesus give you a brand-new life where you can be close friends with God, but He gives you the gift of the Holy Spirit to live with you and guide you! That means you're never, EVER, alone! When you ask God for wisdom, the Holy Spirit might give you a new idea, or help you understand what's true!

"Take your Sticky Prayers home and keep them somewhere you'll see them. You can use these prayers to start your conversation with God anytime. Let them remind you that you can ask God for wisdom!"

GROUPS 3/4

God's Word and Wisdom

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ Bibles


① What You Do

1. Divide the group into two teams.
2. Give each team two Bibles.
3. Direct them to look up Proverbs 16:16.
4. Review any words in the verse that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
5. Give the teams several minutes to practice the verse aloud.

Move Together:

1. Say, "I'm going to read Proverbs 16:16 with one word missing each time. Your team is to huddle together and guess the missing word. Raise your hands when you know it!"
→ Encourage kids to use their Bibles if needed.
2. Keep it fun by changing which word is missing for each round.
3. After the last round, gather the teams and say the entire verse together!
→ *Optional: Create a point system, giving each team a point for guessing the correct word missing for each round. The team with the most points at the end wins!*

Talk Together:

1. Gather the kids to discuss.
2. Ask: "Why do you think God's wisdom is worth more than gold or silver?" (Help kids consider how money and treasures can't help you make the wise choice, but God can because He is all knowing!)

Continued on the next page. →

Inclusive Pro Tips



If your kids work better in smaller teams, divide them up that way!

GROUPS 3/4

God's Word and Wisdom

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ Bibles


Inclusive Pro Tips

If your kids work better in smaller teams, divide them up that way!

② What You Say

"Proverbs 16:16 tells us that wisdom is better than gold or silver. That's a BIG deal. Because gold and silver are pretty valuable. Today that might look like winning a trophy, or getting tons of likes online. This verse reminds us that wisdom is much more helpful and useful than these things! Why? Because it comes from God Almighty! It comes from the King of all Himself!

"Godly wisdom helps us live God's way, and that's the very best way.

"So, the next time you're stuck and not sure what to do, remember Proverbs 16:16 and say, 'God, I need Your wisdom! Remember, you can ask God for wisdom anytime.'"

*Finding verses with 2nd-3rd graders

- ① Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. **(HOLD UP A BIBLE OPENED TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS TO SHOW THE KIDS WHAT THE PAGE LOOKS LIKE.)**
- ② When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list.
- ③ When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page.
- ④ When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter.
- ⑤ Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Sticky Prayers Activity Pages from "Sticky Prayers: Activity (Application Activity)"



Inclusive Pro Tips

If your group desires personal connection, allow them to pair up with another kid.

① What You Do

1. Give kids their Sticky Prayers page and invite them to find a quiet spot in your group area.
2. Say, "This is a moment just between you and God! Look at the nine prayer squares on your page. Remember we connected them to different feelings—like sadness, excitement, frustration, or confusion."
3. Ask:
→ "Think about how you're feeling today. What square matches that feeling the most right now?"
4. Explain that they can ask God for wisdom in any situation.
5. Direct the kids to read the prayer in that square quietly to themselves.
6. Close in prayer.

② What You Say

"Dear God, thank You for always being with us—no matter how we're feeling or what's going on around us. We are SO grateful that You understand each of our hearts, and You give us everything we need. Please help us to remember that You are the wisest and we can ask You for wisdom. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share that we can always stop, pray, and ask God for wisdom, no matter what we're facing because He is with us. Invite the kids to share their Sticky Prayers cards.

Getting Ready

Social

Welcome the kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Use this time to create space for them to connect with you and with each other by playing age-appropriate games, asking fun questions, and encouraging friendly interactions. This is a great moment to help kids feel seen, known, and ready to experience today's story.

Groups

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

Social

Opening Activity

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Beach ball, one for each Small Group

Groups

Wisdom Fast Pass

- ☐ Print "Wisdomland Review" Activity Page on cardstock, one set for each Small Group
- ☐ Print "Wisdomland Fast Pass" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, one card for every kid
 - *Optional: Tape*

Inclusive Supplies

- ☐ Timer, one for each Small Group

Sticky Prayers*

- ☐ Print "Sticky Prayers" Activity Page on paper, one for every kid
- ☐ Sticky notes (3 × 3-inch), nine for every kid
- ☐ Markers, enough for each Small Group to share
- ☐ Finished Sticky Prayers example, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Before group time:
 - Use the supplies to make a finished example of the activity.

God's Word and Wisdom

- ☐ Bibles, four for each Small Group

Pray and Dismiss

- Sticky Prayer Activity Pages from "Sticky Prayers" Activity (Application Activity)

*If you don't have time to do all, be sure to do the starred activity.

Home

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Parent Cue app** and **ParentCue.org**