

# Alley SG—July 31st-August 2nd, 2021

## 1. Opening Activity

**What You Need:** “Object Search” Activity Page (1 per student), pens

**What You Do:**

- Give kids an “Object Search” Activity Page and a pen.
- Challenge kids to search the environment and locate the objects listed on the page.
- Instruct kids to write the objects they discover in the corresponding spaces on their page.
- When kids are finished or when the allotted time is up, gather kids together.
- Let kids share what specific things they found.
- To make this a competition, award a point for every unique answer provided. (In other words, count answers that only one kid came up with. If more than one kid wrote down “chair,” for example, no one would get points for “chair.”)
- The kid with the most points wins.

**What You Say:**

“You did a great job searching! **[Transition] In Large Group we heard about something really worth searching for. Wisdom!**”

## 2. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** Index cards (3 per student), pens

**What You Do:**

- Pair kids up.
- Give each pair six index cards and pens.
- Instruct the pairs to write one letter on each index card, spelling the word WISDOM, and then lay their cards down in order on the floor.
- Give teams a stack of blank index cards and challenge them to write letters on the cards, building on the word WISDOM, like you would in Scrabble or Crosswords, using words or ideas relating to WISDOM.
- To help kids, prompt them to finish the sentence:
  - Wisdom is . . .
  - An example of a wise choice is . . .
- After about five minutes, instruct kids to finish writing.
- Allow teams to share their words.
- Potential discussion topics:
  - Are there any similar words or ideas?
  - Encourage kids to explain how their words relate to wisdom.
  - What would be the opposite of wisdom?

## 3. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Bibles

**What You Do:**

- Review the story by asking:
  - What did you learn from the story?
  - What did you learn about Jesus? How do you know Jesus valued wisdom?
  - Read Luke 2:46-47.

- Explain that the Rabbis are spiritual leaders and teachers of the Jewish law.
  - In Jewish culture, asking questions is the method they use to search for wisdom and understand Scripture.
  - How well a student understands the text or the teaching is determined by the questions the student asked.
  - We know that Jesus impressed the teachers in the temple courtyard because the story tells us that Jesus was asking questions and as He did, they were amazed at how much He understood.
- Pair kids up.
- Challenge them to have a conversation by one person making a statement about something, while the other person can respond only in questions.
- For example, one kid could say, "I know how to play the piano."
  - The other could ask, "What's your favorite piece to play?"
  - The first kid responds with her favorite music to play, and then the other kid could ask, "What key is it in?" Or "How long did it take you to learn that?"
- After a few rounds, gather kids together. Tell them that one way to search for wisdom is always to be thinking of and asking good questions.
- Ask:
  - Do you have any questions about the story we heard today? Anything you found confusing? *(Be prepared for kids to ask you a question you don't know how to answer. Assure kids sometimes we get answers to the questions we ask but, when we don't get answers, it is important to keep searching for wisdom and to keep asking questions.)*
  - Where can we search for wisdom? What are ways we can become wiser? *(learn what God says by going to church or reading the Bible, learning from mistakes, asking questions, etc.)*
  - **[Make it Personal] (Share about how you go about making a wise decision. Where do you seek wisdom?)**

#### 4. Discussion Questions

##### Ask:

- What does it mean to be wise?
- Is there a difference between being smart and being wise? *(Encourage kids to explain their answers. This is an opportunity to discuss the difference between knowing a lot of facts and making wise choices.)*
- Why is wisdom valuable? What is the benefit of making wise choices?
- What are some ways you can search for God's wisdom?

#### 5. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** "Verse Word Cards" (1 set per group), floor tape, Bibles

##### What You Do:

- Give kids a Bible.
- Look up the memory verse, James 1:5a and read it together.

**Finding verses with 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders:** Our verse is from James. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. *(New)* So we know it's toward the back of the Bible. When they find James, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 1. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to them find verses 5 in chapter 1.

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Using floor tape, create a starting line. Tell teams to line up behind the starting line.
- Shuffle the "Verse Word Cards."
- Across from the teams, place the cards face down in a 4x4 grid on the floor.

- The goal is to be the first team to collect all the words of the memory verse and put the cards in the correct order.
- Kids will take turns racing to the grid and selecting a card.
- If their team needs the card to complete the memory verse, the kid returns to their team with the card.
- If their team already has that card, the kid returns the card to the spot on the grid, facedown, and returns to their team without a card.
- Kids can only select one card on each turn.
- Encourage teammates to work together to “gain wisdom” by sharing the location of cards they turn over, so they can collect the correct cards with the least amount of trips to the grid.
- The first team to collect all the “Verse Word Cards” and place them in the correct order wins.
- Ask:
  - According to James 1:5, what is one way you search for wisdom?
  - What are some ways God can give us wisdom?

## **6. Close with Prayer**

### **What You Say:**

God, Your wisdom is valuable! Your wisdom protects us, teaches us how to treat one another, and shows us how You want us to live. God, we know we can trust You no matter what and when we turn to You—when we search for wisdom—You will provide for us. Open our eyes and ears to Your Word, give us courage to ask questions, and, like Jesus, help us to grow in wisdom. In Your name we pray, amen!