

City SG—July 31st-August 2nd, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Grow as We Go (Jesus Grows in Wisdom) • Luke 2:41-52

Today's Bottom Line: Wisdom is worth searching for.

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 (NIRV)

1. Dig Deep I Spy

What You Need: "Dig Deep I Spy" Activity Page (1 per kid), pens, markers

What You Do:

- Greet kids by name.
- Give each kid a "Dig Deep I Spy" Activity Page and a pencil.
- Encourage the kids to find the items listed at the bottom of the page in the picture and circle them.
- Set out the markers and invite the kids to color the picture once they have found all the items on the list.

2. Memory Verse Hunt

What You Need: Easter eggs with verse phrases (18 per Group), Bibles

What You Do:

- Hide the eggs around the room/area.
- Help kids look up the Bible verse using the Bible navigation tips below and read the verse out loud.

Finding verses with 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find James in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find James, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find James. Help the kids find the page. When they find James, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 1. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 5 in chapter 1.

- Reread the memory verse out loud together.
- Tell kids that you hid 18 eggs with words from your memory verse all around your space.
 - Make sure each kid finds at least one egg.
 - If you have nine kids, instruct each kid to find two eggs.
 - If you have six kids, instruct each kid to find three eggs.
- Direct the kids to search the room for the eggs when you say, "Go."
- When all 18 eggs have been found, direct the kids to open their eggs and work together to put the words in the right order, referring to their Bibles if needed.

What You Say:

"Sometimes we find ourselves in a place where we don't know the right thing to do. Your friends are making decisions that you know are not what God wants you to do, so what do you do? You ask God for wisdom.

"Our memory verse this month tells us that whoever needs wisdom just needs to ask for it and God will give it to them. When are some times you needed or might need to ask God for wisdom? *(Pause for responses and be ready to help with answers like a friend asks you to break a rule or you're not getting along with a sibling and you don't understand why.)* Remember, **[Bottom Line] wisdom is worth searching for.** God is always willing and ready to give you wisdom. You just have to ask and look."

3. Wisdom Is Better

What You Need: Hula hoop (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Help kids form a wide circle then place a hula hoop in the center.
- Choose one kid to stand in the hula hoop and name something they love that begins with “A.”
- Then they say, “Wisdom is better than [word they chose].”
- Ask the first kid to step out of the hula hoop and trade places with another kid in the circle.
- Challenge the new kid standing in the hoop to name something they love that begins with “B.”
- Continue taking turns until kids work their way through the alphabet. *(Note: Since wisdom is not a tangible object, some kids may have difficulty believing it’s better than the things they named earlier. Remind them that there are many things we can’t see or hold that are important and special. Give examples such as friendship, joy, love, and knowing Jesus. Wisdom is one of those important things.)*
- Keep the pace quick so kids don’t lose interest. It’ll make for a fun challenge to think of things they love that start with rare letters!
- *(Optional) If time is limited, ask kids to name something they love that begins with the first letter in their name instead of going through the whole alphabet.*
- Explain that wisdom is better than all of the things they named because it helps us make wise choices that keep us out of trouble.
 - Wisdom helps us follow God and teaches us how to treat others.
- Guide kids in thinking about *how* and *where* we find wisdom.
- Play the game again, but this time when they step into the hoop, ask them to say “I can find wisdom by . . .”
 - Their answers don’t have to begin with a particular letter.
 - Use their answers to talk more about ways they can find wisdom.
- Some of the answers should include the following:
 - talking to church leaders
 - asking questions in small group
 - learning from family members
 - getting help to read the Bible
 - asking a trusted friend who is older
 - asking God to help me
 - listening well in church or Large Group

[Make it Personal] (Share with the kids some of the trusted people you go to when you want help being wise. What are some ways they have helped you?)

What You Say:

[Bottom Line] “Wisdom is worth searching for because we need wisdom to know the right thing to do. The Bible is the book God has given us to help us learn how to make good choices. Right now, while you’re in kindergarten or first grade, the Bible might seem like a really big book that’s hard to read. But as you get older, you’ll get faster at reading it and better at understanding it. Kids your age can still learn to be wise. If you need help learning what God says, ask someone to help you look up verses and read Bible stories with you. When you’re here at church, listen well and ask questions. The more you do, the more you’ll learn from God’s Word. Learning and following what the Bible says will make you wiser every day.”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Prepared W-I-S-D-O-M cards (1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Hold up the prepared cards containing each letter of WISDOM.
- Let kids identify each letter and its sound.
- Teach kids how to spell WISDOM by mixing up the cards then putting them back in order.
- Use the letter cards as you lead kids in an echo prayer—they repeat or echo your prayer words after you.
- Ask one of the kids to hold up the card with the W, then lead them in prayer as you emphasize that letter.
 - “Dear God, help us be (W) **WISE.**” *(Pause as kids repeat.)*
- Continue with each of the remaining letters as kids take turns holding up the corresponding card.
 - (I) “**I** need Your help to be wise.” *(Pause as kids repeat.)*
 - (S) “Remind us to **SAY** we need help when we don’t know the wise thing to do.” *(Pause as kids repeat.)*
 - (D) “We need Your help to **DO** the good and wise things You want us to **DO.**” *(Pause as kids repeat.)*
 - (O) “Help us **OBEY** You because we love You.” *(Pause as kids repeat.)*
 - (M) “Help us **MAKE** wise choices this week.” *(Pause as kids repeat.)*

What You Say:

“You learned how to spell WISDOM! That’s something you couldn’t do when you were younger. As you grow, you’ll learn more about what it means to be wise, too. In fact, all this month we’ll learn about wisdom as we have fun together. So, listen well and ask questions the way Jesus did when He was young. **[Bottom Line]** **Wisdom is worth searching for**, so let’s search for it together. See you next week.”