

Small Group Leader Guide



THIS MONTH



Supplies NOT Included in Activity Bags:

1. Bible Story Review- Kings and the Kingdom
2. Application Activity- Wise or Not So Wise
3. Memory Verse Activity- Coin Flip Memory Verse
4. Pray and Dismiss

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

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!

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 and 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

Repeat each king's name slowly and clearly, and point to the craft stick or the map when referencing them. This helps visual and auditory learners stay engaged.

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.

GROUPS 2/4

Wise or Not So Wise



Application Activity

Faith Skills

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What You Need

☐ "Wisdom Choice Cards"

Activity Page

☐ Marker

☐ construction paper half sheets


Inclusive Pro Tips

Complete this activity in pairs if it works better for your group.

What You Do

1. Before you begin, lay the construction paper in a winding pattern to create a life-sized game board.
2. Use a marker to label the first card "Start" and the last card "Finish."
3. Shuffle the "Wisdom Choice Cards" Activity Page cards and place them face down near the start.

Play Together:

1. Divide your group into 3-4 teams.
2. Direct each team to choose one kid to be their "game piece."
3. Instruct all of the "game pieces" to line up at the start.
4. Choose a team to go first, a team to go second, a team to go third, and a team to go fourth (if necessary).
5. **Say:** "You all started the game off by making a wise decision! So you all will start on the second space."
6. Instruct the first "game piece" from the first team to stand on the second space.
7. Draw and read a card to the team going first.
8. Prompt the team's "game piece" to move as indicated on the card.
 - a. If it's a wise choice, move forward 2 spaces.
 - b. If it's a wise choice, move forward 2 spaces.
 - c. If it's an unwise choice, move backward 2 spaces.
9. Continue play in the same way with each team (with each game piece for each team starting on the second space on the game board).
10. The first team to reach the finish wins!
11. You can also play until all the cards are out.

What You Say

"Wow! We brought a whole board game to life—that was SO fun! I noticed when you landed on a choice that was not wise, it wasn't so fun to go backward, was it? The truth is that when we make unwise choices, it can hurt us or others. But when we make wise choices, we move in a way that honors God and produces good things!

"I'm so glad God doesn't leave us to figure out wisdom on our own. If you ever wonder what the wise choice is, you can ask God, talk to a grown-up who follows Jesus, or open up the Bible to see what God says.

"Now, maybe you've already made the big choice to follow Jesus. (IF YOU HAVE, THAT'S AMAZING!) And if you haven't, you can always talk to me or a trusted grown-up about that. But once you do follow Jesus, guess what? You get the gift of the Holy Spirit! Every day, the Holy Spirit helps you want to do the right thing, even when it's hard. The Holy Spirit reminds you of what's true from God's Word. And, the Holy Spirit gives you the power to choose God's way instead of your own!

"The next time you have a choice to make, like how to treat a friend, what to say when you're mad, or how to be kind when it's not easy, ask God to help you be wise because your choices matter!"

Your grown-up asked you to feed the dog. Instead of saying, "I'll do it later" you listened and immediately fed the dog. Wise or unwise? (Wise! Move forward 2 spots.)

A kid in your class tells you it's okay to throw the ball over the fence during recess. You decide to listen to the teacher instead of the kid in your class. Wise or unwise? (Wise! Move forward 2 spots.)

You took something that didn't belong to you. Instead of lying about what you did, you admitted it and asked for forgiveness. Wise or unwise? (Wise! Move forward 2 spots.)

A group of your friends notices another girl on the playground. They tell you not to play with her. You don't want your friends to leave you out, so you stick with them—even when they've said something really unkind. Wise or unwise? (Unwise. Move back 2 spots.)

When your mom asked you to clean your room, you just shove everything under the bed. Wise or unwise? (Unwise. Move back 2 spots.)

A kid on your team gets mad when your team starts losing and yells at other players to "do better." You're also frustrated about losing so you start yelling at other players too. Wise or unwise? (Unwise. Move back 2 spots.)

A kid accidentally bumps you in line. You let it go, realizing it was just an accident. Wise or unwise? (Wise! Move forward 2 spots.)

Your little sister comes into your room and starts bugging you to play with her. You politely ask her to leave and tell her that you'll play with her in a few minutes. Wise or unwise? (Wise! Move forward 2 spots.)

Your friend gets mad and calls you a name. You call him a mean name right back! Wise or unwise? (Unwise. Move back 2 spots.)

Your friend gets mad and calls you a name. You call him a mean name right back! Wise or unwise? (Unwise. Move back 2 spots.)

You're playing outside with friends when your grown-up says it's time to come in. You whine and say, "I don't want to come inside!" Wise or unwise? (Unwise. Move back 2 spots.)

Your teacher tells you it's time to clean up what you're doing so you can move on to something else. You immediately start cleaning up. Wise or unwise? (Wise! Move forward 2 spots.)

Silver and Gold

Memory Verse Activity



Faith Skills

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What You Need

- ☐ Bibles marked at Proverbs 16:16
- ☐ "Proverbs 16:16 Coins" Activity
- ☐ Gold and silver crayons

What You Do

1. Invite a kid to open the Bible to Proverbs 16:16 and help them read it aloud.
2. Repeat the verse together several times.
3. Review any words in the verse that might be unfamiliar to the kids

Create Together:

1. Set out the coloring supplies and coins from the "Proverbs 16:16 Coins" Activity Page.
2. Show the kids Side 1. (Make sure they see the little "1" on that side.)
 - a. Read the first part of Proverbs 16:16.
 - b. Encourage the kids to color the first side gold or yellow.
3. Show them Side 2. (Make sure they see the little "2" on that side.)
 - a. Read the second part of Proverbs 16:16.
 - b. Encourage the kids to color that second side silver or gray.
4. Encourage the kids to take their coin home and keep it somewhere special—like in their backpack, in their bedroom, or on the refrigerator!

Talk Together:

1. "Have you ever had to make a hard choice? What helped you choose what was right?"
2. "If you follow Jesus, did you know the Holy Spirit can help you choose God's way?"

What You Say

"I love that these coins remind us of an important truth from the Bible, God's Word! Why do you think wisdom or understanding is better than gold or silver? (INVITE RESPONSES.) Those things are shiny and fun, but they can be lost or taken away. When God gives us wisdom, no one can take it away from us! Wisdom sticks with you and helps you make choices that honor God every day.

"God's wisdom is also so valuable because it comes from the King of kings!

"You'll probably have some big choices (AND SMALL ONES) this week. Like how to treat your brother, or what to say to a friend, or how to listen even when you don't feel like it. So, before you choose, pause and ask God to help you! HE WILL! God wants us all to be wise because our choices matter!"

* Look for opportunities to have conversations about what it means to make a decision to follow Jesus! (IF YOU NEED HELP WITH WHAT TO SAY, ASK YOUR MINISTRY LEADER.)

Pray and Dismiss

Bible Story Review



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What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed



Inclusive Pro Tips

If it works best for your group not to partner up, consider allowing kids to spread out to pray independently.

What You Do

1. Pair kids up!
→ It's okay if there's a group of three.
2. Say, "Today, let's talk to God about the friend we're paired with. Pray that God would help them make wise choices this week! You can choose to pray for them aloud or silently."
3. Give the kids a minute to pray for each other.
4. Close in prayer.

What You Say

"God, we're so thankful that You hear every prayer we say. Thank You for loving us and sharing your wisdom with us. Please help my friends here trust You and follow Your way. Even when it seems like no one around us is following You, God, please give us the boldness and wisdom to follow Your way no matter what! We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show the coins they colored with the Memory Verse as they talk about how to trust God to help us be wise because our choices matter.