

Small Group Leader Guide



THIS MONTH



Supplies NOT Included in the Activity Bag:

1. Bible Story Review- Seeds of Wisdom

- Black marker

2. Application Activity- Cause and Effect

- pencils

3. Memory Verse Activity- Verse Tower Challenge

- floor tape
- Bibles
- Permanent Markers
- solo cups- 38 per SG

4. Pray and Dismiss

Pray for your group before they arrive -> Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God for reminding you that even kids make choices that matter. Ask God to help your group see how their words, actions, and even their attitudes can lead them closer to You. Pray that your small group environment is a space where kids feel safe to learn, make mistakes, and grow in wisdom. Ask God to give you gentle words and creative ways to help them understand that being wise starts right now!

Today's Bible Story

The Kings

1 & 2 Kings

Bottom Line

Be wise because your choices matter.

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.

Kings in the Kingdom

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Map of Israel" Activity Page
- ☐ Prepared Craft Sticks
- ☐ Black Marker



Inclusive Pro Tips

Be sure to demonstrate each step slowly!

What You Do

1. Gather the kids together around a table or in a circle on the floor.
2. Lay the map of Israel in the center.
3. Say, "This is Israel, the land God promised to His people! It's where the kings ruled, and where big choices were made."
4. Use the craft sticks to walk through the Kings' Recap from the Bible Story, holding up the matching king's name as you go.
→ NOTE: Call on kids in your group to help you hold the tongue depressors.

Kings' Recap

1. Solomon ruled with wisdom at first. But later, he made unwise choices. (HOLD UP SOLOMON.)
2. His son Rehoboam didn't listen to wise advice and was very harsh with the people. (HOLD UP REHOBOAM. ENCOURAGE THE KIDS TO GIVE YOU A THUMBS-DOWN.)
3. The kingdom split! (RIP THE MAP IN HALF! USE THE BLACK MARKER TO LABEL "N" FOR "ISRAEL" AND "S" FOR "JUDAH.")
4. In the north, kings like Jeroboam and Ahab led the people away from God. (HOLD UP JEROBOAM AND AHAB. ENCOURAGE THE KIDS TO COVER THEIR EARS!)
5. In the south, Asa, Joash, Hezekiah, and Josiah made wise choices and led people closer to God. (HOLD THE CRAFT STICKS UP ONE BY ONE. ENCOURAGE THE KIDS TO CLAP AND CELEBRATE EACH ONE!)
6. But after Josiah, the people stopped following God again. (ENCOURAGE THE KIDS TO GIVE YOU A THUMBS-DOWN.)

What You Say

"Whoa, what a rollercoaster of choices these kings chose to make. Some kings followed God, and the people were blessed. Other kings chose to ignore God, and it hurt everyone! Yikes.

"Each of the kings had a big choice to make: Would they follow their own way, or follow God's way? You might not wear a crown like these kings did, but we all have this same choice each day. We get to make a choice every day: Will I follow my own way, or will I follow God's way?

"Friends, our choices matter. That's why I'm so glad we don't have to make daily choices on our own! When we choose to follow Jesus, He came to move inside of us through the Holy Spirit to help us make the wise choice. The Holy Spirit reminds us of what's true. He helps us remember God's Word. He helps us love others, even when it's hard. He helps us WANT to make the wise choice, even when others around us don't! I hope today reminds you that whether the choice feels big or small, you can be wise because your choices matter."

Make It Personal Share an age-appropriate time you had to make a big decision, and the Holy Spirit gave you wisdom. Maybe a friend wanted you to join them in talking badly about someone else. Was it a verse you remembered? Share how seeking God first changed your thoughts.

Cause and Effect

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

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What You Need

- ☐ "Cause and Effect" Activity Page
- ☐ Pencils



Inclusive Pro Tips

If it works better for your group, allow them to act out the cause/effect scenes instead of matching them on the paper.

What You Do

1. Gather the kids together in a seated circle or at a table in your group area.
2. Give every kid a "Cause and Effect" Activity Page and a pencil.

Imagine Together:

1. Invite the kids to form groups of 2-3.
2. Say, "We're going to do an activity together to help us think about how our choices lead to different outcomes! On one side of your page, you'll see causes, things someone might do (point to them). On the other side, you'll see effects, what might happen next (point to them)."
3. Instruct the kids to work together to draw lines from each cause to its possible effect.
4. Refer to your copy of the "Cause and Effect" Activity Page, and, one by one, talk through each of their choices as a group!

Talk Together:

1. Ask, "Can you think of a time you made a wise choice and it led to something good?"
2. Ask, "What are some ways we can practice listening to the Holy Spirit in everyday life? Like at school, with our friends, or at home?" (Pausing before reacting, asking God for help in the moment, and reading the Bible to learn God's voice.)

What You Say

"Great thinking, friends! Our choices matter. They matter because they shape our lives and the lives of others. The choices we make can lead to all kinds of outcomes—some good, some not-so-great. That's why today's bottom line is SO important: Be wise because your choices matter!"

"Wisdom can mean stopping to ask: 'Hmm. God, what might happen if I do this?' He wants to help you make the wise choice! When we choose to follow Jesus, God's Son, we aren't on our own to figure things out—we have the Holy Spirit to guide us! The Holy Spirit helps us stop, think, and make decisions that honor God."

"What are some of these wise, godly choices we can make? Well, we can look at the life of Jesus to know what's wise! He is God and He showed us how God would live. Jesus didn't just tell people what was right. He lived it! He was kind. He was honest. He was fair. He was forgiving. He listened. He helped people who needed help."

"As we try to live wisely, we won't be perfect, but we'll grow in God's wisdom as we keep asking for it and practicing, even when it's hard. This week before you react, pause and remind yourself to be wise because your choices matter!"

If you leave baking powder
out of your cake

The ice cube will
melt faster.

If you smile at someone

Your cake will not rise properly.

If you help your neighbor
carry up her trash bins

It can cause your grown-up to
feel hurt inside.

If you have an attitude with
your grown-up

You will make your neighbor
feel appreciated.

If you clean up your toys when
you're done playing

They will wilt and droop.

If you listen carefully to your
teacher's lesson

You will probably get a better
grade.

If you eat too much candy

They might smile back and feel
happy.

If you drop an ice cube in
warm water

Your room will stay neat and
organized.

If you study for your test

You might get a stomachache.

If you forget to water your
plants

You will understand the lesson
better.

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
- ☐ Floor tape
- ☐ "Cup Stack" Activity Page-2
- ☐ Plastic cups-38 per SG
- ☐ Permanent markers

Inclusive Supplies:

- ☐ Prepared cups with Proverbs 16:16



Inclusive Pro Tips

If it suits your group better, prepare two sets of cups with the words from Proverbs 16:16 on them.

What You Do

1. Before you begin, use floor tape to mark two starting lines on one end of your group space.
2. Divide the kids into two teams and have them stand behind each line.
3. Place a stack of 19 cups a few feet away (for the NIV, 15 for the NIV) from each starting line.
4. Give each team one permanent marker, and one Bible.
5. Direct the teams to look up Proverbs 16:16.
6. Repeat the verse together several times.
7. Review any words in the verse that might be unfamiliar to the kids.

Move Together:

1. Show the kids the "Cup Stack" Activity Page and say, "Are you ready for a verse relay? One at a time, you will each race to:
 - Grab one cup from the stack.
 - Bring it back to your group.
 - And use the marker to write one word from Proverbs 16:16 on it!
 - Once the word is written, the next kid can go!"
2. Say: "After your team has written all the words, you'll work together to make a cup pyramid with the verse in order. When your team is done, shout, 'PROVERBS 16:16!'"
3. At your signal, begin the game!
4. Once a team has collected all of their cups and written on them, give them a "Cup Stack" Activity Page to follow to build their pyramid.
5. Play until both teams have stacked the verse words in correct order.

What You Say

"That was so fun! It took some focus to place those cups in just the right order. It also takes focus to build our lives on God's wisdom too.

"I love that we can trust the Bible because it's God's true Word. The King of all gave it to us. Every word helps us know who God is, how much He loves us, and how we can live in a way that honors Him!"

"The truth is that wisdom starts in our hearts. When we want what God wants, that's when we realize we don't have all the answers. And that's when wisdom begins to grow in us. God's wisdom is so very precious! So let's all keep asking God for wisdom and letting His truth shape how we live. Remember, be wise because your choices matter!"

*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.

**Proverbs
16:16 NIV**

understanding

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Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity



Faith Skills

Hear from God

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What You Need

- ☐ Index cards
- ☐ Pencils

What You Do

1. Gather the kids in a circle.
2. Give every kid an index card and a pencil.
3. Invite the kids to think about a time they might need wisdom this week.
 - While playing on the playground with friends.
 - During a sports game.
 - Responding to a parent.
 - Making the right choices during class.
 - Looking out for others in need.
4. Direct them to write or draw about it on their index card.
5. Invite them to pray silently to God, asking for His wisdom to flood their minds as they make choices this week so they can grow strong and beautiful lives!
6. Close the group in prayer.

What You Say

"Dear God, thank You for showing us how important our choices are. Thank You for Jesus, who not only showed us how to live wisely, but also gave us a way to be close to You! We want to live like Him! Please fill our hearts with Your wisdom. Remind us to read Your Word, and surround ourselves with others who follow Your Son, Jesus. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition -> As grown-ups arrive to pick up, invite the kids to show off their lima bean bags. Encourage them to tell their grown-ups what they learned from the true story of the kings: be wise because your choices matter!

Inclusive Pro Tips



If your group works better in pairs, invite them to partner up and pray for one another. You can give them a prompt like, "Pray for your friend to be wise at school this week."