

Alley SG—January 22nd, 2023

Today's Bible Story: This Desert Life (Jesus Is Tempted in the Desert) • Luke 4:1-13 (Matthew 4:1-11)

Today's Key Question: What helps you make the wise choice?

Today's Bottom Line: Remembering what's true can help you make the wise choice

Monthly Memory Verse: *The LORD gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth.* Proverbs 2:6 (NIV)

1. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, "Proverb Cards" (two sets per Group), note cards (1 per student), pens

What You Do:

- Give kids a Bible. Guide kids to find the Book of Proverbs.
- Ask for a volunteer to find this month's memory verse and read it aloud. (*Proverbs 2:6*)
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Explain the Book of Proverbs contains many short verses offering wisdom and truth to help us live in a way that shows we love God and love others.
- Give each team a set of "Proverb Cards."
- Challenge teams to work together to find the two cards that go together to complete each proverb. If kids are struggling, encourage them to use the Bible to help them.
 - *Optional: To make it a competition, the first team to successfully match all the cards wins.*
- After all the cards have been matched, read a few of the proverbs out loud.
- Use the following to start a conversation.
 - Encourage kids to share which proverb stood out the most to them.
 - Read Proverbs 26:11. What does this proverb say is true about a foolish person? (*Lean into the gross factor of this verse! This is an opportunity to talk about how we all make mistakes but a wise person gains knowledge and learns from their mistakes, doing their best to grow and move forward from them.*)
 - What are things we do to remember something? How do you study for a test? (*Repetition, write it down, study with a friend, etc.*) So, what are things we can do to memorize God's Word?
[Make it Personal] (Share a way you memorize verses. Maybe recite a verse you memorized. Consider sharing an age-appropriate example how remembering what is true helped you make a wise choice.)
 - Challenge kids to choose a proverb to memorize and write it on a notecard.
 - Provide memorization suggestions as necessary. For example: read the verse every morning before getting out of bed, read the verse every night before going to bed, write the verse each day, tape the cards to the bathroom mirror and practice the verse while you brush your teeth, etc.
 - Be sure to ask kids next week if they remember their verses and give them an opportunity to recite them.

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Plastic cups (10 in one color, 10 in the other, per Group), Post It Notes, markers, rubber bands (at least 20 per group)

What You Do:

- Gather kids together. Review the story by asking:
 - How did the devil try to distract Jesus from what is true?
 - How did Jesus battle the distractions from the devil?
 - What happened when the devil realized Jesus was focused on the Scriptures?
 - Why is this story important for us to know? How can it help us to make a wise choice?

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each team 10 cups of the same color.
- Guide teams to think of what could distract us from making a wise choice. (Prompt kids by referring to the discussion in the Take a Snapshot Activity.)
- Tell kids to write their answers on Post Its and stick them to the cups, one answer per cup.
- On the edge of a table, line up the cups.
- As you are lining up the cups, ask: What are some truths you learned this month from God's Word? What is true about God? About Jesus? About knowledge?
- Give each kid a rubber band.
- When you say, "GO," kids grab a rubber band and use it to knock the cups, a.k.a. the "Distractions" off the table.
- However, before they can release the rubber band, kids must shout out a truth they learned this month.
- The first team to knock all their team's distractions off the table wins.
- Play a couple of rounds.
- Select at least one of the "distractions."

Ask: What is something that is true that can help us "knock out" this distraction?

3. Discussion Questions

- Why is it important to know what is true?
- What is the opposite of knowledge?
- What is the difference between a wise and foolish choice?
- What are some potential consequences of a wise choice? What are some potential consequences of an unwise or foolish choice?

4. Make it Personal with Prayer

- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

"God, Thank You for the Bible! We have so much to learn about You and about what is true! This week help us to remember You love us, and because of Jesus we are with You always, now and forever. Show us what is true so we can make wise choices. God, help us to remember the proverbs we learned today. Remind us to keep working on memorizing Your words and putting them in our hearts. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!"