

K-3rd

Large Group

October — Week 2

Large Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (10 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (30 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Small Group (15 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect 1. Bible Story

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

David and the Psalms

Psalms 1:1-4

Bottom Line

**If you want to be wise,
focus on God.**

Memory Verse

**"It is much better to
get wisdom than gold.
It is much better to
choose understanding
than silver."**

Proverbs 16:16 NIV



Inclusive Pro Tips

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

① Opener

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as kids enter.
 SLIDE → Theme
 Optional Video → Theme Loop

→ Host enters.

Optional Video → Countdown
 Optional Video → Theme Intro
 Optional Video → Theme Loop

HOST: “Welcome to Wisdomland! Who’s excited to be here today?
 (PAUSE FOR CHEERS.)

AUDIO → Fun, upbeat music (THEME PARK MUSIC IF POSSIBLE)

“This is the best theme park ever because we get to have fun AND learn how to seek God for every wise choice—just like wise people do!

SLIDE → Theme

“Let’s play a fun game in Wisdomland today called ‘Lost and Found,’—it’s a game about finding some cool stuff we may have misplaced at the park!

→ If you have a big gym or outdoor space, say:

→ “I’ve hidden a few special items from a theme park around the room. We’ve lost these items! Your job is to work together as a team to find them. I’ll give you clues, and you’ll have to listen carefully to figure out what they are!”

→ If you’re in a classroom or small area, say:

→ “I’ll bring out a box of items from a theme park. Sadly, these are items that get lost at theme parks a lot. One by one, I’ll give a clue about what the item is. For example, ‘This is an item that you would mail to a friend to tell them where you went!’ The first team to guess each item I’m describing gets a point.”

“Let me divide us into teams to play the game. Start the game by sitting with your team! This will be your team’s home base!

→ If you’re hiding the items, divide the group into a number of teams that’s equivalent to the number of items you’ve hidden. (IF YOU’VE HIDDEN SIX POSTCARDS, CREATE SIX TEAMS.) If you’re guessing the items in the box, divide your group into manageable teams.

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

“Now that we’ve got our teams, let’s get started! I’ll call out our first clue! Together, your team will figure out the item, search for it, run to it, and bring it back to your group’s home base! Here’s your first clue:

“This is something you can send in the mail to tell people about your trip!”

- Either hold up the item from the box, or direct the kids to go find the item once they’ve figured it out!

Items and their clues to hide in the game: **(FEEL FREE TO ADD MORE!)**

- Postcard (This is something you would mail to a friend to tell them where you went.)
- Sunglasses (These are what I wear to keep the sun from shining so brightly in my eyes!)
- Stuffed animal (This is a plush prize that you sometimes win for playing a game. Or it’s something fluffy you can buy as a souvenir!)
- Filled plastic waterbottle (It can get hot at theme parks! This is something you can drink to cool down.)
- Silly hat (This is what I wear on my head when I want to make the people around me laugh!)
- Poncho (This is something you need to wear if it starts to rain!)
- Souvenir T-shirt (This is a shirt you wear to help remember the trip!)
- Bottle of sunscreen (This is a lotion I put on so I don’t get burned from getting too much sun!)

(IF YOU’VE KEPT SCORE AND USED A BOX, DECLARE THE WINNING TEAM AND CELEBRATE THEM.)

“You all did such a wise job listening, looking, and working together! Sometimes, finding what’s lost means listening to a good guide and focusing on where you’re supposed to go. In Wisdomland, being wise means focusing on God—and God is the BEST guide we could mf58d4h763gzvCRever have!”

② Worship

- Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: “Wow, that was awesome teamwork in our game! Now, let’s do something even more special—we get to worship God through music together. When we sing songs of praise to God, we’re showing God that we love Him, and our hearts also get reminded that God is big and we are safe as His friends.

“So let’s sing together! This song is called Goodbye Yesterday. It reminds us that when we follow Jesus, He gives us a brand-new life. We don’t have to hold on to the old ways—we can say goodbye to yesterday and live in the joy and freedom He gives today!”

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

Video → Goodbye Yesterday - Amazing Kids

“That was awesome! I love hearing you sing about the new life we have in Jesus. Now let’s keep worshiping with a song that reminds us just how great our God is. He gives us life and breath, and everything we have comes from Him. Let’s lift our voices and sing Great Are You Lord together!”

Video → Great Are You Lord - Amazing Kids

“Great job, everyone! I love seeing how you worship God with your whole heart.

“Before we hear our true story from the Bible today, let’s take a moment to remember our special verse we’re memorizing this month.

SLIDE → Memory Verse

“Let’s say it together:

It is much better to get wisdom than gold.

It is much better to choose understanding than silver.

“Wow! God’s wisdom is worth more than anything. And He wants to give it to us because He loves us so much and wants us to live well! Let’s keep listening for His wisdom today.

“Great job, everyone! Let’s go ahead and sit down and hear our true story from the Bible today.”

③ Bible Story

SLIDE -> Theme Background

→ Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everybody! I’m so excited you’re here today! We’re doing something amazing this year—we’re going through the key stories of the Bible so we can learn the entire story the Bible is telling!

“You see, one of the reasons God gave us the Bible is so that we can get to know Him. We’re going through the key stories of the Bible so we can learn more about God!

GOD’S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

“We’re going to go through God’s Big Story!” (GESTURE TO SLIDE.)

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

SLIDE -> God's Big Story

"Each week, we'll look at a story from God's Big Story and add a picture of that story to our timeline, so we can see where we've been in the Bible as we journey along. (GESTURE TO TIMELINE.)

"Let me bring you up to speed on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

"So you might remember that in the very beginning, God made everything! He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore! It was so sad.

"And awful things happened to the world too. Pain, sickness, and death entered into it.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way! So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Many years later, Abraham's great-grandson Joseph ended up in Egypt. After some hard times, God helped Joseph become a super-important leader there! Joseph saved his whole family by bringing them to Egypt. But hundreds of years passed. God grew and grew His people. A new Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, came along. He didn't know about Joseph. He saw how many of God's people there were, he got scared, and he started being mean to them.

"God's people cried out to God for help. He answered! He brought His people out of slavery into a beautiful home He had for them—the Promised Land! After some time living in the Promised Land, God's people wanted a king like the other nations around them.

"The first king, Saul, made lots of unwise choices. But the next king was named David. David wasn't perfect, but he loved God with his whole heart and tried to follow God. And that's where we are in God's Big Story."

SETTING UP THE STORY

"We're moving right along through the Bible. Today, we're in the Old Testament, in a very special book called Psalms. Psalms is like God's songbook—full of songs and poems written to God! Raise your hand if you like to sing or make music! (PAUSE FOR THE KIDS TO RAISE THEIR HANDS.)

"A lot of the psalms were written by the second king of God's people, who was named David. David didn't write all of the psalms, but all of the psalms do have something in common: they all declare how good God is. They also talk about some very real feelings we all have, like being sad, happy, scared, or mad.

"I'm going to need your help as we talk about King David and the Psalms.

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

Every once inawhile, I'm going to ask you to use your imagination as we go through the story. Let's warm up a little. Can you wiggle your fingers like you're playing a harp, just like David did? (PAUSE WHILE KIDS PRETEND TO STRUM A HARP.)

"Good job! Let's get started!"

YOUNG DAVID

SLIDE 1 → "Young David with Sheep"

STORYTELLER: "Before David was king, he was just a kid like you! While he was growing up, he took care of sheep out in the fields. Sheep can wander away, but David learned how to keep them safe.

"Let's all make a 'baa' sound like a sheep! (PAUSE AS THE KIDS MAKE SOUNDS LIKE A SHEEP.)

"Can you also pretend to hold a shepherd's staff? Hold up your arm like you're holding a big stick!"

"While David watched his sheep, he spent lots of time looking at God's creation and thinking about God's love.

"David loved music! He would sing and play his harp to God.

"Let's all make gentle 'ding-ding-ding' harp sounds with our voices. (PAUSE AND LET KIDS MAKE HARP SOUNDS.)

"Sometimes David was happy and thanked God for good things. Other times, David was scared or sad and asked God for help. But no matter how he felt, David chose to talk to God.

SLIDE 2 → "Sheep by Green Grass and Water"

"Since David had been a shepherd, he knew a lot about taking care of sheep. David knew God is the best shepherd, and he wrote a psalm to God about it. His words are recorded in Psalm 23:

→ Open the Bible to Psalm 23:1-2 (NIRV) and read.

The Lord is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need.

He lets me lie down in fields of green grass.

He leads me beside quiet waters.

"Let's all lie down like we're resting in soft, green grass. (PAUSE WHILE KIDS LIE DOWN AND "REST." OR IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH ROOM TO LIE DOWN, KIDS CAN PUT THEIR HANDS TOGETHER, AND TILT THEIR HEAD SIDEWAYS TO "REST" ON THEM.)

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

“Now, sit up and pretend you’re drinking fresh, cool water—ahhh! (PAUSE WHILE KIDS PRETEND TO DRINK.)”

“God took care of David like a good shepherd. And God takes care of us too!”

SLIDE 3 → “David Trusting God”

“Sometimes, David faced big troubles. He had to hide from people who wanted to hurt him. He felt alone in caves or out in the wilderness. But David still trusted God.

“David wrote these words to God about hiding in Him when life got difficult. They’re recorded in Psalm 18:

→ Open the Bible to Psalm 18:2 (NIRV) and read.

The Lord is my rock and my place of safety. He is the God who saves me.

“Let’s make a big, strong ‘rock’ with our arms—hug yourself tight! When you feel scared or worried, you can remember: God is your safe place!”

KING DAVID

SLIDE 4 → “David as King, Writing Songs”

STORYTELLER: “Later, David became king! But even as king, David never stopped singing to God. He wrote happy songs, sad songs, songs to say, ‘thank you,’ and songs to ask God for forgiveness.

“This is the sign for ‘thank you’ in American Sign Language.

(DEMONSTRATE PUTTING THE PALM OF YOUR HAND ON YOUR CHIN AND PULLING IT FORWARD.)

“Let’s sign a big ‘thank you’ to God. (PAUSE WHILE THE KIDS SIGN ‘THANK YOU.’)”

“David thanked God a lot. He knew that he needed God’s wisdom every single day to go through life well.

SLIDE 5 → “Praising God’s Name”

“David loved to praise God. He wrote this psalm that’s recorded in Psalm 8:1:

→ Open the Bible to Psalm 8:1 (NIRV) and read.

Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in the whole earth!
You have set your glory
in the heavens.

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

“Let’s point up to the sky—the sky is great and it points to its Creator, God. God is the greatest!”

SLIDE 6 → “TreebyaStream”

“As we mentioned, David didn’t write every psalm, but the ones he didn’t write are just as important. Psalm 1 is very special. Listen to what it says:

→ Open the Bible to Psalm 1:1-3 (NIRV) and read.

Blessed is the person who obeys the law of the Lord.

They don’t follow the advice of evil people.... Instead, the law of the Lord give them joy.

They think about his law day and night.

That kind of person is like a tree planted near a stream of water.

It always bears its fruit at the right time.

Its leaves don’t dry up.

Everything godly people do turns out well.

“Let’s all stand up and be trees! ‘Wiggle your toes like roots going deep in the ground. Reach your arms up like branches!’ (PAUSE WHILE THE KIDS PRETEND TO BE TREES.)

“Now, imagine a cool stream nearby—it’s perfect for a tree. God’s Word tells us that if we follow His ways, our lives will be good and will make lots of good things, just like a fruit tree planted near the water makes lots of nice, yummy fruit when it’s fruit time. God wants you to be the most beautiful and strongest tree. When we stay close to God and follow His ways—when we are wise—our lives will be beautiful and we’ll make yummy things!

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “So, how can we be wise? We can do what David and the other writers of the psalms did: Stay close to God. That means talking to God about everything, listening to God’s Word in the Bible, remembering that God is always with you, and following God’s ways.

“Say this after me: [BOTTOM LINE] ‘If you want to be wise, focus on God!’ (PAUSE AND HAVE THE KIDS SAY IT WITH YOU, MAYBE A COUPLE OF TIMES!)

“When we do, we grow strong and full of good things—just like a fruit tree by the water.

SLIDE -> Bottom Line

[BOTTOM LINE] “If you want to be wise, focus on God. Say that with me.”

STORYTELLER and KIDS: [BOTTOM LINE] “If you want to be wise, focus on God.”

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

HOST: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!"

SLIDE -> God's Big Story

"This week, we're still up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story with David kneeling and having Samuel pour oil over his head to anoint him as the next king. (GESTURE TO SLIDE.) That's where we are in God's Big Story!"

"This week, we looked at David and the psalms. David wrote a lot of the psalms, and as we saw, he talked about everything with God. He ran to God like a fortress in times of trouble, he praised God for His beauty and bigness, he turned to God when he had messed up. David went through life as God's friend, and God loved it! God said that David was a man after His heart. But David wasn't just a good king, he was a special king. God was so honored by David's love and trust, that He wrote this shepherd-boy-turned-king into the rescue story He was writing. God used David's love in His plan to save us. Because many, many years after David, from David's family, would come Jesus! And Jesus would rescue us all!"

"God had been working on His rescue plan to save us through every image of this timeline! (GESTURE FROM THE BEGINNING OF YOUR TIMELINE ALL THE WAY TO THE END.)"

"Let's put our image on the timeline."

SLIDE -> Week 2 Timeline Image

→ If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's timeline image on the clothesline.

"This week we talked about David and the psalms."

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: "When we think about David and the psalms, we can remember that being wise is about staying close to God."

"David was a king, a shepherd, a musician—and sometimes he made mistakes. Sometimes David sinned. But no matter what, David always turned back to God. He talked to God when he was happy, when he was sad, and when he needed help. He learned that true wisdom means staying close to God, listening to Him, and trusting that God's way is always best."

"You and I can stay close to God as His friend too! Every day, we can talk to God. We can listen to God's words in the Bible and ask Him to help us make good choices. One of the reasons God gave us the Bible is so we can learn about Him and learn what is true and wise. Even if you feel small or unsure, God wants to help you grow wise—just like a fruit tree by a stream that makes lots and lots of fruit."

5 MINUTES

Opener

10 MINUTES

Worship

20 MINUTES

Story

“We can focus on God! We can talk to Him anytime, just like David did. We can sing, pray, and thank Him. We can spend time learning about Him, and choose to do what He would want us to do—even when it’s hard or when others aren’t watching. If you ever wonder what to do, you can always ask God for wisdom. He is the wisest, and He loves to share His wisdom with you because He wants you to live wisely and well! Like David, God wants to be your good, good friend.

“Let’s pray together:

③ Prayer

HOST or STORYTELLER: “God, thank You for loving us and always being with us. Help us to focus on You, to listen to Your words, and to make wise choices every day. Just like David, we want to stay close to You. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Transition → Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO -> Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

SLIDE -> Theme

Optional Video (MEDIA PACKAGE) → Theme Loop