

Alley Rundown —August 14th-16th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Think (Wise People See Danger) • *Proverbs 22:3*

Today's Key Question: What could keep you from being wise?

Today's Bottom Line: Think before you act.

Monthly Memory Verse: If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. James 1:5 (NIV)

CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

“Hey, everybody. 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 describe a scenario. You must determine what you’d rather deal with during the dilemma. 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.)”

“While paddling down a river, your boat springs a catastrophic leak, causing you to jump out of the boat into the water. So would you rather wrestle a crocodile (*pointing left*) or tango with an angry hippopotamus (*pointing right*)?”

“Interesting answers! I would take my chances with a croc any day over a hippo! Next, your SUV breaks down in the middle of the jungle. You need to move quickly. Would you rather ride on the back of an Ostrich (*pointing right*) or be carried by a massive gorilla (*pointing left*)?”

“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*)?”

“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 we do 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. 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.”

“Last week we talked about the wisest man who ever lived, a king named Solomon. Solomon’s wisdom—along with the wisdom from a few other people—was written down in the book of Proverbs. I’m really excited you came today because we are going to look at something written in an ancient proverb of Solomon’s that will help us when faced with tough situations. Let’s take a look!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 14:30)

“At this point you might be asking, well then what IS the wise choice? Well, I’m glad you asked. Using this scenario, let’s check out three easy steps we can take to avoid the danger.”

“First of all, STOP.”

SLIDE: STOP

“It’s important to take time in your day to STOP! When you stop, it keeps you from jumping straight into a bad decision. Although acing the test would have you dreaming about receiving your college acceptance letter to the top university you’ve dreamed of attending since birth, you would want to STOP because STOP gives you a chance to process the right choice.”

“Next up, THINK.”

SLIDE: THINK

“Thinking gives you a moment to consider the consequences of a poor decision. This could give you the clarity to avoid whipping out your phone as quickly as you can to snap a photo of each of the test pages. Thinking would give you better judgement than sharing the entire test to all of your classmates via text or pulling out your phone in the middle of the test to copy down the answers. Not thinking does not always lead to the wisest choice. THINK would allow you to ask yourself, ‘If I cheat on my science test, what’s going to happen? If I take pictures of the answer key and share it with everyone, is this what Jesus would do? If I take out my phone during the test to copy answers, is this godly wisdom?’”

“THINK leads to the third step to avoid the danger—ACT.”

SLIDE: ACT

“Once you’ve STOPPED and taken time to THINK it through, then it’s time to make your move. It’s time to go to your safe place.”

“Back to our scenario. When offered the opportunity to cheat on a science test, the safe place is to decline looking at the answer key. The safe place is finding extra opportunities to study for

the science test before you walk into science class. Maybe your safe place is encouraging Jake not to cheat and asking him to turn in the answer sheet to the teacher.”

“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.”

“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. As a Small Group, you’ll work on a game plan to help you move past those things and make the wise choice. Let’s pray and ask God to help us discover His wisdom and how to make the wise choice. Let’s pray.”

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, lead offering and dismiss kids to Small Group.

OFFERING:

Here in Parkview Kids, we bring our offering each week to help support (your Campus Child) learn more about Jesus just like we do here in Parkview Kids. Here’s a picture of (your Campus Child)! If you brought your offering you can bring it up now as we dismiss to Small Groups.

Orland Park: Michael and Valeri, New Lenox: Daniel, Homer Glen: Victor