

Small Group Leader Guide

THIS MONTH



Today's Suggested Schedule

Greeting & Prayer (3 minutes)

The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

Small Group Activity (20 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Activity 1: Courage Stick

Activity 2: Verse in Motion

Pray & Dismiss (2 minutes)

After small group time, the leader closes in prayer. Then the children are dismissed.

Today's Bible Story

David and the Psalms

Psalms 1:1-4

Bottom Line

If you want to be wise, focus on God.

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.



Greeting & Prayer



What You Need

- ☐ A Spinning Wheel
- ☐ Prayer Chart

①

What You Do

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.

- Choose a child to spin the wheel.
- Each color matches a prayer prompt on the chart.
- After spinning, the child finds the matching prompt, reads it, and prays.
- Let a few more children take turns spinning the wheel and praying.

②

What You Say

"Prayer is how we talk with God, our loving Father. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing—talking to Him anytime, anywhere. Whatever you do, begin with prayer. When you do, you can trust that God is in control and working in every situation."

Transition -> Lead your group to the small group activity

ACTIVITY ONE

Map to Wisdomland

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ "Map to Wisdomland" Activity Page
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Coloring Supplies



Inclusive Pro Tips

Read the verses aloud to your group as they travel around the room.

① What You Do

1. Give every kid a "Map to Wisdomland" Activity Page and a pencil.
2. Divide kids into groups of 2-3.
3. Give each group a Bible.

Explore Together:

1. Say, "Each stop on your map has a special verse that gives us wisdom from God. One of the reasons God gave us the Bible is to help us find wisdom! Think of this map like an amusement park. Each ride or station teaches us something true and helps us discover how to live with some of the wisdom God has given us."
2. Lead the groups to "travel" around the map, read about the situation listed, and look up the Bible verses to see how God's wisdom from the Bible can help in each situation.
3. Refer to the "Station Answers" to help kids fill in their maps correctly.
5. Set out the coloring supplies where everyone can access them.
6. Invite the kids to decorate their map with coloring supplies.
7. Encourage the kids to write their names on their paper.
8. Invite the kids to fold their "maps" on the two light lines to create a trifold "map."

Station Answers:

9. Trust Tower: I can *trust* in the Lord because His understanding is greater than mine.
10. Patience Plunge: I can wait *patiently* because God's timing is always right.
11. Courage Coaster: I can be *strong* because God is with me wherever I go.
12. Kindness Carousel: I can be *kind* because Jesus has been kind to me first.
13. Wisdom Wheel: I can ask *God* for wisdom and He will help me make the right choice.
14. Forgiveness Food Court: I can *forgive* because Jesus forgives me every time.

*Finding verses with 2nd-3rd graders

①Guide 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.)

②When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list.

③When 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.

④When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter.

⑤Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

ACTIVITY ONE

Map to Wisdomland

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ "Map to Wisdomland" Activity Page
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Coloring Supplies



Inclusive Pro Tips



Read the verses aloud to your group as they travel around the room.

②

What You Say

"That was so fun! Didn't it kind of feel like we were at an amusement park? There are so many different rides at an amusement park, and as we saw, God has given us wisdom for so many different situations!"

"Have you ever been on a roller coaster before? It's full of ups, downs, bumps, twists, and turns. Life can feel that way at times. But the truth of our lives is this: God is with us through every high and low. And He wants us to live wisely no matter what we face in the ride of life! That's part of the reason why He gave us the Bible, to give us the direction we need to follow His ways!"

Ask your group this question → Who do you listen to? Explain to the kids that wise people spend time with wise people who follow God! Think about the people in your everyday life (friends, family, leaders) who you listen to. Who do you go to when you need advice or help?

"So when you're facing something confusing, getting ready to have a hard conversation with a friend, deciding what's right when everyone else is doing the wrong thing, or needing to take a deep breath before saying something you might regret—pause! Ask God for help. Ask Him to remind you of His truth and wisdom in the Bible. Talk to a trusted adult who follows Jesus. If you want to be wise, focus on God!"

*Finding verses with 2nd-3rd graders

①Guide 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.)

②When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list.

③When 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.

④When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter.

⑤Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

ACTIVITY TWO

Focus and Follow

Memory Verse Activity



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ "Focus and Follow" Activity Pages

Inclusive Pro Tips



For an option with less movement, allow the kids to clap or pat their knees instead of spinning around.

① What You Do

1. Give every kid a Bible.
2. Lead them to find Proverbs 16:16 using the Bible Navigation Tips.
3. Repeat the verse together several times and review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.

Play Together:

1. Place the "Focus and Follow" Activity Page cards face-down all around your group space.
2. Say, "When I say, "Go!" everyone will work together to flip cards over, find the correct words, and put the verse in the right order.
3. "If you find a card with a word that's not in Proverbs 16:16, spin around three times before picking up another one!"
4. Play until the kids place the words from Proverbs 16:16 in the correct order.

② What You Say

"Way to go, everyone! When you picked up a word that wasn't in our Memory Verse, you spun around. Life can be like this. So many things can try to pull our attention away from God (BUSYNESS, WORRIES, EVEN FUN STUFF!) But you stayed focused and found the truth in God's Word. That's what we need to do every day!

"I love this verse SO much, it reminds us that wisdom is so precious! And God wants to give us something so precious! He wants to show us the best way—that's one of the reasons why He gave us His Word. When we focus on God, the wise One, and the truth from the wise One in the Bible, we will get wise! So, if you want to be wise, focus on God."

*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.

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God



Inclusive Pro Tips

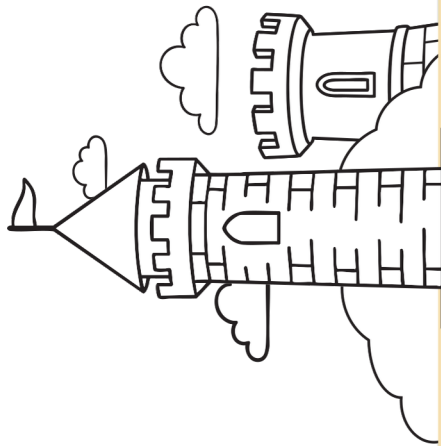


Instead of writing, allow kids to draw or verbally communicate the names of their three wise people.

② What You Say

"Dear God, thank You for being the source of ALL wisdom! Thank You that You gave us the Bible because You want us to be wise. And also thank You for putting people in our lives who follow You because You want us to be wise. Help us to be like David and to focus our lives on our friendship with You. We want to be close to You and wise like You are! Teach us to listen to You and the people who know You well. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

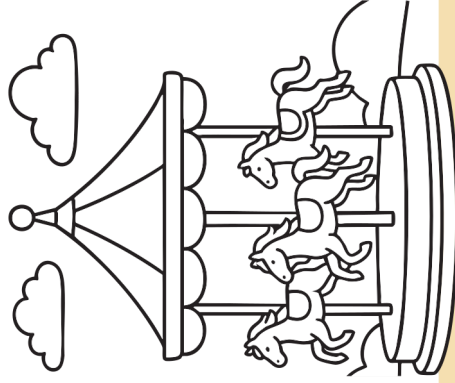
Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share their page from the "Map to Wisdomland" Activity. Encourage them to point out the Scripture that stood out to them the most today.



Trust Tower
You feel nervous about making new friends.

I'll remember: "I can ____ in the Lord because His understanding is greater than mine."

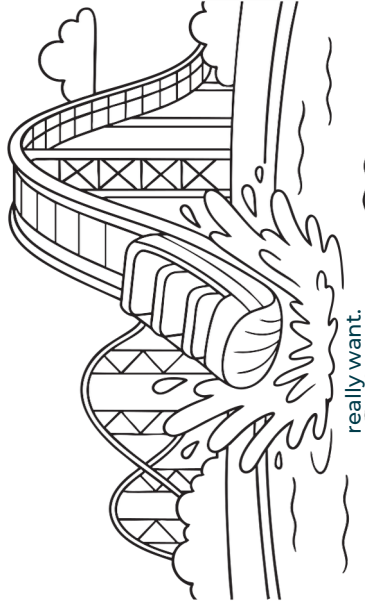
Proverbs 3:5



Kindness Carousel
Someone is being unkind to you at school.

I'll remember: "I can be ____ because Jesus

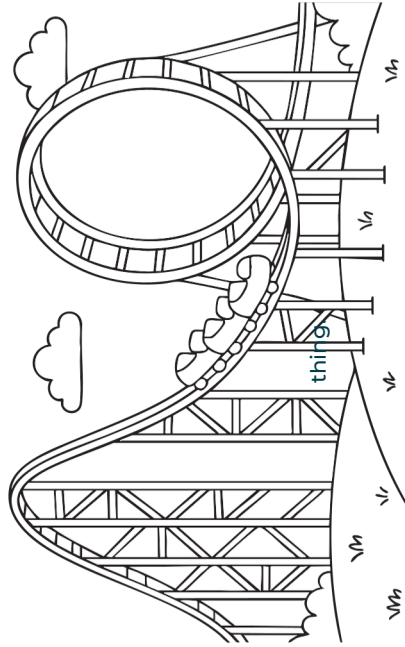
Ephesians 4:32



Patience Plunge
You're waiting for something you really want.

I'll remember: "I can wait ____ because God's timing is always right."

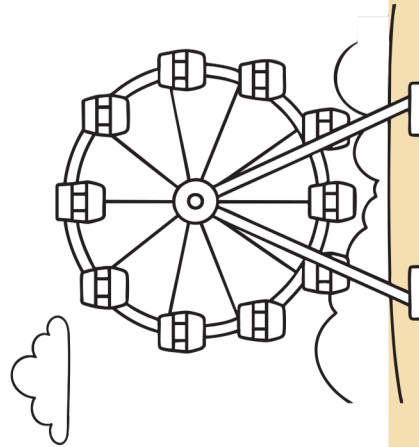
Romans 8:25



Courage Coaster
You're scared to speak up or do the right thing.

I'll remember: "I can be ____ because God is

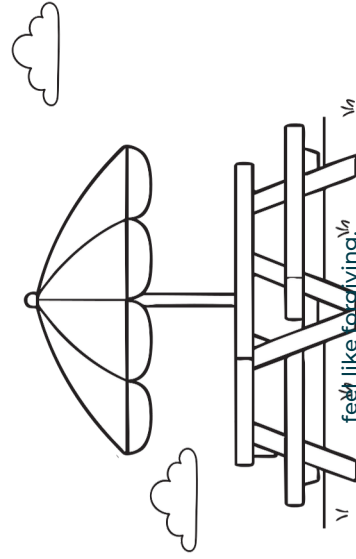
Joshua 1:9



Wisdom Wheel
You're not sure which choice to make.

I'll remember: "I can ask ____ for wisdom and He will help me make the right choice."

James 1:5



Forgiveness Food Court
Someone is being unkind to you at school.

I'll remember: "I can ____ because Jesus

Colossians 3:13