

## CITY SG – October 19-20, 2024

**Today's Bible Story:** You'd Better Think (David Spares Saul's Life) • 1 Samuel 24

**Today's Bottom Line:** Think before you act.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.* 2 Peter 1:3a (NIRV)

**Monthly Virtue:** Self-control—Choosing to do what's best even when you don't want to

### **PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY**

**What You Need:** Bop It!® game (1 per group)

#### **What You Do:**

- Invite kids to stand in a circle.
- Show kids the Bop It!®, and briefly explain how to use it:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOaCA3sldpQ&t=98s>
- Start the game, directing kids to keep passing the Bop It!® to their left after each round.
- Let kids jump in as they arrive.
  - If kids miss out on a command, instruct them to sit out and cheer on the remaining kids until the next round.
- Say, **“What made this game challenging? (*Invite responses.*) You really had to think before you acted in order to do well in this game! Today, we're going to discover just how important thinking before we make a move is.”**

(Please return game to central)

### **SMALL GROUP TIME**

#### **1. Take Over Review**

*Bible Story Review*

**What You Need:** “Question Tiles” Activity Pages (one set of 9 per group)

#### **What You Do:**

- Hand out the “Question Tiles” Activity Pages—leaving at least one kid without one.
  - If you have more than nine kids, it's okay to have more than one kid without a paper.
  - If you have less than nine kids, give some kids two pages from the “Question Tiles” Activity Pages, but leave at least one kid without a paper.
- Direct the kids with a page from the “Question Tiles” Activity Pages to arrange their papers in the shape of a square (face down), and then to stand on their paper (or on one of their papers).
- Direct the kid(s) without a page from the “Question Tiles” Activity Page to stand near you.
- Tell the kid(s) who aren't standing on page(s) that they are the contestant(s).
- If there is more than one contestant, choose one kid to go first.

- Instruct the first contestant to choose any of the kids from the square.
  - Direct the kid they choose to flip over the paper they're standing on and read their question aloud.
  - *\*Younger kids may need you to read their card for them*
  - Instruct the contestant to answer the question.
    - If the contestant answers the question correctly, share that they have successfully taken over one tile and the kid with that paper is to sit down on the tile.
    - Instruct the same contestant to continue choosing questions. If they continue answering questions correctly, they can take over more tiles.
    - When a contestant answers a question incorrectly, share that their time as the contestant is over.
    - Rotate in a new contestant (either another kid who originally did not have a paper or one of the kids who is already sitting down).
- Repeat in this way until all questions have been answered correctly and all tiles have been taken over.

## 2. Rely on God

### *Memory Verse Activity*

**What You Need:** Bibles, "Memory Verse" Activity Page, (one per kid printed on cardstock) fabric scraps, scissors, and glue.

### **What You Do:**

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
  - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
  - Read the memory verse from a Bible aloud to your group.
  - *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. 2 Peter 1:3a*
- Give each kid a "Memory Verse" Activity Page.
- Lead everyone to say the verse together.
- Set out the fabric scraps, scissors, markers and glue.
- Ask, "Do these fabric scraps remind you of anything from our story today?" (*Invite responses, like: These are similar to the fabric David cut from Saul's robe.*)
- Invite kids to color, then cut and glue pieces of fabric to their "Memory Verse" Activity Page as they choose.
  - Help kids cut with the scissors, as needed.
- Say, "In our story today, David could have hurt Saul, but he trusted God and made the wise choice to think before he acted. Our Memory Verse tells us that when we follow Jesus, God's power can help us show self-control too!"
- Encourage kids to hang this verse somewhere to remember that God's power can help us!

### 3. Think Then Act

#### *Application Activity*

**What You Need:** Nothing

**What You Do:**

- Invite kids to share a scenario that could happen to them where they would need to remember to think before they act.
- Prompt them with questions, if needed:
  - What might happen at school that could cause you to lose your patience?
  - What has happened at home to make you feel frustrated?
  - Where else do you need to show self-control when waiting for something?
- As kids share ideas, encourage the group to respond by saying: **“think before you act.”**

### AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL:

#### 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...  
“God, thank You for sending us Your Holy Spirit to be our Helper. Because of Your power and strength, we know we can **[Bottom Line] think before you act.** No matter what we face this week, remind us of the opportunity we have to be more like Jesus—whether we’re sad, hurt, angry, or even excited! Thank You for wanting to use us to show the world Your kindness and strength. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”
- If there is still time, pass out the Discussion Guides to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home and bring it back next week for a prize.

**PARENT PICK UP POINT:** As adults arrive to pick up, encourage each kid to recite the memory verse or bottom line.