

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

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

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

Seeds of Wisdom

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Zip-top bags
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Lima beans
- ☐ Small bottle of water
- ☐ Permanent marker



Inclusive Pro Tips



Be sure to demonstrate each step slowly!

① What You Do

1. Gather the kids together on the floor or around a table.
2. Give every kid one zip-top bag, one paper towel, and 2-3 lima beans.

Explore Together:

1. Say, "Today we're going to plant something—follow me step-by-step!"
 - Step 1: Dampen the paper towel using the small water bottle. (Not too much! Assist the kids with this step as needed.)
 - Step 2: Place the damp paper towel in the zip-top bag.
 - Step 3: Add 2-3 lima beans on top of the towel, inside the bag.
 - Step 4: Seal the bag tightly, leaving a bit of air inside.
2. Set out the permanent markers and instruct the kids to write their names, and "Be wise because your choices matter" on the bag.
3. Say, "Over time, the lima beans will sprout and grow into little plants! Tape your bag to a window at home, where it can get some sunlight."
 - *Note: Let the kids know they will need to check on the beans each day, keeping the paper towel wet (but not too wet)!*

Talk Together:

1. Ask: "What happened when the kings made wise choices. What happened when they didn't?" (When kings made wise choices—like King Solomon during the season of his life when he asked God for wisdom and followed it—things went well for the people, and God was with them. When kings disobeyed God or made selfish choices, things got very hard. People stopped trusting God. Some kings even led the people to worship false gods, and that caused BIG trouble."
2. Ask, "What do you think made a king wise in God's eyes?"
3. Ask, "Do you think it was always easy for the kings to choose what's right?"

② What You Say

"Today's Bible Story showed us ups and downs of kings who had choices to make. Some chose to follow God and God's ways, and the people they reigned over were blessed! Other kings didn't, and it caused a lot of trouble. God's way is always the best way to live.

"I want you to think of your beans like the choices we make. When we ask God for wisdom, and make the wise choice over and over again, it grows good fruit just like the seed turning into a strong plant. Does God give us grace when we don't make wise choices all of the time? Absolutely! That's why He sent Jesus—God knew we wouldn't get it all right all the time. But He wants to help us choose wisely and live well. That's part of the reason why He came to live inside of us Himself through the Holy Spirit, He wants to guide us through life well, so we live strong and beautifully!

"Sometimes, choosing God's way is not easy. But when we choose God's way over and over again, we grow into people who love well, live with purpose, and show others who Jesus is. Be wise because your choices matter."

ACTIVITY TWO

God's Word and Wisdom

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Floor tape
- ☐ "Cup Stack" Activity Page
- ☐ Plastic cups
- ☐ Permanent markers

Inclusive Supplies:

- ☐ Prepared cups with Proverbs 16:16



Inclusive Pro Tips

If it suits your group better, prepare two sets of cups with the words from Proverbs 16:16 on them.

① What You Do

1. Before you begin, use floor tape to mark two starting lines on one end of your group space.
2. Divide the kids into two teams and have them stand behind each line.
3. Place a stack of 19 cups a few feet away (for the NIV, 15 for the NIV) from each starting line.
4. Give each team one permanent marker, and one Bible.
5. Direct the teams to look up Proverbs 16:16.
6. Repeat the verse together several times.
7. Review any words in the verse that might be unfamiliar to the kids.

Move Together:

1. Show the kids the "Cup Stack" Activity Page and say, "Are you ready for a verse relay? One at a time, you will each race to:
 - Grab one cup from the stack.
 - Bring it back to your group.
 - And use the marker to write one word from Proverbs 16:16 on it!
 - Once the word is written, the next kid can go!"
2. Say: "After your team has written all the words, you'll work together to make a cup pyramid with the verse in order. When your team is done, shout, 'PROVERBS 16:16!'"
3. At your signal, begin the game!
4. Once a team has collected all of their cups and written on them, give them a "Cup Stack" Activity Page to follow to build their pyramid.
5. Play until both teams have stacked the verse words in correct order.

What You Say

"That was so fun! It took some focus to place those cups in just the right order. It also takes focus to build our lives on God's wisdom too.

"I love that we can trust the Bible because it's God's true Word. The King of all gave it to us. Every word helps us know who God is, how much He loves us, and how we can live in a way that honors Him!

"The truth is that wisdom starts in our hearts. When we want what God wants, that's when we realize we don't have all the answers. And that's when wisdom begins to grow in us. God's wisdom is so very precious! So let's all keep asking God for wisdom and letting His truth shape how we live. Remember, be wise because your choices matter!"

MONTLY BIBLE VERSE CHALLENGE!



What You Do

- Have all the kids recite the memory verse out loud together several times.
- Explain that this practice helps everyone learn and feel more confident.
- Ask the kids to raise their hands if they want to try saying the verse on their own.
- Invite one child at a time to come up to the Memory Verse Challenge Spot.
- When a child recites the verse, let them choose a prize from the prize box!
- Please tell the kids if they're not ready this time, that's okay---you can always try again next month!



Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God



What You Say

"Dear God, thank You for showing us how important our choices are. Thank You for Jesus, who not only showed us how to live wisely, but also gave us a way to be close to You! We want to live like Him! Please fill our hearts with Your wisdom. Remind us to read Your Word, and surround ourselves with others who follow Your Son, Jesus. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition -> As grown-ups arrive to pick up, invite the kids to show off their lima bean bags. Encourage them to tell their grown-ups what they learned from the true story of the kings: be wise because your choices matter!

Inclusive Pro Tips



If your group works better in pairs, invite them to partner up and pray for one another. You can give them a prompt like, "Pray for your friend to be wise at school this week."

