

City SG—August 21st-23rd, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Foolish Heart (Rehoboam Listens to Fools) • 2 Chronicles 10
(supporting verse: Proverbs 13:20)

Today's Bottom Line: Hang out with wise people.

Monthly Memory Verse: *If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn't find fault.* James 1:5 (NIV)

1. Memory Verse Bucket Toss

What You Need: Memory Verse Cards (3 Sets per Group), Bibles, Ping Pong Balls (1 per kid), Sand Buckets (3 per Group)

What You Do:

- Have kids look up the memory verse, James 1:5, in their Bibles and read it together out loud.
- Split kids into 3 teams.
- Give each team a set of Memory Verse Cards, and each kid a ping pong ball.
- Set a sand bucket a few feet away from where each team is sitting.
 - **NOTE: The Sand Bucket is what the teams will be attempting to make a ping pong ball in, so make the distance difficult but not so hard that no kid can make the shot.**
- Encourage kids to refer to the Bible (if needed) to determine the order of the words.
- Have kids scramble their cards up face down.
- On your "GO", teams will race to flip over their cards and put the memory verse in order.
- Once the verse is in the correct order allow kids to shoot their ping pong balls one at a time to try to be the 1st team to make a bucket.
- First team to put their verse cards in order, and make a ping pong ball into the sand bucket, wins!
- Play as many rounds as time and interest allows.

What You Say:

"Great job getting the verse in order! You guys are really getting good with this memory verse. Some of you didn't even need the Bible to look it up. That means God's word is staying in your heart and in your mind. That is one of the most important things you can do when you follow Jesus.

"You will face a lot of hard decisions in your life, and having God's Word memorized and tucked away is a great way to make wise decisions. One day, you may face a hard decision. You can remember that all you have to do is ask God for wisdom, and He will give it to you.

"When are some times in your life when you think you will need to remember this Bible verse and that you can ask God for wisdom? (*Allow time for kids to answer.*) One of the times you may need God's wisdom is choosing your friends and who to listen to. God wants us to **[Bottom Line] hang out with wise people.**"

2. Who Will You Listen To?

What You Need: Prepared Envelopes with Pretend Gift Cards (1-10), Leader list of envelope contents (keep secret)

What You Do:

- Direct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Place the envelopes in the middle of the circle.
- Tell the kids: *In these envelopes are pretend gift cards, some are great- and you'll wish you really won that item. Some are silly- and you'll be glad you really didn't get that prize! And one card will let you choose a gift from the treasure chest, if you get it.*
- Invite one kid to choose an envelope.
- While the kid chooses, instruct the other kids to call out or point to which envelope they think the kid should choose. (This will be arbitrary, but it will give the kid who's choosing the chance to "listen to" their friends or not listen to them.)
- Once the kid chooses, direct them to open the envelope discreetly and see what is inside. Tell them not to read it out loud or show anyone else the card.
- Instruct the kid that they can choose one friend in the group to ask whether or not they should keep the envelope or choose another one.
- If the kid decides to get a new one, direct them to put the other envelope back in the middle and open the new one. They must keep the new envelope they choose.
- Continue until all kids have an envelope.
- There should be enough envelopes leftover that the last kid is able to choose an unopened one.

What You Say:

"Were you happy with the card you ended up with or do you wish you had made a different choice? (*Allow time for kids to answer.*) Do you wish you hadn't listened to your friends? (*Allow time for kids to answer.*)

"Not only was it hard to decide if you should listen to your friends during this game, but it can be hard to know if you should listen to your friends in everyday life. What is something that a foolish friend might tell you to do? (*Allow kids time to answer.*) Sometimes your friends may tell you to do something that's best for THEM and not for you. What is something a wise friend might tell you to do? (*Allow kids time to answer.*)

"We not only want to HAVE wise friends, we want to be a wise friend, too. God can help us be wise and know who to listen to and who not to. A wise choice during this game may have been to ask ME which envelope you should choose. I knew what was in every one of them.

[Make it Personal] (Share a kid-appropriate story from your own life when you listened to your friends and you made an unwise choice. Maybe your mom or dad or someone else you trust warned you against doing something but you did it anyway. This could be something like choosing not to do your homework when your parents were out of town and getting a bad grade or choosing to eat junk food all night at a sleepover and having a stomachache the next day.)

"Remember, it's always better to ***[Bottom Line]*** hang out with wise people."

3. Would You Rather?

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

- Ask the following “would you rather” questions:
 - Would you rather have one giant eye in the middle of your head or two noses?
 - Would you rather be able to fly or be invisible?
 - Would you rather be ten years older or four years younger than you are right now?
 - Would you rather control the weather or talk to animals?
 - Would you rather live in the sky or under the sea?
 - Would you rather have butterfly wings or a horse tail?
 - Would you rather have five brothers or five sisters?
 - Would you rather jump into a pool of chocolate pudding or a pool of strawberry ice cream?
 - Would you rather it be warm and raining or cold and snowing?
- Invite the kids to come up with some of their own “would you rather” questions. If necessary, set boundaries on what they can or can’t ask. (For example: no potty humor, no bad words, etc.)

4. I’m Your Friend

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Have the group sit on the floor.
- Choose one of the kids to stand in front with eyes closed and back turned.
- Explain that you will point to another kid who will use a funny/weird voice to say, “I’m your friend.”
- Then all of the seated kids will move to a different spot.
- When the kids are seated again, ask the kid in front to turn around and guess who spoke.
- Allow two or three guesses if needed.
- Switch the guesser and the voice until all kids have had a turn.

What You Say:

“In our Bible story today, a man went to some friends for help. The friends didn’t talk to him in a goofy voice, but they did give him some not-too-smart advice.”

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No Supplies

What You Say:

“Remember the gift card game? You had to choose whether or not to listen to your friends as you picked out an envelope? Most of the time, choosing whether or not to listen to our friends is actually a big deal. But God is always there to help us make wise decisions, and He wants to help us **[Bottom Line] hang out with wise people**. He can help us choose wise friends. Let’s pray and ask God to help us be wise in our choice of friends.

“God, we are so grateful for each person in this group. We are grateful that You are able to give each of them wisdom when it comes to making decisions—like who they should listen to and hang out with. Thank You for stories from the Bible that teach us these things and remind us to not be foolish. Help each of us make wise decisions this coming week and give us opportunities to BE the wise friend. We love You, and it’s in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”