

## CITY SG - October 4<sup>th</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Today's Bible Story:** Samuel Anoints David • 1 Samuel 16:1-13

**Today's Bottom Line:** God can help you make the wise choice.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver.* Proverbs 16:16 (NIRV)

### **PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY**

**What You Need:** Nothing

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

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Tell the kids that this month's is all about wisdom and we're taking an adventure at Wisdomland!
- Ask: "What's your favorite amusement park? What's your favorite ride?"
- Explain and demonstrate how to play:
  - Say, "We're going to pretend we're headed to an amusement park, but there's a mystery rule about what can come with us! Your goal is to listen, guess the pattern, and see if your item makes the cut!"
  - The leader will start by saying, "I'm going to an amusement park, and I'm bringing (name of item). What are you bringing?"
  - ***The goal is for the kids to identify the rule and answer the question with the rule in mind.***
  - If their item matches the mystery rule, respond warmly with: "Yes! That totally fits. Welcome to the park!"
  - If it doesn't fit, say kindly: "That item can't come into the park. Would you like to bring something else?"
  - Let them try again and reassure them it's all about discovering the rule!
  - Continue until everyone's had a turn or the group figures out the rule.
- If time allows, play several rounds using the questions below.

#### **Questions:**

- "What are you bringing?"
- "What kind of snacks do you want to get?"
- "What kind of rides do you want to get on?"
- "What characters do you want to see?"

#### **Rule Suggestions:**

- Starts with the letter "B"
- An animal
- Something red
- Starts with the letter "T"
- Something yellow

## **SMALL GROUP TIME**

### **1. More Than Meets the Eye**

*Bible Story Review*

#### **What You Need:**

- Ten prepared gift bags with cards from the “Story Gifts” Activity Page inside

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

- Divide the kids into two teams. *OR You can play as one big group if your group is smaller.*
- Set the gift bags in front of you.
- Say, “These gift bags all look different. But guess what? Just like in our true story from the Bible today, what’s outside doesn’t always show what’s inside! Inside one of these bags is a card with a king’s crown on it. Choosing David to be king was the wise choice that God led Samuel to. The card with the crown on it is the ‘Wise Choice’ card! The rest of the cards have questions from today’s Bible Story. If your team finds the card with the king’s crown on it—the Wise Choice card—your team wins!”
- Let the teams take turns picking one bag to open.
- If their bag has a Bible story question inside, instruct them to answer it together.
- The team that finds the “Wise Choice” card wins!
- Even if a team finds the “Wise Choice” card early, let the kids open the rest of the bags so everyone gets to answer questions and review the story.
- Use the numbers on the cards to review answers to the Bible Story.

#### **Answer Key:**

1. What kind of person did God’s people want as their king instead of trusting God? *(They wanted a king like the other nations—someone tall, strong, and impressive.)*
  2. How did what Samuel was looking for in a king change when he went to Jesse’s house? *(At first, Samuel looked for someone who looked strong and impressive on the outside, but God reminded him that God sees a person’s heart, and that’s what matters.)*
  3. What did God say to Samuel about how He sees people? *(God said: “People look at the outside of a person, but the LORD looks at what is in the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7 NIV).)*
  4. Why was David’s heart something that God liked and valued? *(David loved God very much.)*
  5. Why was David considered an unlikely choice to be king? *(David was the youngest son and just a shepherd. People didn’t think he was important.)*
  6. What special sign did Samuel use to show that David was chosen by God? *(Samuel anointed David with oil.)*
  7. What challenge did David face after being chosen as king? *(David faced Goliath, an enemy soldier who was a giant.)*
  8. How did David show he trusted God when he faced Goliath? *(David turned down using King Saul’s armor, he told Goliath that God was stronger than all of Goliath’s weapons.)*
  9. How did David defeat Goliath? *(David trusted God and that made him brave! He slung one stone from his slingshot and killed Goliath!)*
- Say, “God chose David not because he looked like a king, but because of what was in his heart. David loved God and God valued that. And the same is true for us, friends! More than anything, God values that you love Him. God wants to be your close friend!

## 2. Filter Your Choices

### *Application Activity*

#### What You Need:

- “Filter Your Choices” Activity Page (One set per group per service)

#### What You Do:

- Stack the scenario cards face down in a pile in the middle of the circle.
- One by one, encourage the kids to pick a card from the “Filter Your Choices” Activity Page and read it aloud. They will hold onto their card.
- Ask: What wise choice do you think God would help you make in this scenario?
- Help guide the kids’ answers as needed.
- Set the coloring supplies in the center of the circle.
- Invite the kids to draw a portrait of themselves in the blank square on the back of their card. This is their Wisdomland Fast Pass!
- Say, “While you decorate your Wisdomland Fast Pass, I want you to think about this: What’s something you need God’s wisdom for this week?”
  - *Maybe it’s wisdom to speak kindly to your sibling even when they bug you.*
  - *Maybe it’s wisdom to tell the truth, even when it’s hard.*
  - *Maybe it’s wisdom to make the right choice when you’re playing outside in your neighborhood.*
- Remind kids that prayer is a conversation they can have with God anytime, anywhere, about anything.
- Encourage kids to hang their Wisdomland Fast Pass somewhere at home where they can see it daily as a reminder that **God can help you make the wise choice!**

## 3. Verses to Take with You

### *Memory Verse Activity*

#### What You Need:

- Bibles, 2 blindfolds, Cards with Proverbs 16:16 written on them (2 sets per service)

#### 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 to the group.
  - *It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver.* Proverbs 16:16 (NIRV)
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give both teams a set of Proverbs 16:16 index cards and a blindfold.
- At your signal, the teams will race to arrange the verse in correct order.
- Play several rounds, inviting the kids to place the verse in order using these directives:
  - Silently: The kids will place the verse in order together without speaking.
  - Blindfolded: Teams will blindfold a kid and direct the kid to place the verse in order.
- Celebrate the teams as they finish the verse.
- Remind the kids that when they memorize Scripture, they hide truth in their hearts. That means when they face tough decisions, they already have God’s Word ready to guide them.

## 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)*”
- “Dear God, thank You for always being ready to help us. Thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide us. We admit that we don’t always want to do the right thing. Sometimes we want to do things our way. But we want to follow You, God. Your way is always better! Remind us this week to pause, pray, and ask for help! You are the source of all wisdom, and we trust that You will help us make wise choices. We pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen!”

**PARENT PICK UP POINT:** As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show them their Wisdomland Fast Pass and have them recite this month’s memory verse.