

HACKS

Every ministry is different. Whether you're teaching middle schoolers, high schoolers, teenagers with disabilities, or all three, here's how to hack this series to fit your unique and diverse audience.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HACKS

REVISE

To make this series more accessible for middle schoolers, here's what to adjust . . .

In Week 1, help teenagers define wisdom. As you talk about 2 Chronicles 1:7–13, help middle schoolers differentiate between wisdom and knowledge. Encourage them to ask a few questions if they are still confused.

When discussing how wise people share what God gave them in Week 2, provide plenty of examples of things they can share. Middle schoolers may not feel like they have much to offer others, so give plenty of examples to show them that sharing can include more than monetary resources.

Consider having high school students share a story during "Good Call Community" (Week 2) and "God's Wisdom" (Week 3) story modules. It allows your older teenagers to share their stories. In addition, middle school students can be significantly impacted when they see people in a similar stage of life give an example of what following Jesus looks like.

In Week 3's Artificial Athletics image module, please don't assume your middle schooler knows about AI. Not every teenager has access to that technology, but they will someday, so you can still talk about it. Please make sure the examples you use will work for them.

Every week, spend extra time helping middle schoolers learn how to apply wisdom to their decision-making. Remind your volunteers that this is a new skill and will take time. Be patient as they learn new skills and help them find simple ways to feel like they are successful. If they sense they can successfully do something, they are more likely to continue replicating the habit.

REPLACE

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else . . .

In the weekly "Playbook" responses, replace the daily habits with weekly experiences. Ease middle schoolers into new patterns by setting them up to succeed. Make their goals realistic and attainable. In addition, make these weekly Playbook responses very practical. These new habits can feel challenging to begin if middle schoolers don't see an easy way to start them in their lives. Give plenty of examples of ways they can sprinkle these into their weekly routines.

REMEMBER

Remember that middle school students will need plenty of time to talk about applying wisdom. Middle schoolers may developmentally struggle with talking to God about making decisions. In early adolescence, many act instinctively without much reflection or will become paralyzed by overthinking an action. Consider empowering your volunteers to follow up with their students during the week on how applying Godly wisdom in their lives is going.