

ALLEY Rundown August 17-18, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Much Needed Advice (Rehoboam Listens to Fools) • 2 Chronicles 10 (Proverbs 13:20)

Today's Key Question: Who are some wise people in your life?

Today's Bottom Line: Hang out with wise people.

Monthly Memory Verse: *If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn't find fault.* James 1:5 (NirV)

PRE-SERVICE VIDEO: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: Theme

What is happening, everyone!? Hope you had a great week digging deep and discovering more of the wisdom that's all around you. I have to say, it SOUNDS like there is a lot of energy in the room today. And I love it!

Speaking of sound, I have an idea for a game that gets the whole room involved. I call it 'Sea Sounds by the Seashore'!

SLIDE: "Sea Sounds by the Seashore"

Here is how to play. In just a moment, I'll bring two volunteers on stage. They'll turn their backs to the screen and not look at what's on it. Only YOU out there will get to see the screen, which will have an image of something you might find near the ocean. Then, as a whole crowd, you'll make a sound that represents what's on the image, but you can't SAY the object or ACT out what's on the screen. Got it? No motions. No mouthing words. You can only make sounds. Each volunteer will get a chance to guess. They get a point for each one they guess correctly. Most points wins. Make sense?

Awesome, I need two volunteers to play . . .

Host chooses two volunteers. They stand with their backs to the screen.

Let's hear those sounds!

Host will call for each image after the audience makes the sound and the volunteers guess correctly.

SLIDE: Seashore Image 1 – Seagull

SLIDE: Seashore Image 2 – Tug Boat

SLIDE: Seashore Image 3 – Dolphin

SLIDE: Seashore Image 4 – Seaplane

SLIDE: Seashore Image 5 – Waves

SLIDE: Seashore Image 6 – Whale

SLIDE: Seashore Image 7 – Scuba Diver

You all did amazing! I felt like I was out to sea!

All month we've been taking a closer look at what it means to trust God, follow Jesus, and live with wisdom. Which has me thinking about this one time when I was younger . . .

Communicator shares a personal story of someone who has given them wise advice when they were going through a difficult decision. Use the following as an example or as a hypothetical situation you can share.

When I was growing up, there were two things I loved doing: playing soccer and playing piano. As I got older, though, it seemed like I would have to make a choice. I wasn't sure I could participate in both hobbies and become good at either of them. My piano teacher wanted me to think about playing soccer less. And my friends wanted me to give up the piano. So, I figured it was time to choose between them, focus on one, and leave the other behind.

Then one day when I was hanging out with my grandfather, I must have looked like I was feeling confused or sad about something. He asked me what was going on, so I spilled it . . . told him how confused I was and how much I didn't really want to stop playing soccer or the piano.

As it turned out, he went through a similar situation when he was growing up. He loved playing sports, but also loved studying and doing well in school. Just like me, he felt like if he wanted to be good at one of them, he'd have to stop doing the other. But then he talked about how he learned to make time for both of them. He could play on the baseball team, practice with his friends, and still become a pretty decent player while he also made time to study what he was learning in school to keep his grades up.

His wisdom helped me see that I didn't need to give up either of these hobbies. I could get creative and find time to do both! He completely changed the way I looked at how I spent my time. Even today as an adult, I still practice what I learned from him about how to use my time wisely!"

Maybe you've faced a similar situation. You have a big decision to make and need some help figuring out what's best. But we have so many people who are speaking into our lives, don't we? We have family members, friends, teachers, or coaches, and each of them gives us advice from time to time. Then we have people we follow on YouTube, the music we listen to, or shows we watch. Even they give us some ideas about what we should care about or the sort of choices we should make.

With all the voices that are all around us, how do we know that we're surrounding ourselves with the one who will help us make WISE choices? How can we be SURE the people in our lives are the best people to help us trust God and follow Jesus? These are important questions for us to think about.

Thankfully, God gave us the Bible, and we can turn to it to learn about God and God's ways when we have some big questions about life. Remember, the Bible is a library of all sorts of wisdom that was written down by people who experienced God in their lives. God inspired them to write down what they learned, so we could learn from their lives and what God showed them all these years later. Let's check out one of those moments right now.

VIDEO: The So and So Show (14:22)

"I'm guessing you can see the takeaway from this story pretty clearly. In one of the most critical moments of his life, Rehoboam chose to surround himself with the wrong people who gave him the wrong advice, which led to a disastrous outcome. When he most needed wisdom, he took advice from fools. And in the end, it ruined everything.

Before the Bible Story, I told you a personal story about someone who gave me wise advice when I was making a difficult decision. The reality is there are so many times in our lives when we have real decisions to make, and the choices we make will impact our entire lives. It's important for us to know who we can turn to during those times. What sort of people do you have around you? Who are the people we have who can give us advice? Are they people who will only tell us the cool thing to do? The popular thing to do? Or do we have people who will tell us the wise thing to do?

Rehoboam's dad, Solomon, once said this Proverb . . . it certainly would have changed a lot for Rehoboam if he had followed it. Check it out.

Open the Bible to Proverbs 13:20 (NIRV) and read.

Walk with wise people and become wise.

A companion of foolish people suffers harm.

Somebody once said, 'Show me your five friends and I'll show you who you'll become.' That is powerful if you think about it. Who you surround yourself with matters. Rehoboam listened to fools, and in the end, he acted like a fool.

When you have tough choices to make, who do you ask? Who do you accept advice from? Who helps you make decisions? These are important questions, and this a great time to start asking them!"

As you head to Small Group today, think about this:

SLIDE: Key Question

Who are some wise people in your life? Who are your 'go-to' people when you need advice or don't know what to do? Why do you go to them? Before you go, let's pray and ask God to help us surround ourselves with wise people in our lives who will help us become wise ourselves!"

SLIDE: Theme Background

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard.

CHECK THE TIME: There should be 20-25 minutes for small group. If LG is running late, skip the next part and just have kids bring up their money.

OFFERING:

We are collecting money for an organization called Hope Mobility. It provides wheelchairs to people with physical challenges in Africa. But they provide a lot more than just wheelchairs. Check out this video.

VIDEO: Michael's Story 2

Our focus will be raising money for wheelchairs for kids. Each pediatric wheelchair costs \$275 and we will see how many wheelchairs we can purchase to help kids in Africa!

****AT YOUR COORDINATOR'S DIRECTION, YOU WILL EITHER DISMISS TO SMALL GROUP OR DO ACTIVITIES TOGETHER.**

SLIDE: Theme