

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

Frog Crosser

- Floor tape

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

Leap Verse

- Plastic jumping frogs
- Bibles

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)

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to give your group creative and fun ideas for ways they can be generous and rich in good deeds. Pray that God would remind you of ways your few can use their time, talents, and energy to be generous toward others. Thank God for giving you that opportunity through leading your group.

9:00 & 11:30

Frog Crossing

What You Need: Preset tape “streets” on the floor

What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams. One team will be “frogs” and the other team will be “buses.”
- The frogs have to wait at one side of the grid or street (masking tape on the floor), while the buses get ready.
- Decide which way your traffic will flow and face the buses that way.
- Busses are made of three kids each, standing in a line, with their hands on each other’s shoulders.
 - They move by all lifting their right leg and taking a step, and then their left legs.
 - They move slowly but steadily from one end of the street to the other, while saying “Vroom, vroom.”
 - One bus can move on each side of your street at the same time.
- To play the game, a frog has to cross the road and dodge the buses to get to the other side.
- Buses must not run and must not actually reach out and touch any of the frogs. If they do (intentionally), the whole bus is disqualified from the entire game.
- If you feel a frog has gotten too close to an oncoming bus, say, “Bus!” Then that frog has to move to the end of the frog’s line.
- Give the frog team a chance to move through all their players twice and then switch teams.
- Be careful to keep this game safe even when you’re having fun!

FOR MORE FUN:

You can add sound effects: “splat” when a frog gets too close to a bus, traffic sounds from a phone media player, etc. And frogs must run with their tongues sticking out in case they can catch a passing fly while crossing the road.

What You Say:

“In this game, you really needed to watch where you were going and pay attention to everything happening. **[Transition] Let’s go hear about how we keep out of danger in the real world!”**

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
- Bible
- Sticky note
- Floor tape
- Two blank sheets of paper

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: "As you know, this month we're talking about wisdom. And we can't talk about wisdom without talking about King Solomon. Why? Well, because Solomon was one of the wisest people ever! When Solomon became king after his father David, he was only a kid. He showed his love for God by following God's instructions.

"One night, God appeared to Solomon in a dream and told Solomon to ask Him for anything he wanted. Anything. Can you imagine? The God of the universe shows up in your dream and says you can ask Him for anything! Amazing! Speaking of amazing, check out Solomon's answer.

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 3:7-9 and read.

"LORD my God, you have now made me king. You have put me in the place of my father David. But I'm only a little child. I don't know how to carry out my duties. I'm here among the people you have chosen. They are a great nation. They are more than anyone can count. So 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).

"Solomon had the chance to ask God for ANYTHING, and he chose to ask God for wisdom!

"And here's what's really cool about Solomon. He didn't just ask God for wisdom and then keep it to himself. He actually wrote down a lot of those wise things God revealed to him, and we can find them in the book of Proverbs in the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)* We can benefit from Solomon's wisdom even today!"

THE PROVERB

HISTORYTELLER: "Here's one in particular I want you guys to hear today. It's Proverbs 22:3. Who wants to read it out loud for everybody?"

Open the Bible to Proverbs 22:3 and hand it to a kid to read out loud. (Repeat the verse after him if you need to make sure everyone hears it.)

KID: *"Wise people see danger and go to a safe place. But childish people keep going and suffer for it," (NirV).*

HISTORYTELLER: *"(To kid)* Great—thanks! *(To audience)* Wise people see danger and head the opposite direction. They make the choice to stay safe. But people who AREN'T wise . . . well, they see trouble and just keep on truckin'. Not so smart, right?"

"If you and I want to be wise people, then how do we see danger before it comes? How can we avoid making unwise decisions? How do we stay safe and choose wisdom instead? Let's figure this out together. I need everyone to stand up.

Move down the middle of the kids, putting a tape line on the floor to divide the room in half. Place the "Y" sheet of paper on one side of the room and the "N" sheet on the other.

"It doesn't matter which side of the line you're standing on right now, but in a minute, I'll read a couple of scenarios to you and then ask you what you think. You'll leap to choose either yes or no *(demonstrate a leap over the line)*—whichever side you think would be the wise choice in that situation."

THE BOOK

HISTORYTELLER: "Let's start with an easy one. You've checked a book out of the library, and it's a GOOD book—the kind you can't put down. You're at a really intense part of the book, and you've got just a couple of chapters to go before you're done. Do you think you should finish the book? If you think you SHOULD finish the book, jump to yes. If you think you should stop for now, jump to no.

Give the kids a few seconds to decide, but move this along

pretty quickly.

“Right, of course you want to finish it. But there’s a little bit more to the story. It’s actually already past your bedtime, and your mom has already warned you once to turn off the light. Do you still think you should finish the book right now? If you want to change your mind, you can leap to the other side.

Allow a couple of seconds for anyone who wants to change their mind.

“One final piece of information: the library book is due tomorrow. If you don’t stay up and finish it, you might not get to finish it in time. NOW what’s the wise choice? Does anyone want to change their mind?

Allow a couple of seconds for the final decision.

“That was a little bit trickier after all, wasn’t it? You had to really think through whether it was wise to finish the book. At the end of the day, though, it would have been disobedient to stay up and read the book since it was past your bedtime. So the wise choice was definitely to turn out the light. After all, you could always renew your book at the library or even finish up over breakfast. Good decision-making, everyone!”

THE MOVIE

HISTORYTELLER: “I’ve got another scenario for you. You know the rules at your house about which movies you’re allowed to watch and not watch. But you’re over at a friend’s house, and your friend wants to watch a movie that you’re not sure about. You THINK it might be okay, but it also seems like it might be a little scary, so you’re not sure. Should you watch the movie?

Give the kids a few seconds to decide, but move this along pretty quickly.

“I can see why some of you still weren’t sure what to do. Let’s say that even though you think it’ll be okay, you decide to call your dad to ask him. He says it’s okay, so what do you do now? Do you watch the movie or not?

Allow a couple of seconds for anyone who wants to change their mind.

“But here’s where it gets even trickier. The movie starts, and it’s scarier than you expected it to be—and you don’t think your dad knew that either. Do you keep watching the movie?

Allow a couple of seconds for the final decision.

“That was a tough decision, wasn’t it? Honestly, this is one where you have to know not just your family rules, but you also have to know a little bit about yourself. If you know that scary movies keep you up at night, then it wouldn’t be wise to watch the movie—even though your dad said it was okay. But maybe you’re the kind of person who thinks scary movies are fun, and you never get bad dreams from them. Well, if your dad said it was okay, then maybe for you, it’s fine to watch the movie. But you have to think through these things before you act, don’t you?”

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Those were some seriously tricky decisions, and you might have changed your mind a few times on what the wise choice was. But here’s what I loved about what you did today. You learned to think through things before making a decision. That’s so important to remember.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

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

“Look before you leap. That means thinking about all the different decisions you COULD make and thinking about what could happen with each one. It means asking God for help, like Solomon did, or maybe even asking a wise friend for their advice. That’s not always easy to do. It takes time. But it’s worth it, because you’ll end up with the wise choice. Sometimes the wisest possible thing you can do is to stop and think it over—to look before you leap.

“Let’s ask God to help us do that this week.”

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for giving us what we need to figure out the wise choice. Sometimes it’s hard for us to stop long enough to think it through. We can be in too much of a hurry to search for wisdom. Help us to slow down and look before we leap. We know You’ll guide us when we take the time to seek Your wisdom. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“If you have an offering with you today, you can bring that on up now.”

“Now, up on your feet and be extra generous with your praise and worship to Go!”

Power Praise team enters as Historyteller exits.

Worship

SFX: “Go”

SFX: “Know You Better”

SFX: “Good, Good, Father”

Power Praise exits as Host enters.

Closer

HOST: “Have you ever tried to put something together without looking at the instructions? I mean, who has time to sit down and read all those steps, right? But then you end up messing up and spending WAY more time trying to undo what you did wrong, and then you have to go back and read the instructions after all. You’d save yourself a ton of time—and certainly a lot of frustration too—if you’d just take the time to read them in the first place.

“Life can be that way too. So many times we don’t want to slow down. We know what we want to do, so we figure, ‘I’m just going to do it.’ Sometimes, maybe it works out okay. But sometimes it doesn’t. And if we just take the time to think through the decision and seek out wisdom, things might turn out MUCH

better for us. To put it another way . . .

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “If you want to be wise, look before you leap. Say that with me.”

HOST and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “If you want to be wise, look before you leap.”

HOST: “And while you’re looking, always look to God for wisdom. Remember what James 1:5 says.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

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

“It’s as simple as that. Pause, ask God for help, and then **[Basic Truth]** **make the wise choice!**

“For now, the wise choice is definitely to get to Small Group, because we’ve got some more wisdom to discover. So leap away!”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.

CG: Small Group Slide

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Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

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**Leap Verse****What You Need:** Bibles, plastic jumping frogs**What You Do:**

- Guide kids to sit in a circle on the floor with their Bibles and jumping frogs.
- Instruct them to look up the memory verse, James 1:5, and say it aloud together a few times.
- Then tell kids to lay their open Bibles in their laps, so they can refer to them if needed.
- Choose one kid to say the first word of the verse and then make his frog jump.
- Quickly determine which kid the frog is “looking at,” and she will say the next word and make her frog jump.
- Continue in this manner until the entire verse has been said.
- Repeat as many times as you wish.

What You Say:

[Bottom Line] “If you want to be wise, look before you leap. God will always give you wisdom—no matter the situation. If you’re faced with a situation that you don’t think is quite right—if you think you’re about to make the wrong decision—take a minute to ‘look.’ Ask God for help. Think about verses from Scripture and what you know to be true. And look to wiser people to help you too. You know, sometimes we make unwise choices because everybody else is doing something. But just because others are doing it, that doesn’t mean it’s something you should do. You still need to look before you leap. That’s always the wise choice.”

All Service Times**Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)****What You Need:** Plastic jumping frogs from earlier activities**What You Do:**

- Guide kids to sit in a circle with their jumping frogs.
- Instruct kids to make their frog jump, and keep an eye on which one is theirs.
- They should look at the person their frog is “looking” at and pray for that person: “God, help [kid’s name] to look before [he/she] leaps.”
- Tell kids to collect a frog and do it again. Do this several times.
- Finish with the prayer below.

What You Say:

“God, thank You for Your wisdom and for sharing it with us in Your Word. Help us to use what we know to be true in order to look before we leap and make wise decisions. In Jesus’ name, amen.

“I want you to take your frog home with you, and let it be a reminder to not only look before you leap, but to also continue to pray for the others in our small group. **[Bottom Line]** If you want to be wise, look before you leap.”

As adults arrive to pick up, tell them to ask kids what the jumping frogs are for. How are they connected to wisdom?