

City SG - August 18-19, 2018

Bible Story: Everybody Wants to Rule the World (Rehoboam Listens to Fools) • 2 Chronicles 10 (Supporting: Proverbs 13:20)

Bottom Line: If you want to be wise, hang out with wise people.

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. Wise Friend or Not-Wise Friend?

What You Need: "Wise or Not-Wise Quotes" Activity Page (1 per group), Hula Hoop (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Lay the hula hoop on the floor.
- Gather all the kids at the other end of your space.
- Tell kids you'll read a quote.
- If that quote is something a wise friend would say, they should run to the hoop and cram themselves into it.
- If it's something a not-wise friend would say, they should run to the hoop, stop, and run right back to you.
- Read the quotes one at a time. Feel free to add some of your own.
- If you have more time, ask kids to come up with quotes that wise friends would say. (Note: We recommend NOT asking them to come up with unwise quotes.)

What You Say:

"It's not always easy to figure out whether someone is a wise friend or not, but sometimes it can be pretty obvious. And when it is, we should choose to spend less time with someone who makes a lot of unwise choices, if it's at all possible. Why? Because we tend to act like the people we're around. So if we spend a lot of time with people who usually don't make wise choices, we'll end up making unwise choices."

"I want you to make wise choices about the people you hang out with, and I want you to make wise choices in general. Because then YOU will be the person that other people will want to hang out with because you're a wise friend! And then you'll influence people in positive ways. **[Bottom Line] If you want to be wise, hang out with wise people.**"

2. Wise Friend Scavenger Hunt

What You Need: "Wise Friend Scavenger Hunt" Activity Pages (1 per kid), pens, Bibles

What You Do:

- Guide kids to look up today's Bible story in 2 Chronicles 10. Remind them how to use the table of contents if they need it.
- Help them recap the story:
 - Tell them to find what the Israelites requested of Rehoboam, and ask someone to read it aloud (v. 4).
 - Tell them to find what the wise friends said to Rehoboam, and ask someone to read it aloud (v. 7).
 - Repeat with what the unwise friends said (v. 10-11).

- Ask which group Rehoboam followed. (*unwise friends*)
 - Ask how the Israelites responded. (*they went home*)
- Give each kid an Activity Page and a pen.
- Explain that it's important that we are influenced by wise people, not unwise people. The people in your group can all be wise and have made wise decisions.
- Ask volunteers to read the quotes aloud.
- Then tell kids to get other kids to sign spaces whose quotes apply to them.
- If you have fewer than ten kids in your group, see if they can get every other kid to sign a space. If you have more than ten, challenge them to fill at least eight spaces.

What You Say:

"Look at that! We have all made wise choices, which helps us be good friends. And this will help us to be able to better see the qualities that make someone wise and therefore a good friend. Hang out with people who will encourage you to be wise by doing wise things themselves. ***[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a friend you had when you were a kid who did wise things and encouraged you to make wise choices as well.) [Bottom Line] If you want to be wise, hang out with wise people.***"

3. Search for the Verse

What You Need: "Memory Verse Cards" Activity Page (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Mix all of the cards up and scatter them all over your space. (If you are able to leave your space, feel free to scatter them elsewhere in your building or even outside if you want to make the activity more difficult and time consuming.)
- Divide kids into groups of two or three.
- Tell groups their goal is to search for and find an entire set of eight "Memory Verse Cards," put them in the right order, and say the verse aloud.
- When they're finished, you might want to divide kids into different teams and play again.

What You Say:

"Here's a piece of wisdom for you: Don't hang out with people who push you to do foolish things. As our verse says, God will always give you wisdom when you ask for it, and He will also guide you to wise friends if you ask. He'll help you see who is wise and who isn't. He will give you the strength to do the wise thing and be a wise friend yourself. ***[Bottom Line] If you want to be wise, hang out with wise people.***"

4. Rehoboam's Rebus

What You Need: "Rehoboam's Rebus" Activity Page (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Guide kids to gather around you.
- As a group, go over the motions below. Practice them a couple times, modeling each one for kids to see.
- Read the "Rehoboam's Rebus" Activity Page paraphrase of the Bible story.
- As you read, whenever you say the following words, guide kids to do the motions below:
 - *Rehoboam or king*: put their hands over their heads, fingers extended upward as if making a crown
 - *The people*: walk the index and middle finger of one hand over the palm of the other hand
 - *Wise friends*: give a thumbs up
 - *Foolish friends*: give a thumbs down

What You Say:

"Our most important thing to remember today is this: **[Bottom Line] if you want to be wise, hang out with wise people.** Did Rehoboam hang out with wise people? No, he didn't, did he? Rehoboam hung out with foolish friends, and his foolish friends encouraged him to make a bad choice.

"So what kind of friends should *you* hang out with? (*friends who help us make good choices; wise friends*) Yes, we should hang out with wise friends who help us make good choices. Why is it important to hang out with wise friends? (*they can help you make good choices; they're kind; they're nice; it feels good to be around friends who do the right thing*) So remember: **[Bottom Line] if you want to be wise, hang out with wise people.**"

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Tell kids to silently pray for the person on their left.
- They should ask God to not only help them choose wise friends, but to be the kind of people who others would consider to be wise friends.
- Close with the prayer below.

What You Say:

"Lord, thank You for our friends. Help us to choose wise friends, and help us to BE wise friends. We want to be the kinds of people who help the people around us make wise choices. In Jesus' name, amen. This week, let's think about the choices we make when it comes to who we spend our time with. **[Bottom Line] If you want to be wise, hang out with wise people.**"

HAND OUT "GOD TIME" SHEETS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING

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