

Large Group Leader Guide

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 ("Know You More" and "The Good Thing")
- 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. Clay Creations (K-1st grade), More Than Meets the Eye (2nd-3rd grade), Bible Story Extension (4th-5th Grade)
2. What's the Wise Choice? (K-1st grade), Filter Your Choices (2nd-3rd grade), Take a Snapshot (4th-5th Grade)
3. Hop to It (K-1st grade), The Great Gift of Wisdom! (2nd-3rd grade), Verses to Take with You (4th-5th Grade)
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 guide.

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Samuel Anoints David

1 Samuel 16:1-13

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.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

① Opener

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as kids enter.

SLIDE → Theme

Optional Video → Theme Loop

→ **Host enters.**

Optional Video → Countdown

Optional Video → Theme Intro

Optional Video → Theme Loop

HOST: “Hey, everyone! 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!)**

“Today, we’re going to ride the ‘Carousel of Choices.’ But don’t worry—you won’t get dizzy! This carousel is all about moving, thinking fast, and practicing wisdom—God’s wisdom! In Wisdomland, we know that every choice we make—big or small—can be wise or unwise. God wants to help us make the wise choice, no matter what!

→ **Point out the two signs at the opposite ends of the room: “Wise” and “Unwise.”**

“Here’s how our game works: When the music starts, everyone will move around the room like you’re riding a carousel—march, dance, skip, or even pretend to ride a horse! When the music stops, I’ll call out a choice. Your job is to race to the side of the room that matches what you think: Is it a wise choice or an unwise one? Touch the sign, and then freeze—no peeking at your friends first!

“Let’s practice! I have a silly example. If I say, ‘Eating all your candy from Easter in one night,’ is that wise or unwise? Race to the side you think!

→ **React enthusiastically to both sides, but explain that eating too much candy can give you a stomachache, and God wants you to live well!**

“Great job! Let’s try a couple more practice rounds to get warmed up. Ready? When I start the music, move around like you’re on a carousel!

AUDIO → Fun upbeat game music

→ **After a few seconds, stop the music and say:**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Here is your next scenario: Helping a friend clean up a craft at school. Move to your choices, touch the sign, and then freeze! **(PAUSE WHILE THE KIDS MOVE TO THEIR CHOICES.)**

- **Discuss if the choice is wise or unwise and why in a positive, encouraging way. Encourage high-fives or "air roller coaster arms."**

"Great! Let's try one more practice round! Move around like you're on a carousel when I start the music!

- **Start the music to let the kids move around like they're on a carousel. After a few seconds, stop the music and say:**

"Here's your next scenario: Yelling at your brother. Move to your choices, touch the sign, and then freeze! **(PAUSE WHILE KIDS MOVE TO THEIR CHOICES.)**

- **Discuss if the choice is wise or unwise and why in a positive, encouraging way.**

"Now we're ready for the real rounds! Before we start them, let me say this. Remember—God can help us make the wise choice, even in moments that are tricky, embarrassing, or when everyone else seems to be going the other way. God is the wisest, and He wants to help you live well by making the wise choice. And every time you make a wise choice, you're putting God's wisdom to work in your life. So, let's ride the Carousel of Choices together and practice making the wise choice!

"Let me play the music some, and you move around like you're on a carousel. Then I'll stop the music, and read a scenario out loud. Once I do that, you move to the side you think it is, touch the sign, and then freeze! Ready?

- **Start the music, and play the following rounds in the same manner.**

Wise or Unwise Choice Options: (USE AS MANY OF THESE AS YOU WANT)

- Trying your best on a hard test (wise)
- Leaving your trash on the playground (unwise)
- Helping your grown-ups clean up after dinner (wise)
- Waiting impatiently in line for a ride on a theme park (unwise)
- Having a temper tantrum because you don't like dinner (unwise)
- Tidying up after a birthday celebration at church (wise)
- Trying again even though you're frustrated because you're having a hard time tying your shoes (wise)
- Talking loudly to your friend while your teacher is talking (unwise)
- Joining in when your friends start making fun of someone in your class (unwise)
- Encouraging your teammates when your team gets scored on in soccer (wise)

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

→ **When you're finished with the game, give out lots of high-fives and say:**

"You all did awesome! Give yourself a round of applause as you find your seat. Remember, you have a lot of choices ahead of you—today and every day. And God loves to help you make the wise ones. That's what we're discovering this month in Wisdomland: God can help you make the wise choice!"

"Now, let's get ready to worship God by singing together! Worship is one of the best ways we can thank God for His wisdom. So, everybody up on your feet—let's celebrate and sing!"

② Worship

→ **Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.**

WORSHIP LEADER: "Wow, I love the energy in here! Welcome, Wisdomland guests! I'm **[WORSHIP LEADER NAME]**, and I'm so glad to be your worship leader today. Who's ready to sing and move? **(PAUSE FOR CHEERS!)** If you're visiting Wisdomland for the first time, we have a tradition here: We don't just stand and sing—we go all in, just like you do on the wildest theme park rides! So, let's get ready to move, clap, and worship God with all we've got.

"Today, we're celebrating one of the best gifts God gives us—His wisdom! God wants us to live well in life, and He wants to share His wisdom with us. He is the wisest! And did you know that singing to God is a wise choice too? When we sing to God, we fill our hearts and minds with His truth. It helps us remember who He is, and that He's guiding us to make the wise choice.

"This first song reminds us how much we want to know God and learn His ways—and when we do, we'll be wise because God is the wisest! Get ready to jump, spin, and sing along with 'Know You More!'"

AUDIO → "Know You More" / track 1 from Focus

WORSHIP LEADER: "Great job! You all sound like you're having fun at the best day ever in Wisdomland! Now let's sing another song that reminds us about the good thing God gives us in wisdom! God wants us to live well, so He gives us the good thing of wisdom! Let's sing 'The Good Thing.' And if you want to do a victory dance, go for it!"

AUDIO → "The Good Thing" / track 1 from The Good Thing

WORSHIP LEADER: "That was awesome! Before you sit down, let's lock today's Memory Verse in our hearts. Repeat after me—and if you want, put your hands together like you're holding a golden ticket!"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

SLIDE → Memory Verse

WORSHIP LEADER AND KIDS: "It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver. Proverbs 16:16."

WORSHIP LEADER: "God's wisdom is better than any prize, any ticket, or any souvenir! Thanks for singing with me, Wisdomland friends. Let's go ahead and sit down and hear our true story from the Bible today."

③ Bible Story

SLIDE → Theme Background

→ **Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.**

INTRODUCTION

STORYTELLER: "Hi, friends! I'm so excited you're here today! Let me tell you about something awesome we're doing this year! We're going through the entire story of the Bible!"

"Why? Well, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we can get to know Him! So as we go through the stories of the Bible, we'll get to know God!"

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

"We're going to go through God's Big Story together! **(GESTURE TO SLIDE.)**"

SLIDE → God's Big Story

"Each week, we'll look at a story from God's Big Story and add a picture of that story to our timeline, so we can see where we've been in the Bible as we journey along. **(GESTURE TO TIMELINE.)**"

"Let me bring you up to speed on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!"

"So you might remember that in the very beginning, God made everything! He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore! It was so sad.

"And awful things happened to the world too. Pain, sickness, and death entered into it.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way! So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Many years later, Abraham's great-grandson Joseph ended up in Egypt. After some hard times, God helped Joseph become a super-important leader there! Joseph saved his whole family by bringing them to Egypt. But hundreds of years passed. God grew and grew His people. A new Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, came along. He didn't know about Joseph. He saw how many of God's people there were, he got scared, and he started being mean to them.

"God's people cried out to God for help. He answered! He brought His people out of slavery into a beautiful home He had for them—the Promised Land! After some time living in the Promised Land, God's people wanted a king like the other nations around them. And that's where we are in God's Big Story."

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Today, we're moving right along in the Bible to a book called 1 Samuel. **(HOLD UP BIBLE.)**

"Today's story is all about a 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.

"I need your help telling this story! This paddle here **(HOLD UP PADDLE)** has two sides—'WISE' and 'UNWISE.' Every time you see me flip this paddle to the 'WISE' side, give your best cheer! If I turn the paddle to the 'UNWISE' side, let's hear a big: 'Uh-oh!'"

"Let's practice a little. **(TURN THE PADDLE TO THE 'WISE' SIDE. PUMP YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR TO GET THE KIDS TO CHEER LOUDER.)** Awesome! Let's try this side. **(TURN THE PADDLE TO THE 'UNWISE' SIDE AND MAKE A SAD FACE AS THE KIDS SAY, 'UH OH.')** You guys are ready! Let's do this!

SAMUEL GETS A MESSAGE FROM GOD

STORYTELLER: "Now, Samuel was a trusted leader—a prophet. He listened to God and gave the people God's messages. Samuel loved God! But Israel, the nation of God's people, had a king named Saul. Saul was the nation's first king, and things were not going well.

"At first, Saul looked perfect for the job—tall, strong, a warrior. But Saul made a habit of ignoring God's instructions. Instead of listening, Saul did things his own way. Over and over, God gave Saul chances to be wise, but he chose his own way instead. So, God decided to anoint a new king who would love and follow Him. This is what happened:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:1 (NirV) and read.**

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you be filled with sorrow because of Saul? I have refused to have him as king over Israel. Fill your animal horn with olive oil and go on your way. I am sending you to Jesse in Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Samuel was heartbroken about Saul, but he trusted God and His plan. Was it wise for Samuel to listen to God, even if it was hard?"

→ **Flip the paddle to the WISE side. Listen for cheers, and wave your arms higher to prompt the kids to cheer louder.**

"But Samuel was also scared. He knew King Saul could be dangerous. He said to God:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:2 (NirV) and read.**

"How can I go? Suppose Saul hears about it. Then he'll kill me."

"Sometimes, even wise leaders feel fear. But God gave Samuel step-by-step instructions:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:2-3 (NirV) and read.**

"Take a young cow with you. Tell the elders of Bethlehem, 'I've come to offer a sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice. Then I will show you what to do. You must anoint for me the one I point out to you."

"So, Samuel packed up his things—including his animal horn of oil—and started toward Bethlehem. He obeyed, even when he was afraid. Listening to God and doing what He says, even when you're scared? That's WISE!

→ **Flip the paddle to the WISE side. Listen for cheers, and wave your arms higher to prompt the kids to cheer louder.**

"When Samuel arrived in Bethlehem, the town leaders were worried. 'Do you come in peace?' they asked. Samuel answered, 'Yes, I do come in peace. I have come to sacrifice to God.' Samuel invited Jesse and his sons to join the sacrifice, but he didn't share what he was doing.

"At the sacrifice, Samuel saw Jesse's oldest son, Eliab. Eliab looked just like a king—tall, impressive, confident. Samuel thought, 'Surely this is the one God is going to pick to be king.' But Eliab wasn't who God chose. Listen to what God said to Samuel:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:7 (NirV) and read.**

"Do not consider how handsome or tall he is. I have not chosen him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outside of a person. But the Lord looks at what is in the heart."

→ **Pat your hand over your heart like you're making a heartbeat. Prompt the kids to do the same.**

A HEART THAT LOVES GOD

STORYTELLER: "God was teaching Samuel—and all of us—a huge lesson: God looks at what is in a person's heart. A person's heart, not their outward appearance, is what's most important.

"Since what's in a person's heart is what matters, when Samuel started to

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

pick based on looks, was that wise or unwise?

- **Flip the paddle to the UNWISE side. Listen for the kids to say: "Uh-oh."**

"When Samuel listened to God, it was WISE!

- **Flip the paddle to the WISE side. Listen for cheers, and wave your arms higher to prompt the kids to cheer louder.**

"Samuel was probably feeling a little confused. Eliab looked perfect, but God said no. So, Jesse called for his next son, Abinadab. Samuel looked at him—maybe Abinadab was also tall, with strong arms and a proud walk. Samuel waited, but God said, 'No, not him either.' Jesse called his next son, Shammah, and then the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh sons—all strong, all capable. But each time, God whispered the same thing to Samuel's heart: 'No, not him.'

"Can you imagine being Samuel? He had done exactly what God said, but now every son had been rejected. Maybe you've felt that way—like you followed directions, but things still didn't make sense. Samuel could have just picked the oldest son anyway. It would have made sense to everyone. But would that have been wise?

- **Flip the paddle to the UNWISE side. Listen for the kids to say: "Uh-oh."**

"No way! Instead, Samuel stayed patient and trusted what he heard from God. Trusting God is always the best decision. Go, Samuel! He was being WISE!

- **Flip the paddle to the WISE side. Listen for cheers, and wave your arms higher to prompt the kids to cheer louder.**

"Samuel turned to Jesse and asked:

- **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:11a (NirV) and read.**

"Are these the only sons you have?"

"Jesse answered, 'There's still the youngest son. He's out tending the sheep.' Jesse didn't even think to invite David! David was just a kid, and his job was taking care of the sheep. He probably didn't look—or smell—like a king. But David loved God, and that's what so precious to God.

- **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:11b (NirV) and read.**

Samuel said, "Send for him. We won't sit down until he arrives."

"Jesse sent for David who was out with the sheep. Can everyone make sheep noises for me?

- **Pause while the kids "baaa" like sheep.**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"After a few minutes, David came—since he was a shepherd, maybe he was sunburned, had messy hair, had grass stains on his tunic, and was holding a shepherd's staff. The Bible says:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:12a (NirV) and read.**

He looked very healthy. He had a fine appearance and handsome features.

"But remember, it wasn't his appearance that mattered most! It was David's heart! David loved God, and God loved that most about him.

"God said to Samuel:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:12b (NirV) and read.**

"Get up and anoint him. This is the one."

"Samuel's heart probably leaped! He'd listened to God, even when everyone else—and maybe even he—might have thought he was wasting time. Sometimes, wisdom means waiting for God to do something nobody else expects.

"Samuel took his animal's horn filled with olive oil and poured it on David's head. Can you imitate what I do and what I say?

→ **Mime pretending to pour something. Say: "drip, drip, drip" as you do, and prompt the kids to do the same.**

"In front of all David's big brothers, God was making a statement—He didn't want muscle strength, He wanted heart strength. God wanted a person who loved hHim.

"The Bible says:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:13 (NirV) and read.**

From that day on, the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully on David.

"The Holy Spirit came on David to help him love and follow God well. The Holy Spirit would help David be WISE! Yay, David!

→ **Flip the paddle to the WISE side. Listen for cheers, and wave your arms higher to prompt the kids to cheer louder.**

"God's Spirit gave David courage, understanding, and strength he didn't even know he had yet. But what happened next? David didn't run to the palace. He didn't start bossing everyone around. Instead, he went back to the fields with the sheep. David was willing to be patient, to trust God's timing, and to keep serving where God put him. Sometimes wisdom means being humble and faithful right where you are.

"Let's take a wisdom pause. Turn to someone near you and tell them, 'God sees your heart.' **(PAUSE AND WAIT FOR THE KIDS TO SHARE WITH**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

THEIR NEIGHBORS.) Now, turn to someone else and say, 'God can help you make wise choices.' **(PAUSE AND WAIT FOR THE KIDS TO SHARE WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS.)**

"Samuel's job in Bethlehem was done. He had listened for God's voice, obeyed—even when it was scary or confusing—and watched as God picked the most unlikely person for the most important job. It wasn't about what Samuel or Jesse or anyone else thought; it was about what God wanted. And God guided Samuel every step of the way.

"Sometimes in life, people might overlook you or think you're too small, too young, or too different. But God doesn't miss anything. He loves your heart and wants to fill you with wisdom—right now, right where you are.

DAVID AND GOLIATH

STORYTELLER: "Let's fast forward a little in David's story. Did you know that wisdom isn't something you get once and then you're done? David needed God's wisdom all throughout his life. David needed to seek God's heart and His good wisdom every step of his life.

"One of the most famous stories about David happened when he was still just a young shepherd. You might have heard it before—David and Goliath! Let's see how God's wisdom was at work, and use our Wisdom Reveal paddle as we go.

"The Israelites, God's people, were fighting a battle against the Philistines. The Philistine army had a champion named Goliath—a giant! He was taller than anyone else, covered in armor, and he was shouting at God's people, daring them to fight. Everyone was terrified, including King Saul and all of David's older brothers. For forty days, Goliath yelled:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 17:8 (NirV) and read.**

"Choose one of your men. Have him come down and face me."

"No one was brave enough to step forward. Was that wise or unwise?

→ **Flip the paddle to the UNWISE side. Listen for the kids to say:**
"Uh-oh."

"David came to the camp to bring food to his brothers. When he heard Goliath's challenge, he trusted that God could help His people! David went to King Saul and said:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 17:32 (NirV) and read.**

"Don't let anyone lose hope because of that Philistine. I'll go out and fight him."

"Was it wise to trust God in the face of something scary?

→ **Flip the paddle to the WISE side. Listen for cheers, and wave your arms higher to prompt the kids to cheer louder.**

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"David took what he knew—a sling and five smooth stones and went out and faced Goliath. When David faced Goliath, the giant laughed at him. But David said:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 17:45 (NirV) and read.**

"You are coming to fight against me with a sword, a spear and a javelin. But I'm coming against you in the name of the Lord who rules over all."

"David trusted that God would help him!

"With one sling of his slingshot, Goliath was defeated. God helped David win a victory no one else thought possible! Was it about being the biggest, strongest, or oldest?

→ **Flip the paddle to the UNWISE side. Listen for the kids to say:**
"Uh-oh."

"Or was it about trusting and listening to God, even in scary moments?

→ **Flip the paddle to the WISE side. Listen for cheers, and wave your arms higher to prompt the kids to cheer louder.**

"Throughout his life, David needed God's wisdom—when he was running from Saul, when he became king, and even when he sinned. God's wisdom helped him lead, but also helped him say sorry, forgive others, and try again when he messed up.

"Samuel's story doesn't end here, either. He set an example for all of us—not just by being a leader, but by always turning to God for direction. He listened for God's voice above all, and that's what true wisdom is about. 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.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Let's think together: What can you do this week to be wise like Samuel and David? Maybe you need to be patient and wait for God's answer when you want something fast. Maybe you need to trust God's way, even if it looks different from what your friends are doing. Or maybe you just need to remember that God loves your heart, and He's looking for people who will listen for His voice.

"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. God's promise is for you:

→ **Open the Bible to James 1:5 (NirV) and read.**

If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you.

"Let's say our Bottom Line!

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

SLIDE → Bottom Line

[BOTTOM LINE] "God can help you make the wise choice. Say that with me."

→ Host enters.

STORYTELLER, HOST, and KIDS: [BOTTOM LINE] "God can help you make the wise choice."

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!"

SLIDE → God's Big Story

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story with David kneeling and having Samuel pour oil over his head to anoint him as the next king. (GESTURE TO SLIDE.) That's where we are in God's Big Story!"

"This week, we looked at the story of the prophet Samuel and how he listened to God. Samuel had an important job to do—anointing the next king—and God helped him know what was wise. God helped Samuel see that David's good heart toward Him was what was most important. But God was doing something even bigger through David. God loved David and us so much that many, many years later, Jesus, the Savior of the world, would come from David's family. God was working on a plan that would stretch for hundreds of years—all the way to Jesus! God was working through David to save us, because Jesus would rescue us all!"

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!"

SLIDE → Week 1 Timeline Image

→ If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's timeline image on the clothesline.

"This week we talked about Samuel!"

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

STORYTELLER: "When we think about Samuel, we can remember that God helped him see what was truly wise."

"But the story doesn't end with Samuel, it continues with you. 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."

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"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. He loves your heart and wants to give you His wisdom. 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.

"Imagine you're at a theme park, standing at the entrance to a brand-new ride. You're excited, but also a little nervous. What if it's scary? What if you're not sure what to do? That's when you reach for God's hand, trusting that He knows what's around the next corner, even if you can't see it yet. That's what it's like to live with God's wisdom every day—holding His hand, ready for the adventure, knowing you're not alone.

"So how can you practice wisdom this week? Here are a few ideas: Ask God for wisdom before you make a big decision or when you feel stuck. Look up Bible verses that relate to what you're going through. **(IF YOU NEED HELP, ASK A FAMILY MEMBER OR SMALL GROUP LEADER.)** Talk to a trusted adult—a parent, leader, or teacher—about choices you're facing. God often uses others to help us find wisdom. Pause before reacting—when you're angry, sad, or excited, take a deep breath and ask, 'God, what's the wise thing to do right now?' Remember that God looks at your heart. You don't have to impress anyone!

"Let's take a moment together—close your eyes, and think about one area in your life where you need God's wisdom. Maybe it's something at school, at home, or with friends. Maybe you're worried about something, or you want to do the right thing, but you're not sure how. Just picture it in your mind, and hold it out to God like you're handing Him a special ticket.

"I'm going to pray for us all, and as I do, you can ask God for wisdom in your own words, right where you are.

③ Prayer

HOST: "God, thank You for always loving us. Thank You for helping Samuel listen to You, for choosing David even when others didn't see his potential, and for bringing Jesus, our perfect King, into the world for us. We need Your wisdom every day. Some of us are facing hard choices, scary moments, or new adventures. Thank You for filling us with Your Spirit. Help us listen, wait, and follow You, even when it's hard. Remind us that You look at our hearts and that You are always with us, no matter what. Give each of us the courage to choose Your way. Thank You for loving us so much. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

SLIDE → Theme

Optional Video (MEDIA PACKAGE) → Theme Loop

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Opener

What You Need

- ☐ Host
- ☐ "Wise/Unwise Signs," printed out
- ☐ Tape, to tape "Wise/Unwise Signs"

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- ☐ Upbeat music to play during the game

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Slide
- ☐ Memory Verse Slide
- ☐ "Wise/Unwise Signs" (printable)

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop
- ☐ Countdown
- ☐ Theme Intro

What You Do:

- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download music and/or sound effects on an authorized basis from a resource such as Apple Music®, Amazon Music®, and/or a sound effect library and have it ready to play. Or, if you choose to stream music, refer to the terms and conditions of your streaming service. Note that you will likely need a commercial license in order to stream music publicly. Also confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform music and sound effects in your kids' environments, such as a blanket PERFORMmusic™ license from CCS. Note: Legally a song and/or sound effect belongs to the songwriter/composer who created it and the publisher who markets it. Performance rights organizations (PROs) license public performances (live or recorded) of their members' music. PROs in the U.S. are ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC. It is up to you to make sure your church has permission to perform or play a recording of a song and/or sound effect.
- Before group time, print out the "Wise/Unwise Signs," and tape both of the signs at either side of the room at the height of the kids of your group.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Worship

What You Need

- ☐ Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ "Know You More" from Focus
- ☐ "The Good Thing" from The Good Thing

Optional Videos

Available for purchase.

- ☐ "Know You More" Dance Moves or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- ☐ "The Good Thing" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)

What You Do:

Note: We've suggested worship songs from Amazing Kids Worship and Orange Kids Music. We've created these songs to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids, incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store. thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

A Worship Leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

- Download all songs and have them ready to use.

Note: Make sure your church has obtained licensing rights to play or perform music. You can obtain a license to perform worship music from Christian Copyright Licensing International (www.ccli.com). It covers over 200,000 worship songs for congregational singing. You are responsible for including the copyright information on all songs reproduced under the Church Copyright License (including song lyrics projected onscreen). This includes the song title, writer credit(s), copyright notice, and your church's CCLI license number. You can include this information on one of the lyric slides, or you can create a separate slide detailing this information, but the copyright information must appear at least once for each song you play or perform. For example:

"Hallelujah" words and music by John Doe
©2000 Good Music Co.
CCLI License # 0000

- Dance Moves Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- Visit the Orange Store for Music Scope and Cycle purchases. Check out the Ministry Leader Guide for more information.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

What You Need

- ☐ Storyteller
- ☐ Host
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Ping-pong paddle (to create the "Wisdom Reveal")
- ☐ Packing tape
- ☐ *Optional: Index cards, and markers*

Music and Sound Effects

- ☐ Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Optional Videos

- ☐ Theme Loop

Large Group Visuals

- ☐ Theme Background Slide
- ☐ Bottom Line Slide
- ☐ Theme Slide
- ☐ "Wise/Unwise Paddle" (printable)

What You Need:

NOTE: We're so excited to be going through key stories of the Bible this year and learning more about its Author—God! It's God's Big Story! But to provide you with flexibility as you experience God's Big Story in your own unique setting, there's more than one way to use the following script!

If you want to follow "God's Big Story," read the following script straight through. Each week will build on the previous ones. But, if your church wants to teach a Large Group session on its own as a standalone, without connecting it to what has come before, there are two sections in the script below that are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer."

Optional for God's Big Story

- ☐ Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room
- ☐ God's Big Story Slide
- ☐ Week 1 Timeline Image Slide
- ☐ We recommend that you create a timeline in your Large Group room that you can add to throughout this curriculum year as we travel through the Bible. This can be a simple clothesline or a section of the wall where you can hang the printed timeline images in order, week by week. We'll provide a timeline image for each week of curriculum. The timeline image is listed as a slide, but can be printed. A [God's Big Story poster](#) is available as well in the Orange Store.

What You Do:

- Prepare the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download the sound effects from the Large Group scripts folder and have them ready to use.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
- Create the "Wise/Unwise" paddle by cutting the "Wise/Unwise Paddle" printable in half, and taping each half to one side of the paddle, so one side reads "WISE" and the other side reads "UNWISE." (You might need to scale the printable to get the words to fit your paddle.)
- *Optional: To create a Wisdom Reveal Paddle without using a printer, write "WISE" on one index card, and "UNWISE" on the other. Tape an index card to either side of the paddle.*

Video Enhancements for Your Environment

Available in your media files and APlay.

Our Large Group scripts are interchangeable with these videos so you can plug and play the way you need to each week.

For 252 Kids (KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 3RD GRADE):

→ StoryLab: Invite elementary kids to engage with inquisitive young hosts as they explore core biblical truths and stories in a STEAM-inspired setting.

For 252 Preteen (4TH AND 5TH GRADE):

→ The So & So Show: Guide preteens to explore questions of faith through a YouTube-style show full of humor and lots of zany fun.

Additional environment enhancements including:

- Motion graphics, including loops
- Themed transitions
- Countdown videos (30 seconds, 60 seconds, and 5 minutes)

APlay

Get the most out of your curriculum with APlay! JoinAPlay.com is an all-in-one media organization and presentation tool. Experience all of your Orange Curriculum media assets, now pre-built and fully customizable. No more sorting through multiple download folders.

APlay is free with your curriculum subscription and packed with features to help your weekly experience run smoother. APlay gives you more time to focus on what truly matters — more ministry, less media management with Apple TV-based media solutions.