

Alley SG—August 14th-16th, 2021

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Sticky notes, pens

What You Do:

- Give kids several sticky notes and a pen.
- As a group, brainstorm things that might get in the way of being wise. If necessary, prompt kids by asking:
 - You have a test tomorrow and the wise choice is to study. What could keep you from studying? (*it is boring, you want to have fun, random distractions, friends are outside, etc.*)
 - Your friends are saying unkind things about your teacher. Walking away or asking them to stop would be a wise choice. What would keep you from walking away? (*peer pressure, you don't know what to do, you don't want to draw that kind of attention to yourself, you're embarrassed to be the "good kid," etc.*)
 - Treating someone the way you would want to be treated would be the wise choice. What would keep you from being kind to someone? (*you are in a bad mood, you are in a hurry, they are annoying, you don't like them, etc.*)
- Tell kids to write their ideas on sticky notes; one idea per note.
- As you discuss the examples, challenge the kids to shout "Wisdom is BETTER!" as they jump and stick their notes as high as they can on the way in your area. Get excited with your group and keep the competition lively.

2. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bible, paper, pens

What You Do:

- Give kids a Bible.
- Ask: Does anyone have James 1:5 memorized? Challenge kids to recite the verse before looking it up in the Bible.
- As a group, look up James 1:5.
- Give kids paper and a pen.
- Lead kids in a game similar to Red Light Green Light.
 - The goal is to be the first kid to write out James 1:5.
 - When you say, "STOP," kids must put down their pencils.
 - When you say, "THINK," kids must assume the THINKER pose by placing their chin on their fist as if they are deep in thought.
 - When you say, "ACT," kids start writing out the verse.
 - To motivate kids to respond quickly, when you say "STOP" or "THINK," the last kid to put their pen down or assume the THINKER pose has to cross out one word they have written.
 - *Note: Mix up the order you say STOP, THINK and ACT.*
- *Optional: Repeat the activity with today's Scripture, Proverbs 22:3.*
- Wrap up the activity by using the following to prompt discussion:
 - Sometimes we feel rushed to make a decision. Challenge kids to share examples of when they might feel this way.

- What is something you can do if someone is rushing you to say or do something and you aren't sure it is a wise choice? (*Use this as an opportunity to provide kids with ways to STOP especially if they feel rushed. For example: It's a wise choice to say, "Let me think about that" and respond after you had time to THINK.*)

3. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- What could keep you from being wise?
- Why is it important to STOP and THINK before you ACT? How can taking the time to STOP and THINK help you make a wise choice?
- Why is it hard to remember to STOP and THINK?
- What are some things we can THINK about to help us ACT wisely?

4. Just for Fun

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

- Ask: "What would you do if . . ." and prompt kids to finish the sentence with a crazy or imaginary scenario.
- Challenge kids to give creative answers to the question.
- Below are potential "What if?" questions. (*Optional*) Allow kids to think of some "What if?" questions for the group.
 - What would you do if a lion started following you home from school? (*Potential choices could be: attempt to tame it as a pet, RUN, give it my lunch, etc.*)
 - What would you do if a spaceship landed in your backyard?
 - What would you do if your homework assignment was to swim with sharks? What about if it was to swim with dolphins?
 - What would you do if you were invisible for a day?

5. Search the Room

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Pick an object in the environment and say it out loud, e.g. CHAIR
- Challenge kids to look around and find something in the room that starts with the last letter of the word you said, e.g. RUG.
- See how many words the group can string together without using any word twice.
- To make it a competition, award points to the first kid to come up with each subsequent word.

What You Say:

"You did a great job searching for objects! This month we have been learning about the importance of searching for what? WISDOM! That's right!"

6. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Sticky Notes from the Take a Snapshot Activity

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Set the Sticky Notes in the center of the circle.
- Explain that God gives us wisdom to recognize the situations and events that could keep us from being wise.
- Encourage kids to take turns selecting a danger from the sticky notes and praying for God's wisdom to recognize the specific danger they selected.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

"God, we want to be wise people! And wise people see danger! Open our eyes to recognize the things every day that can keep us from making a wise choice. Help us to know when we need to STOP and THINK about what Jesus would do before we ACT. We ask for Your wisdom, God! Amen!"