

# Small 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
- Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Conversation Starter
- Prayer

### Small Group (25 minutes)

#### Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Take a Snapshot
2. Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
3. Verses to Take with You
4. Make It Personal with Prayer

#### 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.

THIS MONTH



## Today's Bible Story

### Solomon Chooses Wisdom

1 Kings 3:4-15

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

## Conversation Starter

### When do you need wisdom?

## 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 NIV



## 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
- ☐ Floor tape



## 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.

## ① What You Do

**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!

1. Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
2. Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
3. Use the tape to create a line down the middle of your Small Group space.
4. 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.
5. Mix in random, funny questions to keep the game engaging!
6. Be sure to indicate which side of the tape line represents each choice.
7. Play as long as time and interest allow.

## Would You Rather Questions

1. Would you rather sneeze confetti or burp bubbles?
2. Would you rather be super-strong or super-fast?
3. Would you rather ask God or guess on your own?
4. Would you rather be rich and unkind or wise and kind?
5. Would you rather eat pizza with chocolate syrup or ice cream with ketchup?
6. Would you rather have wings or a tail that glows?
7. Would you rather live in a treehouse or a castle made of LEGOs®?
8. Would you rather pause and pray or rush to decide?
9. Would you rather get advice from a friend or the Bible?
10. Would you rather have gold or God's wisdom?
11. Would you rather look smart or actually be wise?
12. Would you rather make one wise decision or ten easy ones?
13. Would you rather be able to talk to animals or breathe underwater?
14. Would you rather have giant clown shoes or a tutu that never comes off?

Continued on the next page. →

## SOCIAL

# Opening Activity

**What You Need**

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Floor tape



## ② 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!"

**Transition** → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

**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.

GROUPS 1/5

# Take a Snapshot

## Application Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ "Fast Pass" Activity Page
- ☐ Pens or pencils
- ☐ Device for playing music



## ① What You Do

1. Give each kid a Fast Pass card from the "Fast Pass" Activity Page.
2. Instruct them to read the Scripture on their Fast Pass and answer the questions.
  - As they read and respond, play soft worship music.
3. 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.
4. At your signal, say "switch!" and allow kids to find another kid to read their new verse and trade with.
5. 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?"
6. "When kids have their "final" Fast Passes, give each kid a pen or a pencil.
7. 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.

## GROUPS 2/5

# Bible Story Extension

## Bible Story Review

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ Tablecloth
- ☐ Soil
- ☐ Small plant cups
- ☐ Seeds
- ☐ Spoons
- ☐ Permanent markers
- ☐ Small water bottles

### Inclusive Supplies:

- ☐ Gloves



## ① What You Do

1. Lay the tablecloth out on the floor or on a table in your group area.
2. Place the soil, seeds, spoons, permanent markers, and small cups of water on the tablecloth.
3. Give every kid a small plant cup and invite them to write:
  - Their name.
  - Something that reminds them of today's Bible Story.

### Explore Together:

1. Lead the kids to:
  - Scoop some soil into their cup. The cup should be about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
  - Choose a seed and gently press it into the soil. The seed should be about  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch deep in the soil.
  - Gently add a little water to the cup to water the seed, but not drown it.
2. Ask:
  - "Why do you think Solomon asked for wisdom instead of something like money or power?"
  - "Why do you think God was so happy that Solomon asked for wisdom?"
  - "When Solomon followed God, his life was beautiful. He was one of the most prosperous kings of God's people. How does following God's wisdom make your life beautiful?"
  - "What's one area where you want to grow wiser this year?"
3. Explain to the kids that Solomon didn't ask for stuff; he asked for wisdom from God. Solomon wanted to live God's way, not just his own.
4. When we choose to follow Jesus, we're saying: "I don't have it all figured out. I need help." We all face decisions where we need wisdom. The good news? God doesn't leave us on our own. The Holy Spirit goes with us every step of our lives, and we can ask Him for wisdom anytime, anywhere. God wants to share His wisdom with us and help us live well!
5. God wants us to live lives that are rooted in His wisdom. As you watch this seed grow up, know that it is getting similar roots down in the soil that you can't see. Ask God to root you deep in His wisdom so you can grow up and be the beautiful creation He made you to be!



### Inclusive Pro Tips

Allow the group to use gloves if kids don't want to touch the soil directly.

Honor different learning styles by allowing the kids to process their answers to the questions with another kid before answering.

## GROUPS 3/5

# Discussion Questions

## Bible Story Review

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed



### Inclusive Pro Tips



Be sensitive to kids who may need extra time to process their thoughts and respond. Be patient and create a safe space where everyone has a chance to share when they're ready.

Frequently check for understanding during discussion by asking questions like, "Can someone share in their own words what we're talking about?"

## ① What You Do

### Ask the following:

1. When do you need wisdom?
2. What does it tell you about God that He was pleased when Solomon asked for wisdom instead of riches or power?  
→ What do you think this says about what God really wants for you?  
How does that help you know Him better?
3. What's a decision you've faced recently where you needed wisdom?
4. What's the difference between being smart and being wise?

GROUPS 4/5

# Verses to Take with You



## Memory Verse Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ "Proverbs 16:16 Cards" Activity Page

### 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 ..."

## ① What You Do

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

### Connect Together:

1. Instruct each group to discuss their two questions on the cards. Give them 4-5 minutes to do so.
2. 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.

### Talk Together:

1. 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.

### \*Finding verses with 4th-5th graders

- ① 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.
- ② When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers.
- ③ Once they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

## GROUPS 5/5

# Pray and Dismiss

## Prayer Activity

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

- ☐ Prepared construction paper signs
- ☐ Index cards
- ☐ Pencils or pens
- ☐ Device for playing worship music



## ① What You Do

1. Place the four signs in different areas of your group space.
2. Give every kid an index card and a pencil or pen.
3. 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."
4. 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.
5. Let the kids take a minute to choose one category that they really need God's help with right now.
6. Invite them to travel to that sign, sit, and reflect.
7. Encourage them to pray to God silently, out loud, or write or draw a prayer on the index card.
8. Play the worship music softly as the kids reflect.

*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!*

# 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
- ☐ Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group

## Groups

### Take a Snapshot

- ☐ Print "Fast Pass" Activity Page double-sided on cardstock and cut apart, one card for every kid
- ☐ Pens or pencils, one for every kid
- ☐ Device for playing music, one for each Small Group

### Bible Story Extension

- ☐ Tablecloth, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Soil,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup for every kid
- ☐ Small plant cups (like this: [bit.ly/45u8zeK](http://bit.ly/45u8zeK)), one for every kid
- ☐ Seeds, 2-3 for every kid
- ☐ Spoons, one for every kid
- ☐ Permanent markers, enough for each Small Group to share
- ☐ Small water bottles, two for each Small Group

### Discussion Questions

→ No Supplies Needed

### Verses to Take with You

- ☐ Bibles, two for each Small Group
- ☐ Print "Proverbs 16:16 Cards" Activity Page double-sided on paper and cut apart, one card for every two kids

### Pray and Dismiss

- ☐ Construction paper, four pieces for each Small Group
- ☐ Index cards, one for every kid
- ☐ Pencils or pens, one for every kid
- ☐ Device for playing worship music, one for each Small Group
- ☐ Before group time:
  - Write one of the following titles on each piece of construction paper:
    - Loving Others
    - Choosing Wisdom When Others Are Not
    - Being Patient
    - Being Slow to Listen and Slow to Get Angry"

## 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**