

ALLEY SG - August 3-4, 2024

Due to summer scheduling, these activities can be done in small groups or in one large group led by one leader.

1. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, notecards (12 per group per service), pens

What You Do:

- Open the Bible to Luke 2:41-52; Briefly review it by inviting kids who would like to take turns reading.
- Ask:
 - What is something that surprised you about this story?
 - What are some things Jesus did in this story that are similar to things we do today?
 - What's one thing you learned about Jesus from this story?
- Ask the kids to form partners (It's okay if they're a team of three). Give each pair a Bible, four note cards, and pens.
- Help kids locate Luke 2:41-52 in their Bibles.
- Explain that kids should work with their partners to read the passage, then write two true facts or statements about the events in the Bible story and two false statements about it.
- Give kids some time to read and write their ideas, then share them with the group.
- After, discuss the story being sure to emphasize that if Jesus searched for wisdom, then it's important for us to seek out wisdom, too.
- Ask:
 - How do we find wisdom?
 - How do you go from just knowing stuff to being wise?
 - Who do you know that can help you be wise?
 - How does the Bible help us be wise?
 - Why is wisdom worth searching for?

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to gather in a circle.
- Tell kids that you will share a type of job or task such as a dog trainer.
- Go around the circle and ask each kid to share something that would be important for the person doing that task to know.
 - If your group is large, consider jotting them down because you'll need to remember the ideas that are shared.
- Share the first job (dog trainer), then go around the circle as kids share. After everyone has shared, ask the group to decide which of the ideas would be the most important and why.
- Repeat with a few additional jobs such as a barista, astronaut, circus clown, taxi driver, brain surgeon, or others you or the kids come up with.
- For the final round, ask kids what a person who wants to be wise needs to know.
- Challenge kids to explain the difference between being smart (being an expert on something) and being wise.
- Ask:
 - Would you say that people who are smart are also always wise? Why or why not?
 - How would you define wisdom in 10 words or less?
 - What are some wise choices you've made recently?
 - If you've made some unwise choices, what have you learned from that experience?

3. Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to be wise?
- Name some things we sometimes care about more than making wise choices. Why do you think we make those things more important?
- What questions do you think Jesus as a young boy about your age may have been asking the men at the temple?
- What's a question you would like to ask someone who is wise?

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, "James 1:5" Cards in baggies (2-3 per group)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Invite kids to look up and read James 1:5
- Divide into 2-3 groups.
- Give each group a set of cards.
- On your "go" they will race to put the cards in the correct order.
- See who finishes first.
- After ask:
 - How would you paraphrase James 1:5 in your own words?
 - How does God give us wisdom?
 - Name times when kids your age might need to ask God for wisdom.
 - How can you use your Bible to find wisdom in the choices you make? How might God use people in your life to give you wisdom?
 - What could keep you from being wise?
 - How can you know whether you're making a wise choice?

5. PRAY

- Ask, "Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)"
- Take some time to pray for these things as a group, then finish with the prayer below...

"Dear God, we want to be wise. Our whole lives, we want to make wise decisions. Please make us wise. Help us listen to Your Spirit inside of us, leading us to make wise decisions. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

- If there is still time, pass out the Parent Discussion Guides to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home and bring back next week for a prize.

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to answer this question, "What does it mean to be wise?"