

Danger Zone

Bible: Danger Zone (Wise People See Danger) • *Proverbs 22:3*

Bottom Line: If you want to be wise, look before you leap.

Memory Verse: “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God ... and it will be given to you.”
James 1:5a, NIV

Life App: Wisdom—Finding out what you should do and doing it

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

9:00 & 11:30

Early Arriver

- No supplies needed

10:15

Jumping Frogs

- Plastic jumping frogs; one for each kid

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (9:15, 10:30, 11:45)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)

9:00 & 11:30

Leap to the End

- Bible
- Game “Board” taped on the floor
- “Game Cards”

10:15

Hopping Frogs

- Plastic jumping frogs; one frog for each kid
- “Hopping Frogs Info Sheet” Activity Page; one for each small group

Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)

- Plastic jumping frogs

Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

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Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s Bible Truth.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for calm minds and hearts in your group today. Ask God to help kids see the need for using self-control in a wise way and pray that He would provide ways to help kids apply today’s proverb. Also pray that kids would start to develop a discernment of things that might be dangerous or unwise things to do.

9:00 & 11:30

Early Arriver Idea

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Greet kids as they arrive.
- Ask them if they’ve ever said something without thinking about it, like blurting out a secret or a joke that ended up being meaner than they intended.
- Talk about times when they’ve spoken or acted impulsively.
- Play a clapping game that requires self-control.
- Make a circle and clap once.
- Instruct kids to “pass” that clap around the circle, starting with the kid to your left, with each kid clapping once.
- Then, when the clap gets to the kid on your right, he immediately “passes it back” by clapping to the right back around the circle.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

10:15**Jumping Frogs****What You Need:** Plastic jumping frogs**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a plastic jumping frog.
- Allow a minute or so for kids to play with the frogs.
- Then play various games with the frogs, as time, interest, and space allow.
 - See whose frog can jump the farthest/highest.
 - Race the frogs across your space and back.
 - Play a whole tournament with either of the above games.
 - Play leapfrog with the jumping frogs.

What You Say:

"I'm sure by this point you're wondering what in the world all these frog games are about. You probably know it has something to do with today's Bible Truth, but I'm not going to tell you what that is yet.

***[Transition]* Let's go to Large Group and find out more about it."**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Two small groups
- Three other helpers (kids)
- Tarp (*optional*)
- Inflatable pool
 - Containing magnetic letters
 - Filled with packing peanuts
- Two magnetic boards where the contestants can place their letters (one per group)
- Floor tape line

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Historyteller
- 252 Story

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Power Praise Team

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- “Go”
- “Know You Better”
- “Good, Good, Father”

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

CG: 10 Second count down

CG: “The Hunt” Theme Slide

Host is on stage, welcoming the kids as they enter.

Opener

HOST: “Hey, everyone! I’m glad you’re here. This month we’re on the hunt for wisdom.

CG: Wisdom Slide

“Wisdom is finding out what you should do and doing it. You and I NEED wisdom every single day! The great news is God is our ultimate source of wisdom. He can help you **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** no matter what you might be facing. But wisdom doesn’t just come to you. You’ve got to search for it. Wisdom is ALWAYS worth searching for.

Motion to the inflatable pool filled with packing peanuts.

“I bet you’re wondering what this random pool filled with packing peanuts is doing here. *(Toss some packing peanuts in the air.)* Two lucky small groups are about to find out! Who wants to play ‘Alphabet Soup’?”

CG: “Alphabet Soup” Game Slide

Choose two small groups and bring them over to the pool.

(To contestants) “All right! [Leader’s name]’s group and [Leader’s name]’s group, today you will quite literally hunt for wisdom. On the bottom of this pool you’ll find small letters like these.

Hold up one of the refrigerator magnet letters.

“You’re looking for the letters that spell out the word ‘wisdom.’ But this is Alphabet Soup, so there are all kinds of extra letters down there to make it extra challenging.

"This is a relay race, so you'll start over here at the starting line.

Move both groups over to the taped starting line on the opposite side of the room.

"One at a time, the members of your small group will take turns running over to the pool and digging to find one the letters in the word 'wisdom.' Once you find a letter that you need, race back and put it on your team's board. *(Point out both teams' magnetic boards.)* You can only get one letter at a time! When you head back with your letter, tag the next person in your group so they can run over the pool and do some searching, too. Whichever group can spell 'wisdom' first wins!

"Before we get started, there's one more thing we need to do. Can I get three more of you to help me out?

Choose three more kids (from other small groups) and bring them over to the pool.

"You see, once we get started, the packing peanuts are going to go flying. And we don't want an empty pool, because then it's way too easy for them *(point to contestants)* to find the letters. So, [helpers' names], your job is to stand here by the pool and keep tossing the packing peanuts back into the pool. Cool?

"Okay, let's play Alphabet Soup! *(To contestants)* First contestants, you're up. *(To audience)* Audience, cheer them on. *(To contestants)* On your marks, get set, go!

SFX: *Upbeat game music*

*Cheer for the contestants and comment on the action.
Celebrate the first group that spells 'wisdom.'*

"Wow! All of you did an awesome job hunting for wisdom! Big thanks to our helpers, [helpers' names], too. Let's all take a minute to clean up this mess, and then we'll settle in for Bible Time.

Host leads the kids in cleaning up the packing peanuts and then exits. Historyteller enters.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! If we're talking about wisdom, then we definitely need to talk about one of the wisest people who ever lived: King Solomon. Solomon was the son of the King David. He became king at a young age after his father died.

"How did Solomon get so wise? Any ideas? *(Pause for response.)* Solomon was wise because he asked God to give him wisdom.

"You see, God appeared to Solomon in a dream. God told Solomon to ask Him for anything he wanted. Solomon could have asked for ANYTHING, but he knew he had a big job ahead. He knew he would need God's wisdom to rule the Israelites. Here's what he said to God.

Open the Bible to 1 Kings 3:9 and read.

"Give me a heart that understands. Then I can rule over your people. I can tell the difference between what is right and what is wrong, (NIRV).

"Sure enough, God gave Solomon the wisdom to lead His people. Solomon became so wise that people would come from all over to ask him questions and get his advice. Solomon wrote down a bunch of wise sayings, too, which we now have in the book of Proverbs. (*Hold up Bible.*) Today we're looking at one of those wise sayings. It's Proverbs, chapter 22, verse 3. Let's check it out."

CG: 252 Story

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

you need wisdom to be able to make the best decision. You need to see the whole picture. And you can only see the whole picture if you stop to think it through.

"That's the thing with wisdom. Sometimes the wise choice might not be something you realize at the beginning. Sometimes you need to stop and think.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] "If you want to be wise, look before you leap.

"God wants you to stay out of trouble. He gave you a mind to help you figure out how to do that. When you're faced with a situation where you don't know what to do, stop. Think about all the things that might happen with each decision you could make. Look before you leap. THEN you can **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice.**

"Let's pray and ask God to help us do that."

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for giving Solomon so much wisdom. Thank You that we can read his wisdom for ourselves in the book of Proverbs. Thank You for reminding us today that we should always think it through and look before we leap. Help us to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** and stay away from trouble. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name, amen."

"If you have an offering with you today, raise your hand and we will bring the bucket over to you."

"Now, up on your feet and help me welcome our Power Praise team!"

Power Praise team enters as Historyteller exits.

Worship

SFX: "Go"

SFX: "Know You Better"

SFX: "Good, Good, Father"

Host enters as Power Praise Team exits.

Closer

HOST: “Wow. I think we all need that reminder to look before we leap. Remember what Solomon said about wise people?”

CG: Proverbs 22:3 Slide

Open the Bible to Proverbs 22:3 and read.

“Wise people see danger and go to a safe place. But childish people keep going and suffer for it, (NIRV).

“Having wisdom means pausing and thinking about what to do BEFORE we act. Take a pause so that you can **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice.**

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “If you want to be wise, look before you leap.

“Maybe, for you, that means counting to 10 and taking that time to think about your decision. You could look something up in the Bible to see what God says about it. You could ask a wise person God has put in your life—like a parent, your Small Group Leader, or another adult you trust. And you can ALWAYS ask God for wisdom, like Solomon did.

“That’s what our Memory Verse is about. It’s James 1:5. Read it with me.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

Open the Bible to James 1:5a and read.

HOST and KIDS: “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God ... and it will be given to you.”
James 1:5a, NIV

HOST: “When you ask God for wisdom, you can be SURE that He’ll give it to you. That will help you look before you leap.

“Now the hunt for wisdom continues in Small Group, as you discuss more ways to look before you leap!”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.

CG: Small Group Slide

Danger Zone

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)

9:00 & 11:30

Leap to the End

What You Need: “Game Cards” Activity Page, cardstock, painter’s tape, Bible

What You Do:

- Use the “Game Cards” to play the game.
- Kids need to leap the appropriate amount of spaces.
- If there’s someone in the way, they leapfrog over them!

What You Say:

[Bottom Line] “If you want to be wise, look before you leap. Sometimes that means to literally use your eyeballs to look around you before you do something—like if you’re crossing the street, jumping off some playground equipment, or throwing a ball to your friend. But other times it means to just think about what you’re going to do before you do it. Think about where things will end if you do what you’re about to do or say what you’re about to say. If you turn in that paper with sloppy handwriting, will you get a worse grade than if you re-do it with good penmanship? If your friend’s shirt doesn’t match her pants, will she feel bad if you say something about it? This week, take some time to think about the things you do and say before you do them and decide whether it is really a wise choice or not.”

10:15

Hopping Frogs

What You Need: Plastic jumping frogs, “Hopping Frogs Info Sheet” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Line the kids up on one side of the grid from the previous activity. Give them each a few frogs.
- Designate one side of the grid “YES” and the other “NO.”
- Slowly read the situations on the Hopping Frogs Info Sheet, stopping after every sentence.
- When kids feel like they’ve heard enough information to make a wise choice, they can launch their frog into the YES or NO side of the grid.
- After each situation is finished, return the frogs so kids can make their next choice.
- After the game, collect the frogs so they’re not a distraction. You’ll use them again later.

What You Say:

“Nice jumping and choosing! Some of you were ready to make a choice after only a couple pieces of information, and others needed more time to think even after I got to the end. Would any of you have chosen differently if you’d waited to hear all the info? (*Allow for answers.*) Sometimes a lot of information helps us make a wise choice. Sometimes too much information leaves us unable to make a choice at all! When your friend comes over for a snack, a wise choice is to make sure she’s not allergic to the cookies you’re serving. But you don’t need to learn the whole history of her great-great grandfather’s prune farm to know she can’t eat peanuts. You don’t just need facts. You need to know the right kind of facts to help you make the wise choice.

“Remember, **[Bottom Line]** if you want to be wise, look before you leap. Think about what you need to know to make a wise choice. For example, before you decide which sport to play this fall, what are three important facts to consider? (*Allow for discussion.*) When you consider the facts and consequences before you make a choice, you’re showing wisdom for sure!”

All Service Times**Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)**

What You Need: Jumping frogs

What You Do:

- Gather the kids around and give each one a frog.
- Encourage them each to say a sentence prayer: "Dear God, this week please give me wisdom and help me look before I leap."
- After they say their prayer, they can launch their frog into the grid.
- When everyone has had a turn, close in prayer.

What You Say:

"Dear God, there are a lot of times in our lives that we need Your wisdom. Thank You for promising to give us wisdom and please help us to remember to ask You when we need to make the wise choice. Amen.

"You all can take your frogs home to remind you that ***[Bottom Line]*** if you want to be wise, look before you leap."

As adults arrive to pick up, remind kids to keep their frogs in their pockets until they get home. See if adults can finish the saying "Look before you _____." Invite families to play with any extra frogs on your checkerboard grid.