

K-1st Grade

Small Group

October — Week 1

Small Group Leader Guide



THIS MONTH



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 (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Clay Creations
2. What's the Wise Choice?
3. Hop to It
4. Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd grade guide.

Today's Bible Story

Samuel Anoints David

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Bottom Line

God can help you make the wise choice.

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

This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro-tips. Check out the Special Needs Resource Kit for more ideas for adapting each segment.

SOCIAL

Opening Activity



What You Need

- Offering container
- "Wisdomland Corners" Activity Page
- Wall tape

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive → Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Recall a time when God gave you the courage to do something you didn't think you were ready for. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside of you and help you take the next step! Ask God to help the kids trust Him when they feel nervous or unsure. Whether it's a big change or something small, pray that kids would know God is with them even when they don't feel ready.

1. Before you begin, tape the "Wisdomland Corners" Activity Pages in four areas of your group space.
→ Note: If you can't tape the pages on the walls, tape them to the floor.
2. Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high five, fist bump, or a wave.
3. Encourage any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.

Play Together:

1. Select a kid to go first as the "Park Attendant." Instruct them to stand in the middle.
2. Show everyone the corners and their names (Carousel, Ferris Wheel, Roller Coaster, and Popcorn Stand).
3. Explain how to play:
 - The "Park Attendant" is to close their eyes and count out loud from 1-10.
 - While they count, everyone else will pick a corner to stand in.
 - When the "Park Attendant" says "10!," they are to call out a corner name.
 - The kids in that corner must sit down until the next game.
 - Continue playing until only one kid is left standing!
4. Let the last kid standing be the "Park Attendant" next.
5. Play as long as time and interest allow.

Continued on the next page. →

Inclusive Pro Tips



Before each round, review the corner names again for repetition and clarity.

For an option with less movement, let the kids point to their chosen corner instead of running to it.

SOCIAL

Opening Activity



What You Need

- Offering container
- "Wisdomland Corners" Activity Page
- Wall tape

② What You Say

"That game was so fun! Running around and choosing corners felt like picking the best ride at an amusement park. But this game was all about guessing. You really didn't know what corner the Park Attendant would call next.

"In real life, we make lots of choices every day about what to say, when to act, or when to be quiet. The amazing thing is that we don't have to 'guess' what the right choice is. We can use God's wisdom! God is wise and loves to share His wisdom with us!

"Today, in our true story from the Bible, we'll meet a man named Samuel. God gave him wisdom to make a really big choice, and helped him see what really mattered. Samuel learned some important things, and so can we. Let's go hear more!"

Transition → Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Inclusive Pro Tips



Before each round, review the corner names again for repetition and clarity.

For an option with less movement, let the kids point to their chosen corner instead of running to it.

GROUPS 2/4

What's the Wise Choice?



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Prepared Bible marked with sticky notes
- "Wise Choice Cards" Activity Page



Inclusive Pro Tips

Give possible answers to the scenarios and let the kids respond with a thumbs-up or thumbs-down.

① What You Do

1. Gather the kids in a circle on the floor or around a table.
2. Place the Bible in the center with the sticky notes already marking the verses.
3. Place the cards from the "Wise Choice Cards" Activity Page in a face-down stack.

Imagine Together:

1. Invite one kid to start by choosing a card and handing it to you.
2. Read the scenario out loud and ask, "What would you do if that happened to you?"
 - NOTE: Let the kids respond in their own words. You aren't looking for the right answer, just an honest one!
3. Allow several kids to respond.
4. Repeat this process until every card has been answered.

Reflect Together

1. Return to the first card, and invite a different kid to look up the verse on that card.
2. Read the verse aloud.
3. Ask, "What does God's Word say is the wise choice?"
4. Gently guide the kids if their earlier answer didn't line up with what Scripture teaches.
5. Repeat this process until you've connected a Scripture with each scenario.

② What You Say

"Thank you for sharing, friends! I loved hearing what you would do. Sometimes, our first reaction might be to yell when we're angry or walk away when we're afraid. But, when we remember God is always with us, we can stop to pray to God or talk to others who follow Jesus before we respond. God always wants to give us wisdom to make wise choices!"

"I think of the Bible as a flashlight: If I turned all the lights off in here, it would be SO dark, but a flashlight would give us light to see where we needed to go. That's what the Bible, God's Word, does for us! And when we follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to help us choose what's best, even when it's tough. That's how God can help you make the wise choice, just like He helped Samuel!"

GROUPS 3/4

Hop to It!



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bibles
- "Memory Verse Words" Activity Page

① What You Do

1. Invite the kids to form groups of 2-3.
2. Give every group a Bible and direct them to look up Proverbs 16:16
3. Repeat the verse aloud several times.
4. Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.

Talk Together:

1. Ask:
 - "What are silver and gold?" (SHARE THAT THEY ARE VALUABLE METALS. THINK ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE TOY.)
 - "Why do you think wisdom and understanding are more valuable than silver or gold?"
 - (GUIDE KIDS TO CONSIDER THAT SILVER AND GOLD CAN BE LOST OR STOLEN, BUT WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING STAY WITH US AND HELP US MAKE GOOD CHOICES.)

Move Together:

1. Lay out the "Memory Verse Words" Activity Pages in the following pattern on the floor (NIV):
 - Better/ Wisdom / Understanding / Gold / Silver
2. Lay out the "Memory Verse Words" Activity Pages in the following pattern on the floor (NIV):
 - Better / Wisdom / Insight / Gold / Silver
3. Invite the kids to form a line.
4. Demonstrate how to hop on the words as you recite the verse.
 - For example, for the NIV, "It is much better (HOP) to get wisdom (HOP) than gold (HOP). It is much better to choose understanding ((HOP) than silver (HOP)."
 - For example, for the NIV, "How much better (HOP) to get wisdom (HOP) than gold (HOP), to get insight (HOP) than silver (HOP)!"
5. Invite each kid to take a turn. As the kid moves from word to word, encourage the rest of the group to recite the verse with them!

Continued on the next page. →

Inclusive Pro Tips



Celebrate every attempt at reciting the verse. Some kids might not remember every word, but they're still engaging!

Lead the kids to point to the words instead of hopping to them.

*Finding verses with Kindergarteners

- ① Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page.
- ② Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud.
- ③ Guide them to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number.
- ④ Guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud.
- ⑤ Lead everyone to say the verse together.

K-1st Grade

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GROUPS 3/4

Hop to It!



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bibles
- "Memory Verse Words" Activity Page

② What You Say

"Way to go, friends! I love how you moved your bodies and used your brains to remember Proverbs 16:16. The Bible, God's Word, tells us that wisdom and understanding are better than anything—better than our favorite toy, or the best sweet treat. All of those things can be lost or taken away, but understanding stays with us and helps us make choices that honor God for the rest of our lives.

"God has wisdom and He loves to share it with you. God wants to give you a precious thing! Remember, God can help you make the wise choice!"

Inclusive Pro Tips



Celebrate every attempt at reciting the verse. Some kids might not remember every word, but they're still engaging!

Lead the kids to point to the words instead of hopping to them.

GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss



Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed



Inclusive Pro Tips

Allow the kids to pray silently if they aren't ready to speak aloud.

① What You Do

1. Instruct the kids to sit with you in a circle.
2. Let them know you're going to pray using a call-and-response style (you say a line, they repeat it back).
3. Remind the kids that, "God can help you make the wise choice." Praying is one way we can seek godly wisdom!
4. Invite the group to share any prayer requests.
5. Close the group in prayer.

② What You Say

Leader: Dear God,**Kids:** Dear God,**Leader:** You are an awesome God!**Kids:** You are an awesome God!**Leader:** We are so grateful**Kids:** We are so grateful**Leader:** that all wisdom comes from You,**Kids:** that all wisdom comes from You,**Leader:** and You like to share it with us!**Kids:** and You like to share it with us!**Leader:** When I don't know what to do,**Kids:** When I don't know what to do,**Leader:** help me to stop and ask,**Kids:** help me to stop and ask,**Leader:** because You love to help me**Kids:** because You love to help me**Leader:** make the wise choice.**Kids:** make the wise choice.**Leader:** We love You, God.**Kids:** We love You, God.**Leader:** In Jesus' name we pray**Kids:** In Jesus' name we pray,**Leader:** Amen.**Kids:** Amen.

Transition → As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to point out their playdough mats and talk about how God can help you make the wise choice!