

# Small Group Leader Guide



## Supplies NOT Included in the Activity Bags:

### 1. Take A Snapshot

- pencils

### 2. Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions

- wall tape

### 3. Verses to Take with You

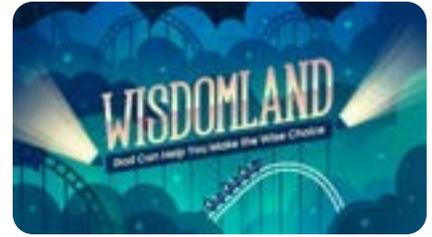
- Bibles

### 4. Make It Personal with Prayer

- index cards

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!

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 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.

# 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



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.

## 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!

<p><b>Proverbs 18:15 (NIRV)</b></p> <p>Those whose hearts understand what is right get knowledge. That's because the ears of those who are wise listen for it.</p>	<p><b>Fast Pass Questions:</b></p> <p>What's one way you can grow in wisdom this week?</p> <p>Who can you learn from?</p>
<p><b>Matthew 7:7 (NIRV)</b></p> <p>"Ask, and it will be given to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you."</p>	<p><b>Fast Pass Questions:</b></p> <p>What could you ask God today?</p>
<p><b>Jeremiah 33:3 (NIRV)</b></p> <p>"Call out to me. I will answer you. I will tell you great things you do not know."</p>	<p><b>Fast Pass Questions:</b></p> <p>What's something big or confusing in your life right now?</p> <p>What do you want to ask God?</p>

# Bible Story Extension

## Bible Story Review

### Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

### What You Need

“Wisdomland Review” Activity Page

→ Optional: Tape

### Inclusive Supplies

Timer



### What You Do

1. Before you begin, place or tape the five “Wisdomland Review” Activity Pages around your group space like stations at a theme park.
2. 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.

### Story Review Answer Key:

1. 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)
2. 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)
3. 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.)
4. What book of the Bible includes many of Solomon’s wise sayings? (Proverbs)
5. 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.)

### 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!

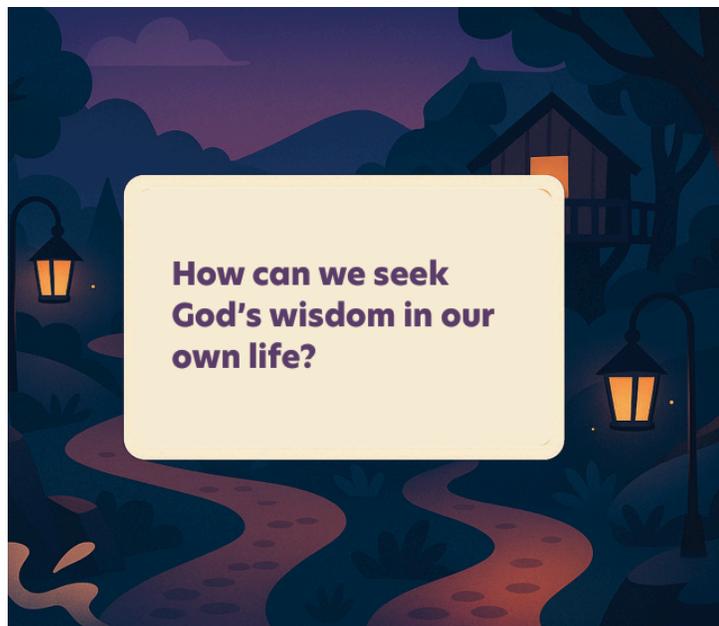
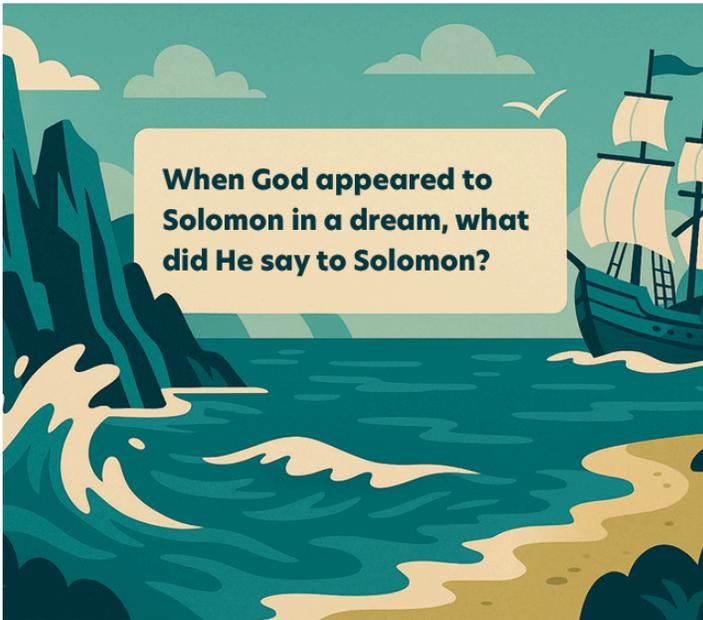
“Friends, God isn’t far away. Just like Solomon asked for wisdom, we can ask for wisdom too. God is always with us, and He wants to help us make wise choices and live well. God is the source of all wisdom—He is the wisest! Remember, you can ask God for wisdom!”



### 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.



# 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

## 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?

### 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?"

# 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 ..."

## 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 with following written on them:

-loving others

-choosing wisdom

-being patient

-being slow to listen and slow to get angry

Index cards

Pencils or pens

Device for playing worship music

## 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 Slow 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.
- 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!*