

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

Leaping Lizards!

- Hula-hoops; one for every three kids

10:15

Early Arriver

- No supplies needed

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

Looking for Wisdom

- Bible marked at James 1:5a
- Toilet paper tubes “binoculars.”
- 4x11-inch pieces of green construction paper; one for each kid
- Green and blue dot stickers; about 20 for each kid
- “Frog Eyes” Activity Page; one for each kid
- “Wise Words” labels; one for each kid (same as Week 1)

10:15

Look Before You Leap

- “Look Before You Leap” 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

Leaping Lizards!

What You Need: Hula-hoops

What You Do:

- Lead kids in a real-life variation of Frogger™.
- Lay the hula-hoops (aka "lily pads") around your environment.
- Provide as much space between each hoop as your environment allows.
- Guide the kids to hop around your environment like frogs.
- When you call out, "Car," "Truck," or "Motorcycle!" the kids must quickly hop onto the lily pads for safety.
- Vary the pace of how often you call out a vehicle, to keep interest high and kids "on their toes." You could also call out "bird" or "lion," to be funny!

What You Say:

"You did a great job making sure you kept your little froggy bodies safe from the cars, trucks, and motorcycles! **[Transition] In Large Group today we'll hear about a way we can keep ourselves safe from trouble. Let's go learn more.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

10:15**Early Arriver Idea****What You Need:** No supplies needed**What You Do:**

- Guide kids to line up side by side.
- Call out the choices below, guiding kids to jump forward if their answer is yes or backward if their answer is no.
Would you jump into a pool if it were full of:
 - Stuffed animals
 - Alligators
 - Porcupines
 - Jell-O®
 - Marshmallows
 - Baby skunks
 - Puppies and kittens
 - Cotton candy
- How would you jump into a pool full of cotton candy? A pool full of Jell-O? A pool full of puppies and kittens?

What You Say: “You guys made some silly choices. Some of those choices, in real life, would not have had a great consequence. There would have been danger and trouble for sure with some of your choices. **[Transition]** In Large Group today we’ll hear about a way we can keep ourselves safe from trouble. Let’s go learn more.

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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
- Floor tape
- Copy paper for the “Workout Instruction sheets”; one piece for each kid

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 enters with the Workout Instruction Sheets.

Opener

HOST: “What’s going on, everyone? I hope you’re ready to MOVE, because we’re about to get a workout as we continue our search for wisdom. Let’s start with a good warm up with the Power Praise team and worship.”

Power Praise team enters as Host joins the audience.

Worship

SFX: “Go”

SFX: “Know You Better”

SFX: “Good, Good, Father”

Host retakes the stage as Power Praise exits.

HOST: “Yes, feel that blood pumping?! Whoa. Love it. I think we’re ready.”

CG: Wisdom Slide

“Wisdom is finding out what you should do and doing it.

“That’s what our workout is about, too. (*Start stretching.*) You’ve got to find out what move you should do, and do it. All of us will be doing the same moves but in a different order. So it’s about to get a little crazy in here.

“Let’s go over the moves first. Are you ready?”

CG: Game Slide #1: X Marks the Spot

Note: You can either show the illustrations on screen or print them on pieces of paper to show the kids. It will help them (especially non-readers) to have a visual cue of which moves to do when they get their Instruction Sheets.

"We've got X Marks the Spot. That means you go to an X on the floor and jump back and forth over it—like this.

Go to one of the X's on the floor and demonstrate the move.

CG: Game Slide #2: Speed Skater

"We've also got Speed Skater. You'll pretend you're a speed skater and jump back and forth, side to side—like this.

Demonstrate the move.

CG: Game Slide #3: Hopscotch

"Then there's Hopscotch. You go to a hopscotch station and jump through the squares—left, right, left, right—all the way forward, and then all the way back.

Go to one of the taped hopscotch sections and demonstrate the move.

CG: Game Slide #4: Jumping Jacks

"The next one's pretty simple. Jumping Jacks!

Demonstrate the move.

CG: Game Slide #5: Leaping Lizards

"And finally: Leaping Lizards. Leap forward as far as you can, and keep leaping!

Demonstrate the move.

"How do you find out which moves to do? Easy—each one of you gets a Workout Instruction Sheet.

Hand out the Instruction Sheets—one per person. (There are five different versions of instructions, each with the moves in a different order.)

"When the music starts, you'll do all the moves in the order that you see them on your sheet. Everyone will be doing different moves at different times, so be sure to stick to the order that's on YOUR sheet. I'll tell you when it's time to go to the next move.

"Are you ready? It's time for your first move. On your marks, get set, go!"

SFX: *Upbeat instrumental music (workout style)*

Cheer the kids on. If any of them seem confused, show them what to do on their Instruction Sheet. After about 20 seconds, shout out, "Next move. GO!" Keep going until you've gone through all five moves.

"That was so much fun! Have a seat and rest up. llllllll's Bible Time!"

Host exits. Historyteller enters.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: "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. Let's learn more."

CG: *252 Story*

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

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, raise your hand and we will bring the bucket over to you."

Historyteller 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)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Truth applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

9:00 & 11:30

Looking for Wisdom

What You Need: Bible, prepared toilet paper tube binoculars, green construction paper, glue, green and blue dot stickers, “Frog Eyes” Activity Page, “Wise Words” labels

What You Do:

- Invite a volunteer to open the Bible to James 1:5a.
- Read the verse aloud, guiding kids to say it after you. (For the younger kids, we’ve shortened the verse to James 1:5a, *If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you, (NIV)* or your preferred translation’s equivalent.)
- Emphasize that God wants to give us wisdom, because when we have wisdom, we’ll not only know how to make the wise choice, but we’ll also know Him better!
- Give each child a set of toilet paper tubes and a piece of construction paper.
- Help kids wrap and glue the construction paper around the tubes.
- Invite kids to decorate their “binoculars” with dot stickers, creating “frog-noculars”!
- Next, give each kid a pair of “Frog Eyes.”
- Help them set the eyes facedown, “stand” the binoculars over the pre-cut holes, and add three or four dot stickers to secure the eyes to the binoculars.
- Finally, give each child a “Wise Words” label to attach to their binoculars.
- Encourage kids to take their frog-noculars home as reminders to make the wise choice and look before they leap.

What You Say:

“Who gives us wisdom? (*God; Jesus*) Yes! God gives us wisdom. One way we can use the wisdom God gives us is to look before we leap—to stop (*stand or sit tall and freeze for a beat*) and think (*point to your head*) before we make a choice. So this week, let your frog-noculars remind you that **[Bottom Line] if you want to be wise, look before you leap.**”

10:15**Look Before You Leap****What You Need:** “Look Before You Leap” Activity Page**What You Do:**

Lead kids in a frog-ifric variation of “Mother May I?”

- Guide kids to line up side by side at one end of your environment.
- Ask kids what it means to “look before you leap.” (*to stop and think before you do something; to think about what might happen if you do something; to think about whether something is good or not before you do it*)
- Read a scenario from the “Look Before You Leap” Activity Page.
- If the child in the scenario looked before they leapt, kids (as a group) leap forward the designated number of times.
- If the child didn’t look before they leapt, kids jump backward.

What You Say:

“God loves you! And because God loves you He wants you to make the wise choice. One way you can make the wise choice is to look before you leap. What does it mean to look before you leap? (*to stop and think before you do something; to think about what could happen if you do something; to think if something is good or not before you do it*) Yes, to look before you leap means that you stop (*stand or sit tall and freeze for a beat*) and think (*point to your head*) before you do something.

[Make It Personal] (Talk about an age-appropriate time when you made the choice to look before you leapt. Tell how your choice helped you, how you learned more about God, and—if possible—how it helped show others what God is like.)

“So if you’re tempted to disobey your mom or dad, look before you leap. Stop and think what God would want you to do. If you and your friend are having an argument, look before you leap. Stop and think how you would want your friend to treat YOU. And when you’re tempted to tell a lie or cheat in a game, look before you leap. Stop and think what Jesus would do. So remember, ***[Bottom Line] if you want to be wise, look before you leap.***”

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

What You Need: Plastic jumping frogs

What You Do:

- Guide kids to gather around you.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead them into prayer.
- When you finish, give each child a plastic jumping frog as a reminder that **[Bottom Line] if you want to be wise, look before you leap.**
- Kids can play with the frogs until parents arrive.
- They can jump them into the hula-hoops, onto the “lily pads,” or create their own “froggy” games!

What You Say:

“When God told King Solomon to ask for anything, what did he ask for? Yes! He asked for wisdom. Solomon said: *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 (1 Kings 3:9 NIV).*

“Wow! Did God give Solomon what he asked for? Yes! God gave him LOTS of wisdom. Just like James 1:5a says: *If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you.*

“You and I aren’t kings and queens, but we still need wisdom to make the wise choice. Let’s pray and ask God to give us the wisdom we need.

“Dear God, thanking You for giving Solomon wisdom. Please give us the wisdom we need to make wise choices and to look before we leap. Thank You for the wisdom You promise to give us. We love You, Lord. Thank You so much for Your goodness to us!”

As adults arrive to pick up, prompt kids to tell their parent today’s Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] if you want to be wise, look before you leap.**