

# City SG - August 11-12, 2018

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

**Bottom Line:** If you want to be wise, look before you leap.

**Memory Verse:** "If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you." *James 1:5a, NIV*

## 1. Jumping Frogs

**What You Need:** Plastic jumping frogs (one per kid)

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a plastic jumping frog.
- Allow a minute or so for kids to play with the frogs.
- Then play various games with the frogs, as time, interest, and space allow.
  - See whose frog can jump the farthest/highest.
  - Race the frogs across your space and back.
  - Play a whole tournament with either of the above games.
  - Play leapfrog with the jumping frogs.

**What You Say:**

"I'm sure by this point you're wondering what in the world all these frog games are about. You probably know it has something to do with today's Bible story, we need to look before we leap! **God can give us that wisdom!**"

## 2. Make Your Own Word Search

**What You Need:** "Word Search" Activity Pages (one per kid), pens

**What You Do:**

- Hand out the Activity Pages and pens.
- Tell kids they're going to make their own word searches using important words related to today's verse and the Bottom Line.
- Point out the word bank.
- Instruct kids to write those words in the boxes, one letter per box, like what a word search would look like.
- Encourage them to spread the words out, and they can write them forward, backward, up, down, or diagonal.
- Explain that the words can even intersect, and show them an example if you wish.
- After they have written all six words, tell them to fill in all the empty boxes with random letters.
- Then tell kids to exchange papers with someone else and search for the words.

**What You Say:**

"These words we searched for are all related to our Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] If you want to be wise, look before you leap.** This isn't just about not doing something dangerous, but also not doing something that might not be best for us. Do you remember how we learned about Solomon asking for wisdom? That was the best thing he could have asked for, and we can ask for it too. When you're faced with any situation, think about where it might end up before you do

it. If you're not sure, ask God for help. Read His Word. Ask an older person you trust, who knows God's Word. All of those things will help you look before you leap and make wise choices."

### 3. Leap Verse

**What You Need:** Bibles, plastic jumping frogs from the "Jumping Frogs" activity

**What You Do:**

- Guide kids to sit in a circle on the floor with their Bibles and jumping frogs.
- Instruct them to look up the memory verse, James 1:5, and say it aloud together a few times.
- Then tell kids to lay their open Bibles in their laps, so they can refer to them if needed.
- Choose one kid to say the first word of the verse and then make his frog jump.
- Quickly determine which kid the frog is "looking at," and she will say the next word and make her frog jump.
- Continue in this manner until the entire verse has been said.
- Repeat as many times as you wish.

**What You Say:**

**[Bottom Line]** "If you want to be wise, look before you leap. God will always give you wisdom—no matter the situation. If you're faced with a situation that you don't think is quite right—if you think you're about to make the wrong decision—take a minute to 'look.' Ask God for help. Think about verses from Scripture and what you know to be true. And look to wiser people to help you too. You know, sometimes we make unwise choices because everybody else is doing something. But just because others are doing it, that doesn't mean it's something you should do. You still need to look before you leap. That's always the wise choice."

### 4. Look Before You Leap

**What You Need:** "Look Before You Leap" Activity Page (one per group)

**What You Do:**

Lead kids in a frog-ific variation of "Mother May I?"

- Guide kids to line up side by side at one end of your environment.
- Ask kids what it means to "look before you leap." (*to stop and think before you do something; to think about what might happen if you do something; to think about whether something is good or not before you do it*)
- Read a scenario from the "Look Before You Leap" Activity Page.
- If the child in the scenario looked before they leapt, kids (as a group) leap forward the designated number of times.
- If the child didn't look before they leapt, kids jump backward.

**What You Say:**

"God loves you! And because God loves you He wants you to make the wise choice. One way you can make the wise choice is to look before you leap. What does it mean to look before you leap? (*to stop and think before you do something; to think about what could happen if you do something; to think if something is good or not before you do it*) Yes, to look before you leap means that you stop (*stand or sit tall and freeze for a beat*) and think (*point to your head*) before you do something.

***[Make It Personal] (Talk about an age-appropriate time when you made the choice to look before you leapt. Tell how your choice helped you, how you learned more about God, and—if possible—how it helped show others what God is like.)***

“So if you’re tempted to disobey your mom or dad, look before you leap. Stop and think what God would want you to do. If you and your friend are having an argument, look before you leap. Stop and think how you would want your friend to treat YOU. And when you’re tempted to tell a lie or cheat in a game, look before you leap. Stop and think what Jesus would do. So remember, ***[Bottom Line]*** if you want to be wise, look before you leap.”

## **5. Pray and Dismiss**

**What You Need:** Plastic jumping frogs from earlier activities

### **What You Do:**

- Guide kids to sit in a circle with their jumping frogs.
- Instruct kids to make their frog jump, and keep an eye on which one is theirs.
- They should look at the person their frog is “looking” at and pray for that person: “God, help [kid’s name] to look before [he/she] leaps.”
- Tell kids to collect a frog and do it again. Do this several times.
- Finish with the prayer below.

### **What You Say:**

“God, thank You for Your wisdom and for sharing it with us in Your Word. Help us to use what we know to be true in order to look before we leap and make wise decisions. In Jesus’ name, amen.

“I want you to take your frog home with you, and let it be a reminder to not only look before you leap, but to also continue to pray for the others in our small group. ***[Bottom Line]*** If you want to be wise, look before you leap.”

**HAND OUT “GOD TIME” SHEETS TO EACH CHILD BEFORE DISMISSING**

**IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!**