



WISDOM | WEEK 1 | OCTOBER 5, 2025 | ELEMENTARY

SAMUEL ANOINTS DAVID

Key Application: Wisdom: Finding out God's best and doing it.

Bible Story: Samuel Anoints David • 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Key Question: What does it mean to be wise?

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

Memory Verse: It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver. Proverbs 16:16 (NIRV)

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

How many times recently have you heard a celebrity or influencer promote "you do you" or "live your truth"?

Though it's true God has created each of us with unique gifts and desires, it all falls apart if we don't seek wisdom from God in everything we say and do. Our world is all about popularity, appearance, and intelligence, but in God's kingdom, wisdom is of far greater value. Jesus showed us perfectly what a wise life looks like: stay connected to God and seek God's best in every circumstance. Then follow through and do it!

As we continue to journey with God's people through the story of Scripture, we meet the kings of Israel and Judah—those who made wise choices and those whose foolish choices brought down a nation. Through the lives of David and Solomon, we also take a look at the Bible's wisdom literature in the Psalms and Proverbs. Kids will discover that true wisdom comes through constant connection with God, just as a well-rooted tree on riverbanks draws life from the water. And the best news of all? God wants us to ask for wisdom and delights to give it.

Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

Morning Flow

Doors
Open
9:15/11:00

Large Group
Starts
9:35/11:20

Small Group
Starts
10:05/11:50

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

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, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

(SLIDE: COSTUME DAY) “Halloween is at the end of this month, and here in KidCity we like to dress up in family-friendly costumes on the last Sunday of the month! Feel free to wear your costume to church, just please nothing scary and no masks that cover your face.

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS) “Now, 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
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

LARGE GROUP GAME (5 Min)

TURN OVER A NEW LEAF

(2 Blankets/Sheets)

Welcome to Wisdomland, everybody! Wisdomland is a theme park, but you don’t just ride roller coasters—you become wiser! God, the wisest, wants to go with you through every up and down of your life and help you make choices to help you live well. Let’s define WISDOM....

(SLIDE: KEY APPLICATION) Wisdom: Finding out God’s best and doing it.

The Bible says wisdom is more precious than gold. When you find it, it helps you live a better life.

Let’s check out our memory verse for the month.

(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE) It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver. Proverbs 16:16 (NIRV)

Take a minute to explain that ‘Psalm’ is a book in the Old Testament, and that the first number means ‘chapter’ and the second one means ‘verse’. ‘NIRV’ is what translation the Bible is in. The Bible wasn’t originally written in English! There are different translations.

You’ll have more time to practice this month’s verse, but for now let’s play a game!

(SLIDES: GAME SLIDE with MUSIC)

HOW TO PLAY

- Choose two teams of 4.
- Lay out a blanket for each of the teams to stand on.
- On 'GO', teams will have to work together to flip over their blanket without stepping off of it.
 - If you lead Kindergarten/1st grade, consider having a SGL be a team member to help direct kids.
- If a team member steps off of the blanket, they either have to start all the way over or all pause for 15 seconds.

"That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let's worship God!"

WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

(VIDEO: MY FEET ARE ON THE ROCK, PRAISE)

BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

(No Supplies)

How many of you guys are super good at directions? Like, when you get in the car with your family, you always know which roads you are going to turn down.

Now, how many of you guys are like me and you NEVER know where you are?! You're so glad that whoever is driving turns on the GPS to get to your destination because if it were up to you, you'd get so lost!

Here's the thing: Life can feel exactly like that. Some days, the way forward is crystal clear—like a GPS pointing you in the right direction. Other days, it's like the map is upside down, and you're just hoping you're headed the right way. Sometimes you need a little extra help to figure out where to go next.

That's where wisdom comes in. Wisdom isn't just about being smart, getting good grades, or knowing all the answers. Wisdom is about seeing things clearly—finding the best way forward, especially when the path is confusing or there's a choice to make in the moment. Sometimes, wisdom means zooming in to see details others might miss. Sometimes, it's about stepping back and asking, 'What's really important here?'

As we head into today's story, I want you to think about what's happening in your life right now. Is there a choice, a situation, or a relationship where you need God's wisdom? Hold that in your mind. Today's Bible Story is all about a big moment when God guided someone to wisdom. God went with this person through every step and showed him what was wise.

"Let's get ready to dive in—and as we do, ask God to show you something new. Maybe there's a detail or a path you haven't noticed yet, and God is ready to help you see it!"

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 5 MIN)



Sometimes, David made mistakes—big ones. He sinned. There were times when he lost his temper, made selfish decisions, or even hurt others. But the difference was, whenever David sinned, he was willing to stop, admit it, and ask God for forgiveness. He came back to God. That's wisdom too: not pretending you're perfect, but being humble enough to own your mistakes, to come back to God, and to let God help you grow.

So how does this play out in real life? Maybe you're trying to make a big decision about friends, sports, activities, or how to treat someone at school. Maybe you're wrestling with something no one else knows about. Wisdom starts with pausing, inviting God into the process, and listening for His guidance—even if it's just one small step at a time.

"You might feel like you're in the 'waiting years,' like David in the fields, wondering if God really sees you or has a plan for you. Or maybe you're facing a 'giant'—a problem or fear that feels too big to handle. Wisdom is knowing you don't have to face it alone. God loves your heart. He wants to fill you with His wisdom, and He'll help you see the next right step, even when the way forward feels foggy.

"Remember, Samuel's story isn't about getting it right every time or knowing all the answers in advance. It's about showing up, listening for God's voice, and being willing to trust Him—even if it's awkward or hard. Wisdom is built one choice at a time, and God is patient as you grow. Your willingness to listen, learn, and lean into God's wisdom can make a difference, not just in your life, but in the lives of everyone around you.

Another way to say it is how our Basic Truth for this week says it...

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

As we head to Small Groups, we want you to consider this question:

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) 'What does it mean to be wise?'

Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen in to what they are saying and give prompts if needed. Don't try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.

"Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1....

"I heard some great thoughts floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let's pray.

God, thank you for seeing us and loving us. Thank you for helping Samuel listen, for choosing David, and for sending Jesus. Please give us wisdom for the moments ahead—at school, at home, and everywhere we go. Help us listen, trust, and follow you. We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS



SMALL GROUP

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Consider praying before you start small group to set the tone. It is just as important as the activities.

TALK ABOUT IT (K-5th)

There are no right or wrong answers but try to challenge the kids to think deeper.

Key Question: What does it mean to be wise?

(Answers will vary; Being wise means listening to God, thinking before acting, and choosing what's right—even when it's hard.)

LOOK IT UP (K-5th)

Grab Bibles, look up, and read the following passage.

Look Up: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

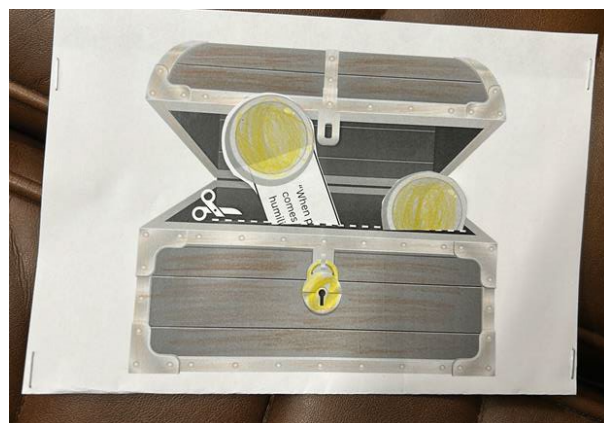
Say: 1 Samuel (Old Testament) tells the story of how Israel went from being led by judges to having kings. It includes the rise and fall of King Saul, and the anointing of David—showing that God looks at the heart, not just appearances (1 Samuel 16:7).

PRACTICE IT (K-5th)

("Treasure Craft" Activity Page - 1 per kid, Scissors, Tape)

What You Do:

- Remind kids of the monthly verse (but make sure to do the memory verse activity after this).
- Tell kids that they will be making a craft to help them remember to store up godly wisdom rather than money. Whenever they are in need of wisdom, they can pull a coin from their 'treasure chest'.
- Take a minute to read (or have the kids read) the different Proverbs listed on the activity page.
- Pass out the activity pages and scissors.
- Tell kids to cut out the coins.
- Then the kids should cut the slit in the treasure chest.



- *Pro Tip: have kids fold their paper gently in half in order to cut the slit and not the whole paper. You may have to do this for Kindergarteners.*
- Finally, fold the blank part of the treasure chest page back and tape the side so it forms a pocket.
- Show kids how to slide their coins into the slit so it looks like the treasure chest is full of coins.
- Tell kids to write their name on the back of the craft and take it home with them.

GET STRONGER (K-5th)

(Memory Verse Poster)

What You Do:

- Review the memory verse once again.
- Have kids sit in a circle. Say the verse together at first. As you say it, for each word, point to the kids around the circle.
- When you get to 'gold' and 'silver', have the kid that you are pointing to say something desirable that wisdom is better than.
- *For example, 'It is much better to get wisdom than unlimited money. It is much better to choose understanding than 100 Reese's Peanut Butter Cups.'*

PRAYER

What You Say:

"Dear God, I pray that we always seek you and your wisdom. I pray that we always value it more than our own understanding. Amen.