

3-6 | October 12

**Today's Bible Story:** David and the Psalms • *Psalms 1:1-4*

**Conversation Starter:** How do you know what's wise?

**Today's Bottom Line:** If you want to be wise, focus on God.

**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

*Pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God for helping your group grow in wisdom together. Ask God to help the kids slow down, even just for a moment, to understand how much they need His Spirit every day. Ask God to give you the words to speak as you help kids see that true wisdom comes from focusing on God.*

### What You Need:

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ "This or That" Activity Page (x4)

### What You Do:

- Welcome kids with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Shuffle both sets of the "This or That" Activity Page cards.
- Lay all of the cards face down in a grid pattern (4 x 6).
- Gather the kids around the grid. There are two sets to do two groups.

### Play Together:

- Say, "We're going to play a game called 'Memory!' The goal is for you to find the matching cards."
- Allow the kids to take turns flipping over two cards to try and find a match.
  - **If a match is found:** That kid gets to keep the pair in front of them and flip two more cards.
  - **If no match is found:** That kid is to flip the cards back over, and it's the next kid's turn.
- Encourage everyone to watch closely and try to remember where the cards are.
- Continue playing until all matches have been found!

### What You Say:

"Awesome job, everyone! You really had to focus and pay attention to what cards had already been flipped to find the best match! That reminds me of how sometimes we have to make sure we're focusing on the right things in life if we want to make wise choices."

**"In our Bible Story today, we're going to discover WHO we should focus on when it comes to growing in wisdom. Let's go find out more, come with me!"**

### Inclusive Pro Tips:

- As you play, give kids hints like, "Remember? That puppy card was in the second row!" Keep your tone light and playful.
- Celebrate all efforts, and not just matches!
- Reduce the number of cards used in the game.

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

## **2. Wisdom Tree**

### **What You Need:**

- ☐ "Wisdom Tree" Activity Page (one for each child)
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Pre-cut paper leaves in various colors
- ☐ Stickers with pictures representing ways to hear God's Word and wise people (e.g., a Bible, a church, a family)

### **What You Do:**

- Provide each child with a pre-drawn tree outline on paper.
- Guide the kids to use the glue sticks to attach the pre-cut leaves to the branches of their tree.
- Encourage the kids to use the stickers to place on or around their tree.

### **Connect Together:**

- As the kids place the leaves on their trees, you can say: "Just like the leaves make this tree beautiful, there are things that help us grow in wisdom!"
- When they are ready for the stickers, hold up each sticker and ask: "What does this picture show?"
  - Bible: Reading God's Word
  - Pastor: Talking with a Pastor
  - Praying Hands: Praying to God
  - Worship: Listening to worship music and worshipping God
  - Church: Being a part of a church family
  - Family: Seeking help from and talking to family members
  - Trusted adult: talking to a trusted adult like a small group leader or teacher
- After a child responds (or you offer the answer), say: "Yes! That's a way we can grow in wisdom. We can hear God's Word from the Bible or from people who love God, like our families and leaders!"
- As the children place the stickers, you can point to them and say: "This is a way to find wisdom. We are decorating our 'Wisdom Tree' with all the ways God helps us make wise choices!"

**What You Say:** "Wow, look at our amazing Wisdom Trees! Each leaf and sticker represents a way that God helps us grow in wisdom. We can learn about God's wisdom when we listen to a grown-up we trust, or when we hear stories from the Bible. God gave us all of these different ways to hear His Word and find wisdom because God wants us to live the best way! The wisest

One lives inside of you, and He will help guide you to the best way to live! If you want to be wise, focus on God!"

*Inclusive Pro Tips:*

- Be ready to offer ideas if a kid is having trouble placing the leaves or choosing a sticker.
- (For example, you might say, "You can put the glue on the tree and then stick the leaves on, or put the glue on the leaves first!").
- You can also help by pointing to different spots on their tree where they could place a sticker.

### 3. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:**

- ☐ Bibles x2
- ☐ "Verse Scenarios" Activity Page x2
- ☐ Timer

*Inclusive Supplies:*

- ☐ Whiteboard
- ☐ Dry-erase marker

**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:*

- Place a stack of "Verse Scenarios" Activity Page cards face down in the middle of each group.
- Explain how to play.
- You will set a three-minute timer.
- Before reading each scenario card, a kid from their team must recite Proverbs 16:16 from memory or with the Bible open.
- Then, the team can pick up a scenario card and discuss as a group:
  - Is this wise or unwise choice?
- Once they finish, they can move to the next card—but only after reciting the verse again!
- When the time is up, the team that gets through the most scenario cards wins.

*Talk Together:*

- Explain to kids that God's wisdom is worth more than gold! Proverbs 16:16 reminds us that wisdom is more valuable than anything this world can offer.

- God wants to give you His precious, precious wisdom, so you can go through life well. He wants you to make a wise choice in every scenario you face because He knows following His ways is the best way to live.
- When we focus on God, we become wiser day by day!

***Inclusive Pro-Tips***

- Write Proverbs 16:16 in large letters on a whiteboard and place it where all the kids can see. This can be helpful for visual learners!

**4. Pray**

“Dear God, You are SO good. We love You! Thank You for the Bible. Thank You for the Holy Spirit. Thank You for the people in our lives who help us follow You! Help us to focus on You so we can grow wiser and go through life well, like You want us to! We know that wisdom comes from You—You are the wisest! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”