

K-5TH

LARGE & SMALL GROUPS

OCT-WEEK 1

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

PRE-SERVICE

GAME	15 MIN
------	--------

LARGE GROUP	[33 MIN]
-------------	----------

OPENING GAME	10 MIN
--------------	--------

WORSHIP	5 MIN
---------	-------

STORY VIDEO	13 MIN
-------------	--------

BOTTOM LINE

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY

SALVATION MOMENT	5 MIN
------------------	-------

SMALL GROUP	[30-35 min]
-------------	-------------

APPLICATION 1	12 MIN
---------------	--------

APPLICATION 2	12 MIN
---------------	--------

CLOSING PRAYER	6 MIN
----------------	-------

THIS MONTH



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

PRE-SERVICE GAME

“WISDOMLAND CORNERS”

What You Need

- ☐ “Wisdomland Corners”
Activity Page
- ☐ Wall tape

What You Do

Before you begin, tape the “Wisdomland Corners” Activity Pages in four areas of your group space.

→ Note: If you can’t tape the pages on the walls, tape them to the floor.

Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high five, fist bump, or a wave.

Play Together:

1. Select a kid to go first as the “Park Attendant.” Instruct them to stand in the middle.
2. Show everyone the corners and their names (Carousel, Ferris Wheel, Roller Coaster, and Popcorn Stand).
3. Explain how to play:
 - The “Park Attendant” is to close their eyes and count out loud from 1-10.
 - While they count, everyone else will pick a corner to stand in.
 - When the “Park Attendant” says “10!,” they are to call out a corner name.
 - The kids in that corner must sit down until the next game.
 - Continue playing until only one kid is left standing!
4. Let the last kid standing be the “Park Attendant” next. Play as long as time and interest allow.

“That game was so fun! Running around and choosing corners felt like picking the best ride at an amusement park. But this game was all about guessing. You really didn’t know what corner the Park Attendant would call next.

“In real life, we make lots of choices every day about what to say, when to act, or when to be quiet. The amazing thing is that we don’t have to ‘guess’ what the right choice is. We can use God’s wisdom! God is wise and loves to share His wisdom with us!

LARGE GROUP

OPENING GAME

“CAROUSEL OF CHOICES”

What You Need

- ☐ Wise & Unwise sign
- ☐ Wall Tape

WORSHIP

STORY VIDEO

SALVATION MOMENT

What You Need

- ☐ Salvation cards
- ☐ Salvation sheet

What You Do

OPENER

HOST: “Hey, everyone! Welcome to Wisdomland—the theme park where every day is an adventure, and every moment is a chance to make a wise choice!

“My name is [Host name], and I’m your Wisdomland guide today. Who here loves going to theme parks? *(Pause for responses.)* Me too! What’s your favorite part—roller coasters, snacks, the games, or maybe all the funny hats? Shout it out! *(Encourage some answers and respond to a few!)*

“Today, we’re going to ride the ‘Carousel of Choices.’ But don’t worry—you won’t get dizzy! This carousel is all about moving, thinking fast, and practicing wisdom—God’s wisdom! In Wisdomland, we know that every choice we make—big or small—can be wise or unwise. God wants to help us make the wise choice, no matter what!

*Point out the two signs at the opposite ends of the room:
“Wise” and “Unwise.”*

“Here’s how our game works: When the music starts, everyone will move around the room like you’re riding a carousel—march, dance, skip, or even pretend to ride a horse! When the music stops, I’ll call out a choice. Your job is to race to the side of the room that matches what you think: Is it a wise choice or an unwise one? Touch the sign, and then freeze—no peeking at your friends first!

“Let’s practice! I have a silly example. If I say, ‘Eating all your candy from Easter in one night,’ is that wise or unwise? Race to the side you think!

React enthusiastically to both sides, but explain that eating too much candy can give you a stomachache, and God wants you to live well!

“Great job! Let’s try a couple more practice rounds to get warmed up. Ready? When I start the music, move around like you’re on a carousel!

AUDIO: Fun upbeat game music

OPENING GAME (CONT.)

After a few seconds, stop the music and say:

“Here is your next scenario: Helping a friend clean up a craft at school. Move to your choices, point to the sign, and then freeze! *(Pause while the kids move to their choices.)*”

Discuss if the choice is wise or unwise and why in a positive, encouraging way. Encourage high-fives or “air roller coaster arms.”

“Great! Let’s try one more practice round! Move around like you’re on a carousel when I start the music!

Start the music to let the kids move around like they’re on a carousel. After a few seconds, stop the music and say:

“Here’s your next scenario: Yelling at your brother. Move to your choices, point to the sign, and then freeze! *(Pause while kids move to their choices.)*”

Discuss if the choice is wise or unwise and why in a positive, encouraging way.

WORSHIP

STORY VIDEO

SALVATION MOMENT

What You Need

- ☐ Salvation cards
- ☐ Salvation sheet

“Now we’re ready for the real rounds! Before we start them, let me say this. Remember—God can help us make the wise choice, even in moments that are tricky, embarrassing, or when everyone else seems to be going the other way. God is the wisest, and He wants to help you live well by making the wise choice. And every time you make a wise choice, you’re putting God’s wisdom to work in your life. So, let’s ride the Carousel of Choices together and practice making the wise choice!

“Let me play the music some, and you move around like you’re on a carousel. Then I’ll stop the music, and read a scenario out loud. Once I do that, you move to the side you think it is, point to the sign, and then freeze! Ready?”

Start the music, and play the following rounds in the same manner.

Wise or Unwise Choice Options: *(use as many of these as you want)*

- Trying your best on a hard test *(wise)*
- Leaving your trash on the playground *(unwise)*
- Helping your grown-ups clean up after dinner *(wise)*
- Waiting impatiently in line for a ride on a theme park *(unwise)*

OPENING GAME (CONT.)

- Having a temper tantrum because you don't like dinner (*unwise*)
- Tidying up after a birthday celebration at church (*wise*)
- Trying again even though you're frustrated because you're having a hard time tying your shoes (*wise*)
- Talking loudly to your friend while your teacher is talking (*unwise*)
- Joining in when your friends start making fun of someone in your class (*unwise*)
- Encouraging your teammates when your team gets scored on in soccer (*wise*)

When you're finished with the game, give out lots of high-fives and say:

"You all did awesome! Give yourself a round of applause as you find your seat. Remember, you have a lot of choices ahead of you—today and every day. And God loves to help you make the wise ones. That's what we're discovering this month in Wisdomland: God can help you make the wise choice!"

"Now, let's get ready to worship God by singing together! Worship is one of the best ways we can thank God for His wisdom. So, everybody up on your feet—let's celebrate and sing!"

WORSHIP

STORY VIDEO

SALVATION MOMENT

What You Need

- ☐ Salvation cards
- ☐ Salvation sheet

SMALL GROUP

APPLICATION 1

“STORY GIFTS”

What You Need

- ☐ Ten prepared gift bags
- ☐ “Story Gifts” Activity Page

What You Do

Divide the kids into two teams.

→ NOTE: You can play as one big group if your group is smaller. Set the gift bags in front of you.

Imagine Together:

1. Say, “These gift bags all look different. But guess what? Just like in our true story from the Bible today, what’s outside doesn’t always show what’s inside! Inside one of these bags is a card with a king’s crown on it. Choosing David to be king was the wise choice that God led Samuel to. The card with the crown on it is the ‘Wise Choice’ card! The rest of the cards have questions from today’s Bible Story. If your team finds the card with the king’s crown on it—the Wise Choice card—your team wins!”

2. Let the teams take turns picking one bag to open. If their bag has a Bible story question inside, instruct them to answer it together. The team that finds the “Wise Choice” card wins! Even if a team finds the “Wise Choice” card early, let the kids open the rest of the bags so everyone gets to answer questions and review the story. Use the numbers on the cards to review answers to the Bible Story.

Answer Key:

1. What kind of person did God’s people want as their king instead of trusting God? (They wanted a king like the other nations—someone tall, strong, and impressive.)
2. How did what Samuel was looking for in a king change when he went to Jesse’s house? (At first, Samuel looked for someone who looked strong and impressive on the outside, but God reminded him that God sees a person’s heart, and that’s what matters.)
3. What did God say to Samuel about how He sees people? (God said: “People look at the outside of a person, but the LORD looks at what is in the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7 NIV).)
4. Why was David’s heart something that God liked and valued? (David loved God very much.)
5. Why was David considered an unlikely choice to be king? (David was the youngest son and just a shepherd. People didn’t think he was important.)
6. What special sign did Samuel use to show that David was chosen by God? (Samuel anointed David with oil.)
7. What challenge did David face after being chosen as king? (David faced Goliath, an enemy soldier who was a giant.)

SMALL GROUP

APPLICATION 1 (CONT.)

8. How did David show he trusted God when he faced Goliath? (David turned down using King Saul's armor, he told Goliath that God was stronger than all of Goliath's weapons.)
9. How did David defeat Goliath? (David trusted God and that made him brave! He slung one stone from his slingshot and killed Goliath!)

What you say

"You did it! This game reminds me of what God told Samuel. Samuel 'thought' he knew who the next king should be just by looking at all of David's brothers, but God said: 'People look at the outside of a person. But the LORD looks at what's in the heart' (1 SAMUEL 16:7 NIRV). God chose David not because he looked like a king, but because of what was in his heart. David loved God and God valued that. And the same is true for us, friends! More than anything, God values that you love Him. God wants to be your close friend!

"Samuel didn't know how to choose the next king, but God spoke right to him and helped him make the right choice! Samuel listened and God helped him make the wise choice. And God loves to help us make the right choice too! "When you choose to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live with you and help you make wise choices. So, you never have to figure life out on your own!

The Holy Spirit is like a helper, a guide, a forever friend. He will guide you to make the wise choice, just like God did with Samuel! "You might not always have the right answer, BUT you can stop and pray, 'God, what should I do?' The Holy Spirit will help you! And you can always talk to a trusted adult who follows Jesus.

"That's what wisdom is. It's not about being smart. It's about listening to God, knowing what God says is best, and doing it! Remember, God can help you make the wise choice!

SMALL GROUP

APPLICATION 2

“FILTER YOUR CHOICES”

What You Need

- ☐ “Filter Your Choices” Activity Page
- ☐ Clear, plastic cups
- ☐ Pitcher of water
- ☐ Small black rocks
- ☐ Small strainer

What You Do

- Invite the kids to join you in a seated circle.
- Fill one clear cup about a third of the way with water.
- Place the other empty cup and the strainer nearby.
- Stack the scenario cards face down in a pile in the middle of the circle.

Explore Together:

1. One by one, encourage the kids to pick a card from the “Filter Your Choices” Activity Page and read it aloud.
→ NOTE: Don’t ask for wise answers to the scenarios just yet!
2. After reading their card, give each kid a black rock, and invite them to drop it into the water cup.
3. As more beans are added, say, “Wow, look how hard it is to see through the water now! When we try to make choices without God, without asking Him and seeking His guidance, things can get confusing and messy.”
4. Use the small strainer to pour the water from the cup into the clean cup.
5. Say, “When we filter our choices through God by praying and asking God for help, by reading the Bible, and by listening to the Holy Spirit, God helps us see clearly and make the wise choice!”
6. Encourage each kid to re-read their scenario.
Ask: What wise choice do you think God would help you make in this scenario?
7. Help guide the kids’ answers as needed.
Set the cards aside for Pray and Dismiss.

What You Say

“I love that God showed you all wise ways to respond in these scenarios! Can I tell you something important? We won’t always want to make the wise choice. Some days, it might feel easier to say something mean back. Or not apologize when we know we should. Or to hide the truth so we don’t get in trouble. But do you think any of those things reflect who God is? (INVITE RESPONSES.) Not at all! God is kind, God is loving, God is honest, and God is good. “That’s why we need help—to try to show who God is and what He is like as we go throughout our lives. And that’s exactly why God gave us the Holy Spirit. When we choose to follow Jesus, God gives you a forever helper, the Holy Spirit, who goes with you every step of your life, and He helps guide you. He reminds you of what would show God’s goodness and love, when your heart feels like doing something else. “So the next time you feel stuck, frustrated, or unsure: PAUSE! Take a deep breath and ask God to help you.”

SMALL GROUP

APPLICATION 2 (CONT.)

How else can we seek godly wisdom? (INVITE RESPONSES, LIKE: TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT WHO FOLLOWS JESUS, READ THE BIBLE, WHICH IS GOD'S WORD, ETC.)

"We need God's help just like Samuel did! Remember, God can help you see clearly and make wise choices. God can help you when you don't know what to do. And God can help you do the right thing when no one else is watching. God can help you make the wise choice!"

CLOSING PRAYER

What You Need

☐ 3rd-5th graders - index
cards and pens

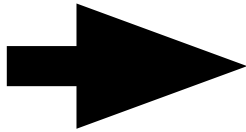
CLOSING PRAYER

"Dear God, thank You for always being ready to help us. Thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide us. We admit that we don't always want to do the right thing. Sometimes we want to do things our way. But we want to follow You, God. Your way is always better! Remind us this week to pause, pray, and ask for help! You are the source of all wisdom, and we trust that You will help us make wise choices. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!"

3rd-5th- write down your prayer request on a index card and place inside the prayer box.

GETTING READY

What You Need



PRE-SERVICE GAME

- ☐ “Wisdomland Corners” Activity Page
- ☐ Wall tape

OPENER GAME

- ☐ Wise & Unwise sign
- ☐ Wall Tape

SALVATION MOMENT

- ☐ Salvation cards
- ☐ Salvation sheet

APPLICATION 1

- ☐ Ten prepared gift bags
- ☐ “Story Gifts” Activity Page

APPLICATION 2

- ☐ “Filter Your Choices” Activity Page
- ☐ Clear, plastic cups
- ☐ Pitcher of water
- ☐ Small black rocks
- ☐ Small strainer

CLOSE OUT IN PRAYER

- ☐ 3rd-5th graders - index cards and pens