

3-6 | October 5

Today's Bible Story: Samuel Anoints David • 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Conversation Starter: What does it mean to be wise?

Today's Bottom Line: God can help you make the wise choice.

Monthly Memory Verse: *It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver.* Proverbs 16:16 (NIRV)

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- ☐ Offering container

Pray for your group before they arrive. Ask God to prepare the hearts of preteens who are walking through your door. Some are full of questions, some are ready to lead, some are just figuring things out. Thank God for the reminder that He saw something special in David, even when others didn't. He saw David's heart, full of love for Him. Thank God for seeing the same potential in every kid in your group! Pray that they would feel seen, known, and loved by God. Ask the Holy Spirit to help them lean into God's wisdom, even when they don't feel strong, important, or ready.

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Gather the kids together.
- Ask: "What's your favorite amusement park?"

Move Together:

- Explain and demonstrate how to play:
 - Say, "We're going to pretend we're headed to an amusement park, but there's a mystery rule about what can come with us! Your goal is to listen, guess the pattern, and see if your item makes the cut!"
 - The leader will start by saying, "I'm going to an amusement park, and I'm bringing (name of item). What are you bringing?"
 - **The goal is for the kids to identify the rule and answer the question with the rule in mind.**
 - If their item matches the mystery rule, respond warmly with: "Yes! That totally fits. Welcome to the park!"
 - If it doesn't fit, say kindly: "That item can't come into the park. Would you like to bring something else?"
 - Let them try again and reassure them it's all about discovering the rule!
 - Continue until everyone's had a turn or the group figures out the rule.
- If time allows, play several rounds using the questions below.

Questions:

- "What are you bringing?"
- "What kind of snacks do you want to get?"
- "What kind of rides do you want to get on?"
- "What characters do you want to see?"

Rule Suggestions:

- Starts with the letter “B”
- An animal
- Something red
- Starts with the letter “T”
- Something yellow

What You Say:

“That was hilarious! And kind of tricky, right? You had to think before you spoke. Some of your choices got you in, while others didn’t. This reminds me of when God chose David to be king. David didn’t look like the *obvious* choice, at all! But God knew that something deeper was more important.


“Today, we’re discovering that godly wisdom helps us look deeper too—at our choices, our friendships, and even how we treat others. Let’s go find out more!”

Inclusive Pro-Tip

- Allow kids to work in pairs.

[Lead your group to watch today’s video lesson and do worship]


2. “God Sees My Heart” Self-Portrait

 **Big Idea:** God doesn’t just look at how we appear on the outside—He sees what’s in our hearts. He loves when we trust Him and ask Him for wisdom.

What You Need:

- ☐ “Self-Portrait” Activity Page
- ☐ Heart shapes (for kids to cut out)
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- ☐ Various Stickers and craft supplies
- ☐ Whiteboard to help kids with spelling

What You Do:

- **Give each child** a “Self-Portrait” Activity Page
1. Say:
 “We’re going to make a special self-portrait—not just showing what we look like on the outside, but what’s inside our hearts too!”
 2. **Step-by-Step Instructions:**

 **Part 1: My Outside (What People See)**

- Use crayons, markers, or colored paper to **draw or create a picture of yourself** (head and shoulders is fine).
- Add things like your favorite shirt, your hairstyle, or your glasses—whatever makes you *you*.

♥ Part 2: My Heart (What God Sees)

- Glue a heart shape **in the center of your chest area** on your self-portrait.
 - Inside the heart, **draw or write words** that describe what's in your heart—things God sees and loves (examples: kind, brave, joyful, caring, honest, loves God, helpful).
 - You can also **draw things** you love or care about (like helping others, praying, trusting God, family, etc.).
3. Let kids decorate their portrait however they like—add borders, stickers, or designs that reflect their personality!

While They Work:

Tell this **short version of the Bible story**:

“God told Samuel to choose a new king. Everyone thought Jesse’s strongest sons would be chosen. But God said, ‘Nope!’ He told Samuel, ‘I don’t look at what people see. I look at the heart.’ Then Jesse brought in David—the youngest son—and God said, ‘He’s the one!’ Even though David didn’t *look* like a king, he loved God. And God chose him because of his heart.”

What You Say:

👏 “Wow! You made awesome portraits of yourselves—but even more amazing is what you put in your hearts.”

💬 “People can see our faces and clothes, but **God sees what’s inside—our thoughts, our love, our trust, and our choices**. That’s what matters most to Him.”

💡 “When we ask God, ‘What should I do?’ He helps us make **wise choices**—just like He helped Samuel and David.”

Bottom Line to Remember:

God sees your heart—and He can help you make the wise choice!

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need:

- ☐ Bibles x2
- ☐ Prepared index cards with Proverbs 16:16
- ☐ Timer
- ☐ Blindfold x2

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each team a Bible and direct them to look up this month's Memory Verse, Proverbs 16:16.
- Use the Bible Navigation tips below to help kids find the verse.
- Repeat the verse together several times.

Finding verses with elementary kids: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

Play Together:

- Give both teams a set of Proverbs 16:16 index cards and a blindfold.
- At your signal, the teams will race to arrange the verse in correct order.
- Play several rounds, inviting the kids to place the verse in order using these directives:
 - Silently: The kids will place the verse in order together without speaking.
 - Blindfolded: Teams will blindfold a kid and direct the kid to place the verse in order.
- Celebrate the teams as they finish the verse.
- Remind the kids that when they memorize Scripture, they hide truth in their hearts. That means when they face tough decisions, they already have God's Word ready to guide them.

Talk Together:

- Instruct the teams to look up these words of Jesus in their Bibles.
- *John 14:26: "The Father will send the Friend in my name to help you. The Friend is the Holy Spirit. He will teach you all things. He will remind you of everything I have said to you." (NIRV).*
 - What do you think it means that the Holy Spirit is our Friend who helps us and reminds us what Jesus said?
 - Why do you think Jesus wanted us to have the Holy Spirit after He left earth?
- *John 16:13: "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth" (NIRV).*
 - What does it mean that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth?
 - How do you think the Holy Spirit guides us today? (Through the Bible? Through a feeling? Through someone wise?)
 - What are some ways people might hear lies instead of the truth in their daily lives?

4.Pray

God, thank You for each of my friends here today. I'm so glad that we don't have to have the perfect words to come to You—You just want our hearts! You are all-knowing. You are in control. You're never confused or caught off guard. That means we can be real with You about a tough decision, a friendship, or something we're confused about. Help us to remember You want to help us make wise choices each day! Remind us to pause and ask You: 'What should I do?' We love You, God. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.