



WISDOM | WEEK 3 | AUGUST 15, 2021

4th-5th Lesson

Think

Life App: Wisdom—Finding out what you should do and doing it

Bible Story: Think (Wise People See Danger) • Proverbs 22:3

Key Question: What could keep you from being wise?

Bottom Line: Think before you act.

Basic Truth: I am made for a purpose so the Holy Spirit can help me do big things now.

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)

**KID CONNECT:
10 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
30 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
20 MINUTES**

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

When Jesus was a boy, He grew in wisdom. God wants us to discover wisdom, too. When we make a wise choice, we reflect the character of Jesus to the people around us. That’s why giving kids a strong foundation of wisdom is important. We want to equip them to face down whatever choice they may face in the future.

In week four, we head to **2 Chronicles 10** and discover what happens with Solomon’s son, Rehoboam. When he took over as king over Israel, the people pleaded with him to make their lives easier. Rehoboam received counsel on both sides of this issue, but rather than acting on the advice of his father’s advisers; he acts on the foolish advice of his friends. This ends up causing a split in the nation of Israel, creating Israel and Judah.

Bottom Line: Hang out with wise people. It’s been said we are sum total of our five closest friends. Who we choose to spend our time with influences not only choices but who we are. We pray that kids learn that when they surround themselves with wise friends, they will be more likely to make wise choices throughout every area of their life.

This age thinks like a scientist, so give them a challenge! They want to know, “Do I have friends?”. They are motivated by fun. This age may show signs of early stages of puberty. Needs physical activity and may become restless. Increasingly values peer approval & challenges authority and often thrives in competitive situations. May have romantic interests, crushes and experiment with physical affection. Concentrates on 1 activity up to 45 minutes. Reads to learn instead of learning to read. Recognizes different perspectives but still struggles with abstract concepts. Enjoys puns and sarcasm but humor may turn negative. Needs to navigate some failure & experience consequences. Wants to be seen as “independent” & “mature”.

KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: INTRO MUSIC)

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group.

OPENING ACTIVITY:

(No Supplies)

For all of this month, concentrate on getting to know your group and building a relationship between you all. Create a place where they feel like someone knows them and that they belong. A great way to do that is to pull them into an activity (coloring, LEGOs, etc.) and ask them questions. Here are some suggestions:

- What school do you go to?
- What do you like to do for fun?
- What is your favorite animal?
- Do you have any siblings/pets? What are their names?
- If you were invisible for a day, what would you do?
- What is the worst smell in the world?

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

Show the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins. *The Large Group Leader has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to KidCity. The LGL is relatable and inviting. LGLs can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, holiday, etc. The LGL tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.*

LGL: Welcome everyone! I'm so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today by playing a game, singing some

incredible songs that worship God, and then we are going to hear an amazing true story from God's Word, the Bible.

But first, let's quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don't dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind – We need to be kind with our words and actions to our friends, leaders, and the space that we are using.
2. Be Safe – Make wise choices with your actions and words.
3. Have Fun – Participate in what we are doing! It's no fun just sitting there...

Let's kick off today by playing a game!

LARGE GROUP GAME

WATER WORDS

(Water Words Cards, 1 Small Water Gun)

OPENER

LGL: "Good day to you! And you! And you! Welcome to KidCity, where every day is an adventure! My name is *[Name of LGL]*, and I have a question. Does anybody in this room have a thirst for danger? I hope so, because we're about to introduce a new game we like to call WATER WORDS! I need four volunteers. Anyone takers?"

(SLIDE: "WATER WORDS" TITLE)

LGL selects two Small Group Leaders. LGL directs both Small Group Leaders to select one kid from their small group to join them on stage.

"To play WATER WORDS, we will show our Small Group Leaders a card with two words on it. The top word is the winning word, and the bottom word is the WATER WORD. Our small group leaders must get their partner to say the winning word and not say the WATER WORD. For example, a card might say Walrus and Elephant. Walrus is the winning word and elephant is the WATER WORD. Small Group Leaders are allowed to say two-word prompts to help their teammate guess the winning word. (i.e., large mammal). If the teammate guesses the WATER WORD, they will get blasted with water! If a teammate guesses the wrong word but not the WATER WORD, then the other team will be given a chance to guess. Teams rotate until someone guesses either the winning word or the water word. If a winning word is said, the other team gets blasted with water. Don't worry—we have towels. The first team to get sprayed three times loses! Make sense? *(Pause for response.)* Great! Let's play!"

(AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC)

LGL allows teams to play. To spray the kids, Host should use a water gun. If water is not a possibility, consider using silly string or a cream pie.

“Man! That was fantastic! Great job to all our volunteers. Let’s use our words to congratulate both teams on a job well done! But let’s get especially loud for our WATER WORD CHAMPIONS! *(Pause for response.)* Now, everyone, stand to your feet! Let’s get ready to worship God together.”

Worship Leader enters stage.

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: THIS IS LIVING NOW, BETTER THAN THE BEST THING)

INTRODUCE THE SESSION

(SLIDE: LIFE APP)

(No Supplies)

LGL: You know, I once heard someone say, ‘The adventure starts when everything goes wrong.’ Now, whether you agree with that statement or not, let’s pretend everything has gone wrong with a classic game of WOULD YOU RATHER. To play, I’ll ask you . You must determine what you’d rather deal with. To indicate your decision, point to the left side of the room for one choice or point to the right side of the room for the other choice. Make sense? *(Pause for response.)*”

“Would you rather wrestle a crocodile *(pointing left)* or tango with an angry hippopotamus *(pointing right)*?”

Communicator allows response and quickly finds out from a couple of kids why they made their decision.

“Interesting answers! I would take my chances with a croc any day over a hippo! Next, would you rather ride on the back of an ostrich *(pointing right)* or be carried by a massive gorilla *(pointing left)*?”

Communicator allows response and finds out from a couple of kids why they made their decision.

“I don’t think I can trust the back of an ostrich. Finally, you are being chased by a pack of angry lemurs! To get away, would you rather jump into a river infested with hungry piranhas *(pointing right)* or swing across the river using the tail of an unsuspecting python *(pointing left)*?”

Communicator allows response and finds out from a couple of kids why they made their decision.

“I would go swimming with the piranhas instead of messing with a snake. Snakes are not my friends!

Thanks for playing the game. There wasn’t a right or wrong answer to any of the scenarios, and I really enjoyed hearing why you made your decisions. For some, you selected the option that

sounded the most fun. For others, you selected the option that was less risky. Regardless, everyone in this room gave the scenarios a little thought before reacting.”

“Now, think about your life. Think about the situations and conflicts you face throughout your week. Your sister screams at you for changing the channel. Your bicycle is missing from your front porch. Someone accidentally steps on your new shoes. When moments like that happen, how much effort do you put into thinking about how to respond?”

“If I can be honest with you for a minute, I’ve never had to face off against a pack of angry lemurs. However, I have argued with my brother many times. And you know what? So many times in my life, I have not given any thought whatsoever to my reaction toward my brother. I never considered the consequences of my actions or how my actions might make the situation worse! I’m pretty confident I’m not the only one who has had this problem.”

“Every day we react to situations without thinking, and most of the time, the consequences aren’t too great. So how do we change? How do we make sure we take time to stop and think about how our responses may or may not be wise choices?”

“That’s a great question. And like we’ve been saying all month, if we want to know how to make the wise choice, we need to gain some wisdom...”

(SLIDE: LIFE APP) “Wisdom is finding out what you should do and doing it.”

One of the best places to find wisdom is the Bible. Let’s head there now and discover something about God that can help us.”

BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: SO & SO SHOW; SLIDES: KEY QUESTION, BASIC TRUTH; SLIDE: STOP, THINK ACT)

(VIDEO: SO & SO SHOW)

From the very beginning, God designed people with the ability to think and act according to His wisdom.”

(SLIDE: STOP, THINK, ACT)

“With God’s help we can STOP, THINK, and ACT on the wise choice. The safe place is not always the easiest option, but following God will lead to the wisest option. At times, this will be easy. At other times, it might be very difficult. Regardless, God is always with you. Through all situations, God is there to help us make the wise choice...which is a BIG thing to do so remember...”

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) “I am made for a purpose so the Holy Spirit will help me do big things now.”

Don’t forget what we read in Proverbs 22:3!”



Open the Bible to Proverbs 22:3 (NirV) and read.

“Wise people see danger and go to a safe place. But childish people keep going and suffer for it.”

“Danger takes all shapes and sizes. God gives us the ability to recognize it. To do this, we must not plow through the situation without thought. We must STOP and THINK! If you need help thinking, find someone who is wise to help. Then we must act and move to our safe place.”

Wisdom is only effective when it is put into action. As we move into Small Group, we would love for you to think about your life, your situations, your influences, your danger. Then answer this question:

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) “What could keep you from being wise?”

“Remember, it’s important to STOP and THINK before we ACT to help us live our lives with God’s wisdom, but some things might get in the way. Take some time to think about those things. Let’s read over our verse before we head to small groups.

MEMORY VERSE

(SLIDE: 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)

“Let’s pray.”

PRAYER

“Dear God, we know that all wisdom comes from You! Thank You for reminding us today how we can put Your wisdom into action. Please help us remember to stop and think BEFORE we act. Help us see danger coming and make the wise choice so we can stay safe. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

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TAKE A SNAPSHOT

(Sticky Notes, Pens/Pencils)

What You Do:

- Give kids several sticky notes and a pen or pencil.
- 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, stick the notes to a trashcan lid or to a lid to a plastic container; this will be the “Lid of Danger” used in the Bible Story Extension Activity.

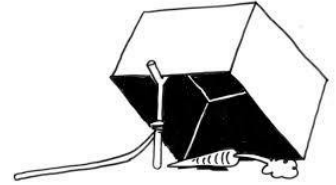
BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

(Bibles, Tissues, string, scissors, masking tape, the “Lid of Danger” from the Take a Snapshot Activity, markers)

What You Do:

- Give kids a Bible.
- Look up Proverbs 22:3 and read the verse together.
- Ask:
 - What does Proverbs 22:3 mean? Encourage kids to paraphrase verse in their own words.
 - To make a wise choice, it's important to STOP, THINK, and then ACT. What is the benefit of STOPPING and THINKING before ACTING?
 - What are things to THINK about before deciding to ACT? (*Consequences of your decision; other people's feelings; rules that are already in place*)

- What makes it hard to remember to STOP before ACTING?
- Use masking tape to create an outline of the “Lid of Danger” (the lid from the previous activity, with things that get in the way of being wise written on it) on the floor.
- Give kids a tissue or a paper towel and a piece of string (about 2 feet long).
- Instruct kids to fold their tissue and to tie one end of the string around the middle of their folded tissue.
- Ask kids to draw a face on their tissue.
- Tell kids to place their tissue in the center of the taped off area while holding the other end of their string outside the taped area.
- Explain anything that keeps us from making a wise choice is a potential “danger.” (Remind kids of a few of the “dangers” listed on the sticky notes.)
- You are going to try to “catch” their tissues using the “Lid of Danger” like a mouse trap. You will angle the lid from a point on the ground.
- Tell kids you’re going to say, “STOP THINK ACT,” and when you say “ACT,” (and simultaneously release the lid) kids must pull/yank their tissue “person” to safety before the “Lid of Danger” comes down and catches them.
 - *Note: To make this unpredictable, it is important you vary the timing between saying “STOP,” “THINK,” and “ACT” with each round.*
 - If a kid’s tissue gets caught, the kid must STOP and THINK of a way to avoid one of the “dangers” listed on the sticky notes.



DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions and lead the group to discuss:

- 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?

PRAY AND DISMISS

(Preteen GodTime Card - 1 per kid)

What You Say:

“God, thank You for bringing each of us here today. I am thankful You continuously teach me through each of these kids and through Your Word. Help us see these glasses and be reminded that You can help us see danger and find our safe place, whatever we might face. Please help each one of these kids trust You to help them STOP, THINK, then ACT on what is wise in any situation. We love You and are so grateful for the wisdom You give us when we ask. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

Pass out the GodTime Cards to each kid. If there’s spare time, encourage kids to start looking over their GodTime card and point out how it relates to today’s lesson.