

Alley SG—August 7th-9th, 2021

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: Index cards, markers, mobile device timer (*if you don't have one, simply count out loud*)

What You Do:

- Write a few topics on index cards, one on each card.
- Provide at least one topic idea for each kid in your group.
- Topics could include: snow, school, pets, music, clothing, books, sneakers, a sport, etc.
- Shuffle the cards.
- Ask for a volunteer to go first and draw a card.
- Challenge the first kid to talk about their topic without saying “um,” “ah,” “like,” “you know,” etc.
- Time them to see how long they can talk without saying one of the “trigger” words and without stopping for longer than it takes to take a breath.
- Encourage the group to listen carefully for any “ums,” or “ahs,” or “you knows.”
- Stop the timer/Stop counting out loud as soon as the kid makes a mistake or pauses too long.
- Play several rounds, letting each kid play who wants a turn.
- The winner is the person who could talk the longest without making a mistake.
- Tell kids that if they draw a topic they know nothing about, they cannot select another card.
- If they are unfamiliar with a topic, they simply will have a greater challenge.

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: “Scenario Cards” (1 set per group), index cards (4 per student), pens

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Give each kid four blank index cards.
- Shuffle “Scenario Cards” and give each kid a card.
- Instruct kids to read the card and, on a blank index card, write a consequence of the choice made in the scenario.
- Instruct kids to pass their “Scenario Card” to the left and repeat for the new one they receive.
- Collect all the index cards kids filled out.
- Group similar consequences together.
- As a group, separate the index cards into two piles:
 - Pile 1: Consequence of a wise choice
 - Pile 2: Consequence of an unwise choice.
- Discuss the differences between the consequences of a wise and an unwise choice.
- Ask:
 - Why do we need wisdom?

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Set of Truth/Not Truth Cards (8 cards per group), Bibles

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Play a game of “Truth or Lie.” To play:
 - Shuffle and flip over Truth or Lie Cards in center of group.
 - Explain that you will ask a question and two kids will draw a card without showing the group what card they drew.
 - If they draw the card with the “T” on it, they will answer the question truthfully.
 - If they draw the card with the “not T” on it, they answer the question with anything but the truth.
 - The goal of the group is to determine who is telling the truth and who is not.
 - After both kids give their answers, let the rest of the group vote as to whether or not each of them was telling the truth.
 - Award a point to each kid who identifies the “truth.”
 - (Depending on how the cards are shuffled, you will most likely end up with rounds where both kids are answering truthfully or where both kids are answering untruthfully. That’s okay! It’ll make the game more challenging and fun.)
 - Play several rounds so everyone gets an opportunity to answer a question.
- Listed below are potential questions to ask. (Or let kids come up with some questions.)
 - What kind of pet do you have?
 - What sport do you like?
 - Are you wearing your favorite outfit today?
 - Can you do a cartwheel?
 - Finish this sentence: “I have never . . .”
 - What’s your favorite subject in school?
 - Do you have brothers and sisters and if so, how many?
- Review the Bible Story by asking:
 - Where did Solomon get his wisdom? How do we know Solomon valued God’s wisdom? (*Refer to 1 Kings 3:5-9*)
 - What was a consequence of Solomon’s wisdom? (*He was able to determine the truth. This is an opportunity to talk about wisdom is more than just being right or wrong—wisdom is seeking God’s Ways, His Truth*)
 - There are times when identifying the truth is easy. But sometimes you just don’t have enough information to determine what is true or not, what is wise or unwise. What can we do when we just aren’t sure what the wise thing to do is? What are some ways we can seek God’s wisdom?
 - Dig Deeper: What if you asked God for wisdom and you still don’t know what to do? What can you do while you are waiting?
 - **[Make it Personal] (Share a time you didn’t know what to do or what was true. How did you seek God’s wisdom?)**

Note: Be aware some kids may struggle with the fact Solomon suggested cutting the baby in half. Be prepared to explain that King Solomon never intended to harm the child. King Solomon was confident one of the moms would step up to protect the child.

4. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- Why is wisdom important? Why do we need wisdom?
- What are some potential consequences of a wise choice? What are some potential consequences of an unwise or foolish choice?
- When we aren't sure what the truth is, where can we begin to search for wisdom?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: A flashlight (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Turn on a flashlight. (*Ideally, if you can, turn off the lights in the room for this activity.*)
- Pass a flashlight around the circle, prompting whoever has the flashlight to pray a quick prayer before passing the flashlight to the next kid.
 - **NOTE: For some kids, this may be the first time they've ever prayed out loud in front of others. Be kind and understanding, and do not force/shame a kid if they do not want to pray.**
- Kids can pray out loud or silently.
- Challenge kids to ask God to give them wisdom for a specific situation or to praise God for giving them His wisdom.
 - Last week, if kids shared questions they had or situations they weren't sure how to handle, consider asking for an update and encourage them to continue to pray for God's wisdom.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

God, King Solomon could have asked You for anything and he chose to ask for wisdom—for understanding—so he could determine the truth, Your truth. Just like it was for King Solomon, Your wisdom is valuable to us! It is important to make the wise choice but sometimes it's hard to determine what the wise choice is. But God we know we can trust You no matter what and when we turn to You, You will give us the wisdom we need. In Your name, Amen!