

Small Group Leader Guide



THIS MONTH



Supplies NOT Included in the Activity Bags

1. Bible Story Review-Clay Creations

- playdough

2. Application Activity- What's the Wise Choice?

- Place a sticky note on the pages of the Bible of each verse below:
 - James 1:19
 - Joshua 1:9
 - 1 Samuel 16:7
 - Philippians 2:3-41
 - Peter 5:7
 - Colossians 3:13

3. Memory Verse Activity- Hop to It

-

4. Pray and Dismiss

Pray for your group before they arrive -> Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Recall a time when God gave you the courage to do something you didn't think you were ready for. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside of you and help you take the next step! Ask God to help the kids trust Him when they feel nervous or unsure. Whether it's a big change or something small, pray that kids would know God is with them even when they don't feel ready.

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



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.

Clay Creations

Bible Story Review



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Prepared "Clay Creations" Activity page
- ☐ playdough

Optional Inclusive Supplies

- ☐ Pipe Cleaners
- ☐ Dry-Erase Markers
- ☐ Gloves



Inclusive Pro Tips

If your kids don't like the feel of clay or playdough, provide alternative materials like pipe cleaners or dry-erase markers so they can still participate in shaping and tracing.

Offer gloves for kids to wear when touching clay or playdough.

What You Do

1. Give every kid a ball of playdough, and a "Clay Creations" Activity Page.
2. Say, "Today, we're going to review the Bible Story. As I review the story, trace the images on your page and follow along!"
3. Read the Bible Story Recap (below), prompting kids to mold pieces of the story and answer questions.

Bible Story Recap

1. "The people wanted a king, and God let them have one. His name was Saul. He looked like a good king, but he did NOT love God or listen to Him. God asked Samuel to choose a new king."

→ Invite the kids to fill in the crown on their page.

→ Ask, "Was Saul happy that God wanted to choose a new king instead of him?" (INVITE RESPONSES.)

2. "Samuel went to meet Jesse's family. Jesse showed off seven of his strong sons. But God said, 'No, not them.' God wasn't looking for someone who looked like a king; He was looking at their hearts! God wanted someone who loved Him to be king. That was the most important thing to Him."

→ Invite the kids to place clay or playdough along the number 7.

→ Ask, "Why do you think God cares about our hearts more than what we look like?"

3. "Samuel asked if Jesse had any more sons. And he did! His youngest son, David, was taking care of sheep. When David came in, God said, 'This is the one!' Samuel poured special oil to show that David was chosen."

→ Invite the kids to fill in the jar of oil with clay or playdough.

→ Ask, "How would YOU feel if you were David?"

4. "Even when he was young, David loved God and trusted Him. Later, he saw an enemy giant named Goliath who had come to fight God's people. David trusted that God was with him and was brave. David picked up five smooth stones and went to fight with a slingshot. God helped David win!"

→ Invite the kids to fill in the outline of the five smooth stones.

→ Ask, "Why do you think David was brave when others were not?"

Continued on the next page. ->

GROUPS 1/4

Clay Creations

Bible Story Review



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Prepared "Clay Creations" Activity page
- ☐ playdough

Optional Inclusive Supplies

- ☐ Pipe Cleaners
- ☐ Dry-Erase Markers
- ☐ Gloves



Inclusive Pro Tips

If your kids don't like the feel of clay or playdough, provide alternative materials like pipe cleaners or dry-erase markers so they can still participate in shaping and tracing.

Offer gloves for kids to wear when touching clay or playdough.

What You Say

"You made some awesome clay creations! And they help us remember what happened in today's Bible Story! Samuel chose David to be king, even when it didn't make sense, because Samuel chose to listen to God. God saw David's heart. David loved God, and that meant so much to God. God made David king!"

"Samuel didn't know how to choose a king, so he listened to God. That's wisdom! It's saying 'God, what do I do?' God loves it when we ask Him that!"

"And God wants to help you make wise choices. When you decided to follow Jesus, God sent the Holy Spirit to live with you. He goes with you every step of your life, and will help you make wise choices. So you can ask Him: 'God, what do I do?' and He will tell you!"

"Here's what I want you to remember: God can help you make the wise choice. You can ask God for wisdom anytime!"

What's the Wise Choice?

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Prepared Bible marked with sticky notes
- ☐ "Wise Choice Cards" Activity Page



Inclusive Pro Tips

Give possible answers to the scenarios and let the kids respond with a thumbs-up or thumbs-down.

What You Do

1. Gather the kids in a circle on the floor or around a table.
2. Place the Bible in the center with the sticky notes already marking the verses.
3. Place the cards from the "Wise Choice Cards" Activity Page in a face-down stack.

Imagine Together:

1. Invite one kid to start by choosing a card and handing it to you.
2. Read the scenario out loud and ask, "What would you do if that happened to you?"
→ NOTE: Let the kids respond in their own words. You aren't looking for the right answer, just an honest one!
3. Allow several kids to respond.
4. Repeat this process until every card has been answered.

Reflect Together

1. Return to the first card, and invite a different kid to look up the verse on that card.
2. Read the verse aloud.
3. Ask, "What does God's Word say is the wise choice?"
4. Gently guide the kids if their earlier answer didn't line up with what Scripture teaches.
5. Repeat this process until you've connected a Scripture with each scenario.

What You Say

"Thank you for sharing, friends! I loved hearing what you would do. Sometimes, our first reaction might be to yell when we're angry or walk away when we're afraid. But, when we remember God is always with us, we can stop to pray to God or talk to others who follow Jesus before we respond. God always wants to give us wisdom to make wise choices!"

"I think of the Bible as a flashlight: If I turned all the lights off in here, it would be SO dark, but a flashlight would give us light to see where we needed to go. That's what the Bible, God's Word, does for us! And when we follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to help us choose what's best, even when it's tough. That's how God can help you make the wise choice, just like He helped Samuel!"

A kid in your class accidentally bumps you in line, and you drop your entire lunch tray. You're embarrassed and mad! What would you do?

JAMES 1:19

A kid in your class is making fun of what another kid is wearing and starts laughing about it. It feels like she wants you to laugh too. What would you do?

1 SAMUEL 16:7

You are at a friend's and he starts to play a video game you aren't allowed to play at home. What would you do?

JOSHUA 1:9

You really want to play soccer during recess and have been excited about it all day, but when you get to the playground, all your friends want to play something else. What would you do?

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

You decide you want to play a new sport so your mom signs you up. You're really nervous because your first practice is today and you don't know anyone on the team. What would you do?

1 PETER 5:7

A kid in your class laughs at your new shoes which you picked out and really love. What would you do?

COLOSSIANS 3:13

Hop to It!

Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ "Memory Verse Words" Activity Page



Inclusive Pro Tips

Celebrate every attempt at reciting the verse. Some kids might not remember every word, but they're still engaging!

Lead the kids to point to the words instead of hopping to them.

What You Do

1. Invite the kids to form groups of 2-3.
2. Give every group a Bible and direct them to look up Proverbs 16:16
3. Repeat the verse aloud several times.
4. Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.

Talk Together:

1. Ask:
 - "What are silver and gold?" (SHARE THAT THEY ARE VALUABLE METALS. THINK ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE TOY.)
 - "Why do you think wisdom and understanding are more valuable than silver or gold?"
 - (GUIDE KIDS TO CONSIDER THAT SILVER AND GOLD CAN BE LOST OR STOLEN, BUT WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING STAY WITH US AND HELP US MAKE GOOD CHOICES.)

Move Together:

1. Lay out the "Memory Verse Words" Activity Pages in the following pattern on the floor:
 - Better/ Wisdom / Understanding / Gold / Silver
2. Invite the kids to form a line.
3. Demonstrate how to hop on the words as you recite the verse.
 - For example, "It is much better (HOP) to get wisdom (HOP) than gold (HOP). It is much better to choose understanding ((HOP) than silver (HOP)."
4. Invite each kid to take a turn. As the kid moves from word to word, encourage the rest of the group to recite the verse with them!

What You Say

"Way to go, friends! I love how you moved your bodies and used your brains to remember Proverbs 16:16. The Bible, God's Word, tells us that wisdom and understanding are better than anything—better than our favorite toy, or the best sweet treat. All of those things can be lost or taken away, but understanding stays with us and helps us make choices that honor God for the rest of our lives.

"God has wisdom and He loves to share it with you. God wants to give you a precious thing! Remember, God can help you make the wise choice!"

*Finding verses with Kindergarteners and First Graders

1. Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page.
2. Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud.
3. Guide them to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number.
4. Guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud.
5. Lead everyone to say the verse together.

Pray and Dismiss

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

Allow the kids to pray silently if they aren't ready to speak aloud.

What You Do

1. Instruct the kids to sit with you in a circle.
2. Let them know you're going to pray using a call-and-response style (you say a line, they repeat it back).
3. Remind the kids that, "God can help you make the wise choice." Praying is one way we can seek godly wisdom!
4. Invite the group to share any prayer requests.
5. Close the group in prayer.

What You Say

Leader: Dear God,
Kids: Dear God,

Leader: You are an awesome God!
Kids: You are an awesome God!

Leader: We are so grateful
Kids: We are so grateful

Leader: that all wisdom comes from You,
Kids: that all wisdom comes from You,

Leader: and You like to share it with us!
Kids: and You like to share it with us!

Leader: When I don't know what to do,
Kids: When I don't know what to do,

Leader: help me to stop and ask,
Kids: help me to stop and ask,

Leader: because You love to help me
Kids: because You love to help me

Leader: make the wise choice.
Kids: make the wise choice.

Leader: We love You, God.
Kids: We love You, God.

Leader: In Jesus' name we pray
Kids: In Jesus' name we pray,

Leader: Amen.
Kids: Amen.

Transition → As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to point out their playdough mats and talk about how God can help you make the wise choice!