

City 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 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. Make the Wise Choice

What You Need: "Wise Choice Scenarios" page, small hula hoop, floor tape, and bean bags (2-3 per group)

What You Do:

- Lay out 6 pieces of tape in parallel lines lining down your area (at least two or more feet apart each).
- Lead kids in a mash-up of "Mother May I?" and "Corn Hole."
- Guide kids to stand shoulder to shoulder along the first line.
- Set the hula hoop in the center, just beyond the last line.
- Lead kids to take turns tossing a bean bag from where they stand on the first line, into the hula hoop.
- When the bean bag lands in (or on) the hoop, read a scenario from the "Wise Choice Scenarios" Activity Page.
- When kids answer with a wise choice, say, "Yes! Remembering what's true can help you make the . . ." and lead kids to finish the Bottom Line.
 - If needed, provide an answer or two for the group.
- Invite all kids to move to the next line by hopping, baby stepping, tip-toeing, etc.
- When kids reach the finish line, lead them in a cheer of the Bottom Line.
- *Option: Invite kids to play in pairs. This can help shy or reluctant kids enjoy the game more. It can also allow more kids to participate.*

What You Say:

"EVERYTHING written in the Bible is true. (*John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16*) So if you want to know what's true, where can you go? Yes, the Bible! Remembering verses from the Bible can help you remember what's true. And **[Bottom Line] remembering what's true can help you make the wise choice!**

"How can you remember truths from the Bible? (*Read the Bible, memorize Bible verses, do what the Bible says, etc.*) Great ideas! So don't forget that **[Bottom Line] remembering what's true can help you make the wise choice."**

Additional application for older kids: "During the game, how did you get to move from one line to the next? (*Said the wise choice/made the wise choice*) As you moved forward, did it become easier or harder to toss the bean bag into the hoop? (*easier*) Yes, the more you made the wise choice, the easier the game got! The same thing is true in our lives—the more you practice making the wise choice, the easier it becomes to make the wise choice the next time!"

2. Bible Bookmarks

What You Need: "Corner Bookmark Instructions" (3 per group), Bibles, copy paper (1 sheet per kid), scissors, and markers

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has Bible.
- Look up Proverbs 2:6 and read it out loud to your Group.
- Remind the kids that God knows everything because God is the Creator of everything. He has given us the Bible and the Holy Spirit inside of us to help us follow Jesus and make the wise choice.

- Explain that one of the best ways to know how to follow God and make wise choices is by reading the Bible, so they'll be making a bookmark to use in their Bibles.
- Lay out the instructions where kids can see them and lead the kids through the steps to make a corner bookmark.
- If time allows, set out the markers and invite the kids to decorate their bookmarks.

What You Say:

“Your bookmarks look awesome. I love your creativity. You can use these bookmarks in your Bibles as a reminder that all knowledge and understanding come from God. The best way to know how God wants us to live—which is the **BEST** way to live—is by reading the Bible so you can learn more about God. **[Bottom Line]** **Remembering what's true can help you make the wise choice.**”

Note: It's possible not every kid in your group has a Bible of their own, and sometimes, parents are unsure which Bible to choose for their kids. There are SO many options! Talk to your Campus Director or team leader about a recommendation to give to parents. If you know a kid's family can't afford a Bible, make sure to let a staff member know about that need, too.

3. Memory Movement

What You Need: Prepared “Memory Movement Die” (1 per Group)

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Invite a volunteer on one team to roll the “Memory Movement Die.”
- Lead the team to do the movement shown.
- The second team does the first movement, then rolls the die and does the new movement.
- The first team does the previous two movements, rolls the die again, and does the third movement, creating a chain.
- Continue play as time remains.

What You Say:

“You guys did a great job of remembering the motions! **[Transition]** In Large Group today, we heard about someone who remembered **VERY** important WORDS. Jesus! Every time He was tempted in the Desert, He was able to quote words of the Bible that He had memorized. We can do the same thing too when we are faced with difficult situations!”

4. Pray and Dismiss

- Close your group time in prayer.

What You Say:

“God, we love You. Thank You for giving us Your Word so we can learn who You are and know how to follow You. We want to make wise choices that protect us and the people around us. This week, when we're tempted to do something that we know isn't right, please remind us that You are with us and help us remember what's true. Thanks for loving us, no matter what. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.”