

3-6 | October 19

Today's Bible Story: Solomon Chooses Wisdom • 1 Kings 3:4-15 (supporting: Proverbs 15:1; 3:5-6; 17:17)

Conversation Starter: When do you need wisdom?

Today's Bottom Line: You can ask God for wisdom.

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
- ☐ Floor tape

Pray for your group before they arrive. Think about a time the Holy Spirit helped you make a wise or hard choice. Thank God for that moment! Pray that your preteens would have the courage to ask for help when they're not sure what to do. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind them that needing help isn't weakness, it's wisdom. Pray that your words would speak life and truth to kids who may be carrying more than you realize. Ask God to show each kid that His wisdom is real, personal, and available for them right now!

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.
- Use the tape to create a line down the middle of your Small Group space.
- Explain that you'll ask a "Would You Rather?" question, and kids will choose their answer by walking to the tape line you designate for each choice.
- Mix in random, funny questions to keep the game engaging!
- Be sure to indicate which side of the tape line represents each choice.
- Play as long as time and interest allow.

Would You Rather Questions

- Would you rather sneeze confetti or burp bubbles?
- Would you rather be super-strong or super-fast?
- Would you rather ask God or guess on your own?
- Would you rather be rich and unkind or wise and kind?
- Would you rather eat pizza with chocolate syrup or ice cream with ketchup?
- Would you rather have wings or a tail that glows?
- Would you rather live in a treehouse or a castle made of LEGOs®?
- Would you rather pause and pray or rush to decide?
- Would you rather get advice from a friend or the Bible?
- Would you rather have gold or God's wisdom?
- Would you rather look smart or actually be wise?
- Would you rather make one wise decision or ten easy ones?
- Would you rather be able to talk to animals or breathe underwater?
- Would you rather have giant clown shoes or a tutu that never comes off?

What You Say:

"You all made some awesome (and hilarious) choices! You had to stop and think QUICKLY! Today we're talking about wisdom. What is wisdom? Why do we need it?"

“We’ll hear a true story from the Bible about someone who could have had anything in the world, but instead, he asked God for wisdom! Let go find out what happened and how we can do the same!”

[Lead your group to the Large Group area.]

Inclusive Pro-Tip

- Adjust to the physical needs of your group. Consider completing the activity seated. Allow kids to point one way or the other—or raise one hand or the other to identify their answer.

2. If You Could Ask for Anything

What You Need:

- ☐ Index cards
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Timer

What You Do:

- Give every kid three index cards and a pencil.
- Say, “Let’s pretend you can have anything you want for your next birthday! What would you pick? Maybe a new puppy? Or the largest piece of your favorite candy?”
- Set a timer for three minutes.
- Invite the kids to think and draw one idea on each index card.
- Once the timer is up, collect the cards and spread them face up for everyone to see.
- As you read the review points, reference the kids’ index cards.

Review Points

- Solomon was a young man when he became king. That’s a huge job with lots of responsibility!
- He really wanted to be a good king, so he gave a special offering to God ... 1,000 burnt offerings!
- That night, God appeared to Solomon in a dream and said something amazing: “*Ask for anything you want me to give you*” (1 Kings 3:5 NIV).
- Solomon could have asked for anything, like money, toys, power, or being super-famous!
- If Solomon lived today, he could’ve asked for some of your birthday wish ideas! (Point to kids’ drawings and reference them.)
- But Solomon didn’t ask for stuff; he asked God for wisdom! That means he wanted God to help him know what was right and how to do it. He wanted to follow God and His ways!
- God was so happy with Solomon’s choice! God gave Solomon wisdom AND more.
- Solomon became a wise king, not because he figured it out himself but because God gave him wisdom, every step of the way.
- Solomon also shared lots of wise words we can read in the Bible today in the book of Proverbs!

What You Say:

“Out of all the things Solomon could’ve asked for, he chose wisdom! He wanted to follow God and His ways! Solomon knew that being wise (knowing the right thing to do and doing it) is more valuable than anything you can buy. That’s what Proverbs 16:16 reminds us too:

It is much better to get wisdom than gold.

It is much better to choose understanding than silver (Proverbs 16:16 NIV).

“Solomon’s true story shows us that God loves when we ask for help, and God gives wisdom to those who ask! God is the wisest and He loves to share His wisdom with us! Remember, **you can ask God for wisdom!**”

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Consider doing this activity in pairs if it works better for your group, so every kid feels supported!
- Adapt to verbally sharing ideas instead of drawing them.
- Offer adaptive writing tools.

3. Wisdomland Map*

What You Need:

- ☐ “Map of Wisdomland” Activity Page
- ☐ “Wisdomland Verses” Activity Page
- ☐ Coloring supplies
- ☐ Glue sticks

What To Do:

- Give every kid a “Map of Wisdomland” Activity Page and a glue stick.
- Set out the coloring supplies and the four stacks of “Wisdomland Verses” Activity Page cards.
- Point out the four lands on the map and talk about what they mean:
 - Family Land: “Sometimes it’s hard to listen or get along at home. But godly wisdom helps us love our families and make good choices.”
 - Friendship Land: “Friendships aren’t always easy, but God can give us wisdom to be kind, patient, and loving.”
 - Emotion Land: “We all feel big feelings sometimes! Godly wisdom helps us know what to do when we’re angry or sad.”
 - Learning Land: “At school, we need wisdom from God to follow directions, ask for help, and do the right thing even when it’s hard.”
- Invite the kids to color their maps.
- Give each kid four “cards” with the four verses on them.
- Read the four verses aloud from the “Wisdomland Verses” Activity Page (or invite strong readers to help).
- As you read, help the kids match the numbers on the verse cards to the land on their map.
- Direct the kids to glue the card onto the correct land.
- Ask:
 - Who can help you make the wise choice? (*God can!*)

- Can you ask God for wisdom today? What would you say? (*Yes! Answers will vary. Kids might ask for wisdom to know what to do, to do the right thing, etc. They could ask something like: 'God, what should I do here?'*)

Answers

1. Family Land → Proverbs 1:8

My son, listen to your father's advice.

Don't turn away from your mother's teaching.

2. Friendship Land → Proverbs 17:17

A friend loves at all times.

They are there to help when trouble comes.

3. Emotion Land → Proverbs 16:32

It is better to be patient than to fight.

It is better to control your temper than to take a city.

4. Learning Land → Proverbs 10:17

*Anyone who pays attention to correction
shows the path to life.*

*But anyone who refuses to be corrected
leads others down the wrong path.*

What You Say:

"I love your wisdom maps! We need God to share His wisdom with us in every part of our lives—at home, with friends, when we feel big feelings, and even when we're learning new things. Wisdom comes from God. He made everything and knows everything! He is the wisest! And because God loves you so much, He wants to share His wisdom with you.

"That's why Solomon asked for wisdom, and God gave it to him! God will do the same for you. Ask God for wisdom when you pray. Ask Him to show you what He wants you to do. He wants to guide you to the best way to live!

"I want you to take your map home and hang it up somewhere special. When you see it, remember: in every situation, **you can ask God for wisdom.**"

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Complete this activity in pairs if it works better for your group.

4. Pray

"God, we love You so much. Thank You for Your wisdom. Whether we are learning new things or feeling big feelings, help us remember to pause and ask You for help. Thank You for loving us and sharing Your wisdom with us. We want to follow You and Your ways! We pray these things in Jesus' name, amen.

[As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to show them their Wisdomland Maps. Encourage them to share something they will ask God for wisdom for this week.]