



Wise Up: 4-Week Children's Ministry Curriculum

 **Big Idea:** God loves to give wisdom. When we ask Him and follow His Word, we learn to make wise choices every day.

 **Memory Verse:** James 1:5 — "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God... and it will be given to you."

 **Theme Hook:** A Bible trivia game show! Leaders host "WISE UP!" with buzzers (can be a sound effect from YouTube), categories, and a friendly scoreboard (can be a whiteboard). . Each week features a Proverb of the Day, a Lightning Round, and a Final Wisdom Scenario kids solve together.

Kids hear that being "smart" is all about having the right answers or winning. This series shows what Scripture says: real wisdom comes from God and looks like listening, sharing the load, answering traps with truth, and choosing compassion.

 **Gospel Connection:** Jesus is God's wisdom for us. He rescues us and gives the Spirit so we can live wisely—asking God for help, practicing truth, and loving people well.

4-Week Lesson Overview

Week 1 — Pop Quiz

- Bible Story: Balaam's Talking Donkey (Numbers 22)
- Key Discovery: God can speak through anything—wise people listen and obey.
- Takeaway: I can ask God for wisdom and listen to His Word and leaders.

Week 2 — Delegate Dilemma

- Bible Story: Jethro Saves the Day (Exodus 18:13–27)
- Key Discovery: Sharing the load is smart leadership and blesses everyone.
- Takeaway: I can ask for help, share responsibility, and serve with others.

Week 3 — Trick Question

- Bible Story: Jesus Stumps the Scholars (Luke 20:20–40)
- Key Discovery: Jesus answers traps with God's truth and wisdom.
- Takeaway: I can pause, pray, and answer with truth and respect.

Week 4 — Snap Judgment

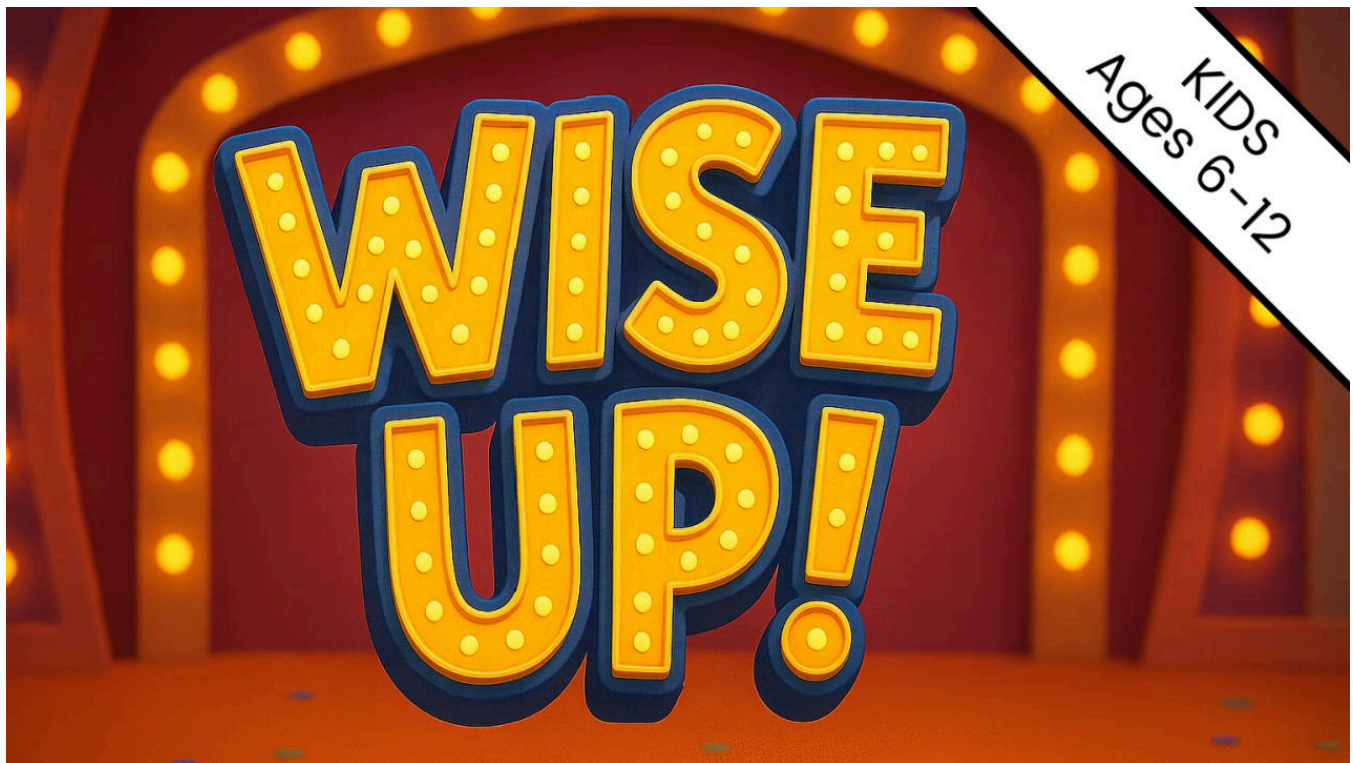
- Bible Story: Solomon & the Baby (1 Kings 3)
- Key Discovery: God's wisdom is compassionate and discerning.
- Takeaway: I can choose what is loving and right, even when it's hard.





James 1:5 NIV

If any of you lacks wisdom,
you should ask God, who
gives generously to all
without finding fault, and it
will be given to you.



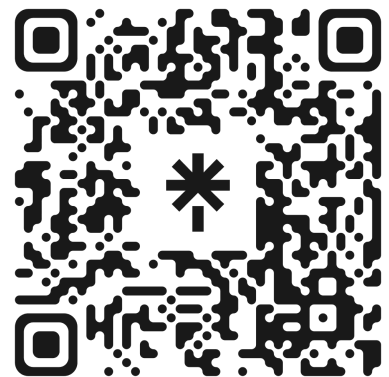
Week 1 — Pop Quiz

- Bible Story: Balaam's Talking Donkey (Numbers 22)
- Key Discovery: God can speak through anything—wise people listen and obey.
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Video Bible Stories: Use this link to access recommended Bible story videos and bonus content for this curriculum series.

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Week 1 – Supply List

Group Game — Buzzer Blast Trivia

- ☐ Bell, buzzer, or sound maker for each team
- ☐ Whiteboard or simple scoreboard

Object Lesson — The Stop Sign Surprise

- ☐ red paper or stop-sign cutout
- ☐ open walking space
- ☐ optional: soft obstacle (pillow, folded mat, cone)

Bible Story Teaching

- ☐ Bible

Word Search & Coloring Page

- ☐ printed word-search handouts (provided below, 1 per child)
- ☐ printed coloring page (provided below, 1 per child)
- ☐ crayons or colored pencils

Craft — Talking Donkey Puppet

- ☐ brown or gray paper lunch bags (1 per child)
- ☐ construction paper (brown/gray, white, pink)
- ☐ crayons or washable markers
- ☐ glue sticks
- ☐ scissors (optional — pre-cut shapes for younger kids)
- ☐ optional: googly eyes



Introduction Game (5 minutes)

Buzz for Wisdom!

Supplies Needed:

- Bell, buzzer, or sound maker for each team
- Whiteboard or simple scoreboard

TEACHER: Welcome to WISE UP—the game show where everyone wins when we listen to God’s Word! Today’s round is called Buzz for Wisdom. You’ll need quick thinking, good listening, and teamwork. Wisdom isn’t just being smart; it’s hearing what God says and doing it.

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Divide into two teams and give each team a buzzer (or a sound to make).
2. Ask one question at a time. The first team to buzz in gets to answer.
3. If they’re correct, they earn a point. If not, the other team gets a chance.
4. Keep the game friendly and fast. Everyone learns together!

QUESTIONS:

1. Who made Balaam’s donkey talk? (*God*)
2. What should we do when we need wisdom? (*Ask God—James 1:5*)
3. Who helped Moses share his work so he didn’t get tired? (*Jethro*)
4. Who answered a tricky question with God’s truth instead of getting trapped?
(*Jesus*)
5. What wise king asked God for understanding instead of riches? (*Solomon*)
6. What animal did God use to get Balaam’s attention? (*A donkey*)



7. What does it mean to “listen” to God? (*To pay attention and obey what He says in His Word*)
8. What book in the Bible is filled with wisdom sayings? (*Proverbs*)
9. Who gives wisdom to anyone who asks? (*God*)
10. What is one way to show wisdom at home? (*Answers may vary. obey parents, speak kindly, tell the truth*)
11. What did Balaam learn after his donkey talked? (*To stop and listen to God*)
12. Who is God’s perfect wisdom for us? (*Jesus*)
13. What did King Solomon use to decide who the real baby’s mother was? (*God’s wisdom*)
14. When Jesus was asked about paying taxes to Caesar, what did He say belonged to God? (*Our hearts and worship*)
15. What should you do if you don’t understand something in the Bible? (*Ask God or a wise leader for help*)

TEACHER: Great job, everyone! You listened, thought carefully, and made wise choices. That’s what wisdom looks like. Remember our truth for today: Wise people listen and obey.



Object Lesson (5 minutes)

The Stop Sign Surprise

Supplies Needed

- red paper or a small stop sign cutout
- open walking space
- optional: soft obstacle (pillow, folded mat, cone, or stuffed animal)

TEACHER: In today's story, Balaam ignored God's warnings over and over, even when a DONKEY tried to stop him! Before we hear the story, let's see how well we notice warnings.

object lesson activity

1. Have kids walk slowly around the room.
2. Explain: When I raise this stop sign, you must STOP immediately. If you don't stop, you might bump into a soft obstacle.
3. Begin letting them walk and occasionally raise the stop sign.
4. A few times, raise it suddenly while they're not paying close attention.
5. Gently move a soft obstacle in front of a child who misses the sign (no scaring or tripping — just a gentle reminder).

Did you see how easy it was to miss the warning when you weren't paying attention? Balaam missed God's warnings, too — even when an angel stood right in front of him! Wise people stop and listen when God is guiding us."

Debrief: When we pay attention to God's Word and the leaders He puts in our life, we stay safe and wise — we don't walk into trouble like Balaam did.



Bible Story (15 minutes)

Week 1 – Balaam’s Talking Donkey (Numbers 22)

TEACHER: Have you ever been so focused on what *you* wanted that you ignored good advice? In today’s story, a man named Balaam ignored warning after warning — until God used a DONKEY to get his attention! Let’s see what happened.

The Israelites were traveling near Moab, and the king there was scared of them. He sent messengers to a man named Balaam to ask him to curse God’s people. But God had already told Balaam **not** to go with them.

Balaam didn’t like that answer... and that’s where the trouble began.

READ (NIV Summary): Numbers 22:12–21

“God told Balaam, “Do not go with them.”

But Balaam kept asking, hoping God would change His mind.”

Instead of listening the first time, Balaam tried to get his own way. He ignored God’s clear direction.

READ (NIV Summary): Numbers 22:22–27

“An angel of the Lord stood in the path to stop Balaam.

Balaam couldn’t see the angel — but his donkey could!

Three times the donkey turned away to protect Balaam.”

Balaam didn’t realize God was warning him. Instead of paying attention, he got angry and hit the donkey.



READ (NIV Summary): Numbers 22:28–31

“God opened the donkey’s mouth and it said, “What have I done to make you beat me?”

Then God opened Balaam’s eyes and he saw the angel with a drawn sword.

The angel said, “I came to stop you because your path is reckless.””

Finally, Balaam realized he was headed in the wrong direction. God used something unexpected — a donkey — to get his attention!

Summary: God can speak through anything. Wise people listen and obey.

Say together: I can ask God for wisdom and listen to His Word and leaders.

GOSPEL CONNECTION: Jesus is God’s perfect wisdom. When we follow Him, He helps us hear God’s voice, recognize warnings, and stay on the right path. He can reach us in big ways or small ways — even a donkey if He wants to!



Discussion Questions & Prayer (5-10 minutes)

TEACHER: Sometimes we rush ahead with our own plans and forget to stop and listen to God. Balaam missed the warnings right in front of him — until God made a donkey talk!

Wisdom begins when we slow down, listen, and obey what God says.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Balaam ignore God's warnings?
2. How did the donkey help Balaam finally see the truth?
3. What helps *you* stop and listen to God when life gets noisy?

PRAYER: God, thank You for speaking to us in so many ways. Help us be wise listeners who pay attention to Your Word and follow Your direction. Give us hearts that obey quickly and joyfully. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Balaam's Donkey (Numbers 22)



Word Search Puzzle

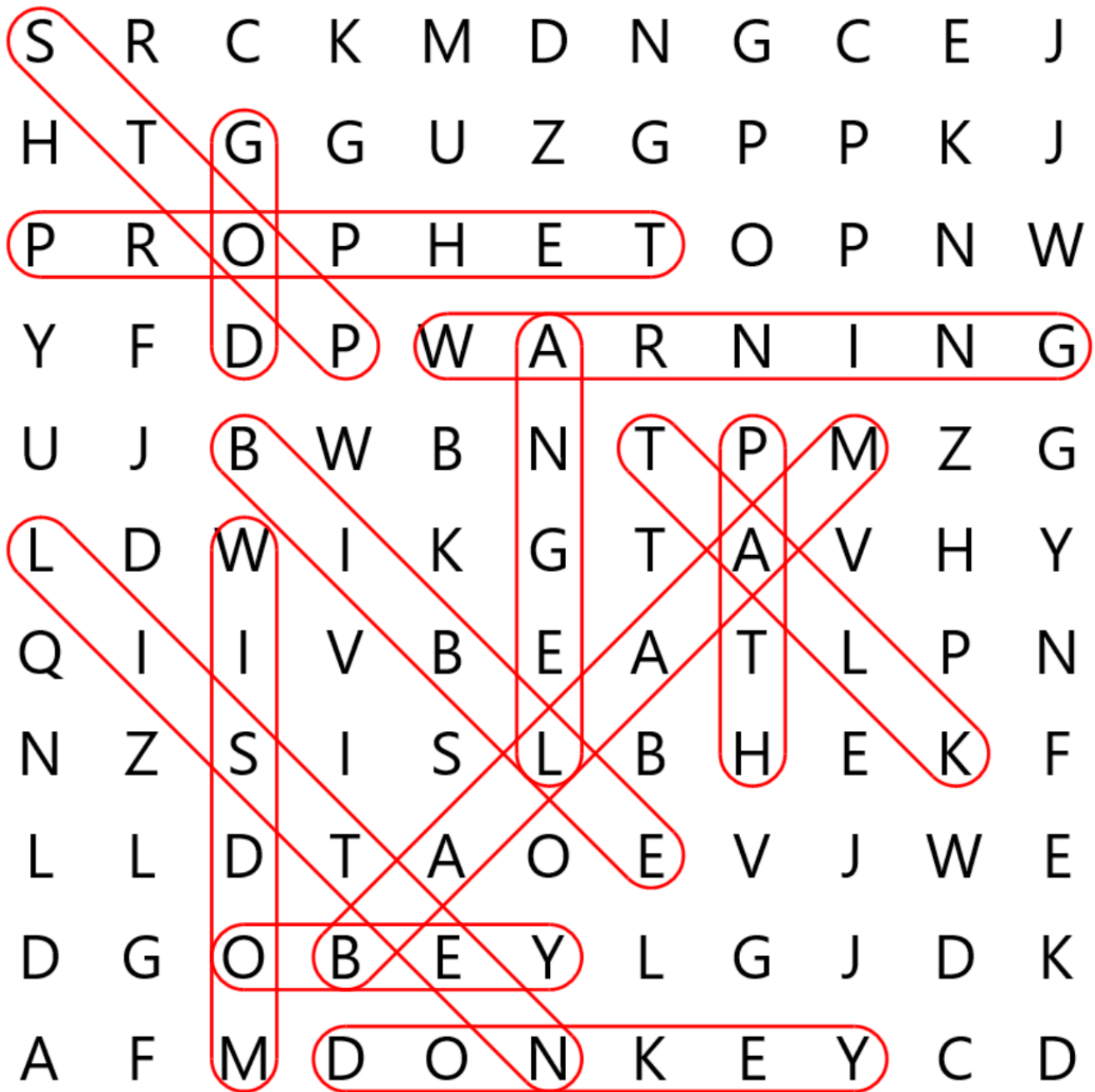
ANGEL – BALAAM – BIBLE – DONKEY – GOD – LISTEN

OBEY – PATH – PROPHET – STOP – TALK – WARNING – WISDOM

S	R	C	K	M	D	N	G	C	E	J
H	T	G	G	U	Z	G	P	P	K	J
P	R	O	P	H	E	T	O	P	N	W
Y	F	D	P	W	A	R	N	I	N	G
U	J	B	W	B	N	T	P	M	Z	G
L	D	W	I	K	G	T	A	V	H	Y
Q	I	I	V	B	E	A	T	L	P	N
N	Z	S	I	S	L	B	H	E	K	F
L	L	D	T	A	O	E	V	J	W	E
D	G	O	B	E	Y	L	G	J	D	K
A	F	M	D	O	N	K	E	Y	C	D



Word Search Answers



Craft Activity (5-10 minutes)

Supplies Needed

- brown or gray paper lunch bags (1 per child)
- construction paper (brown/gray, white, pink)
- crayons or washable markers
- glue sticks
- scissors (optional — pre-cut shapes for younger kids)
- optional: googly eyes



TEACHER: God used a donkey to get Balaam's attention — and today, we're making Talking Donkey Puppets to remind us that God can speak in all kinds of surprising ways!

Instructions:

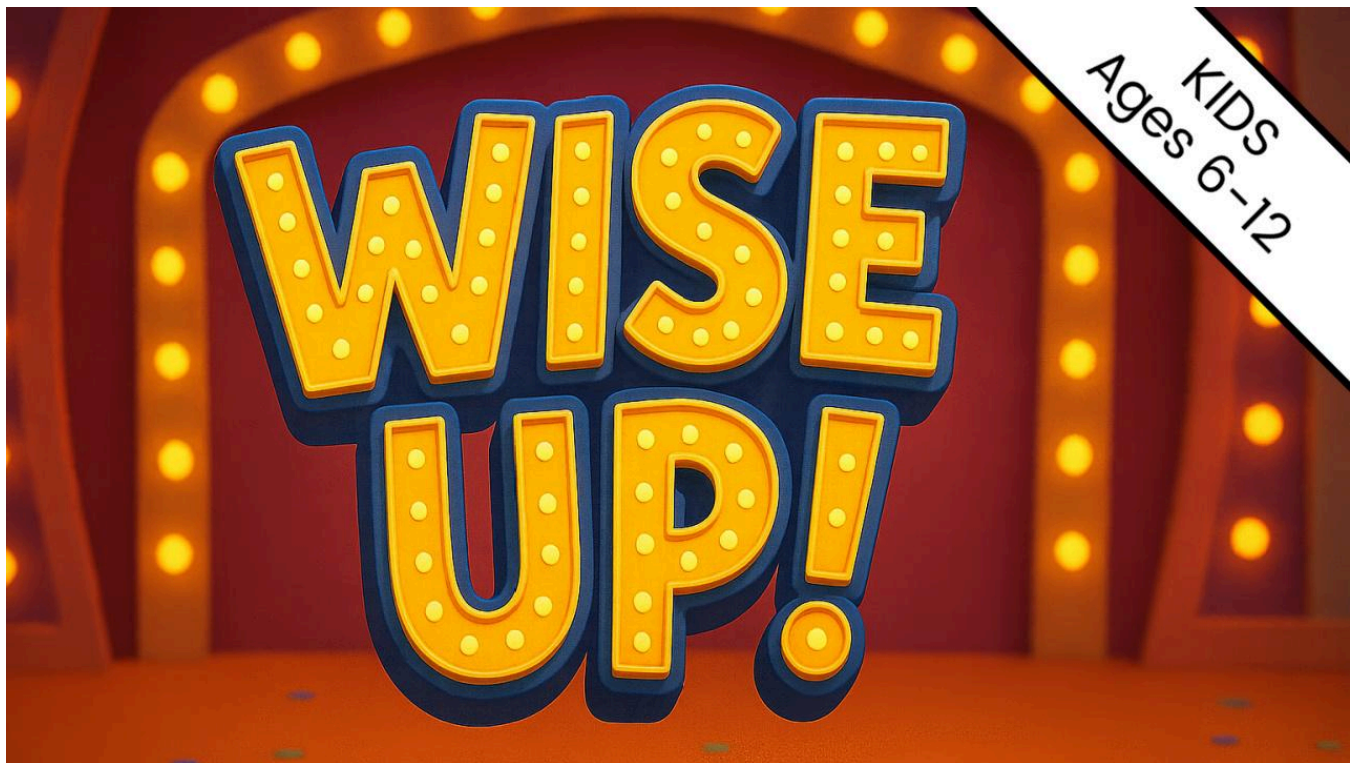
1. Give each child a paper lunch bag.
 - The flap becomes the donkey's mouth.
2. Provide pre-cut or traceable shapes for:
 - ears
 - muzzle/snout
 - eyes
 - mane (rectangles of paper to fringe)
3. Kids glue the face pieces onto the bag:
 - ears at the top
 - snout under the flap
 - eyes above the flap

- add hair or a mane behind the ears
- 4. Decorate with crayons, adding details like nostrils, eyebrows, or even a speech bubble that says: "Listen to God!"
- 5. Kids can use the puppet's mouth (by opening/closing the flap) to "talk."

Say together: I can ask God for wisdom and listen to His Word and leaders!

Debrief: Just like Balaam's donkey spoke to warn him, God finds ways to guide us — if we're willing to listen.





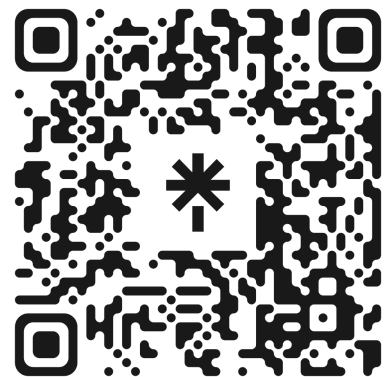
Week 2 – Delegate Dilemma

- Bible Story: Jethro Saves the Day (Exodus 18:13–27)
- Key Discovery: Sharing the load is smart leadership and blesses everyone.
- Takeaway: I can ask for help, share responsibility, and serve with others.

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Week 2 – Supply List

Group Game — Leader Switch

- ☐ open space for a circle
- ☐ optional: music for transitions

Object Lesson — The Two-Strand vs. Three-Strand Rope

- ☐ one single piece of yarn or thin string
- ☐ one braided rope or 3 strands twisted together
- ☐ optional: labels for strands (Moses, helpers, God)

Bible Story Teaching

- ☐ Bible

Word Search & Coloring Page

- ☐ printed word-search handouts (provided below, 1 per child)
- ☐ printed coloring page (provided below, 1 per child)
- ☐ crayons or colored pencils

Craft — Wise Leader Medal

- ☐ cardstock circles (3–4 inches)
- ☐ crayons or markers
- ☐ scissors (optional — pre-cut for younger kids)
- ☐ hole punch
- ☐ ribbon, yarn, or string (18" each)
- ☐ optional: stickers, foil paper, star shapes



Introduction Game (5 minutes)

Supplies Needed

- open space for kids to stand in a circle
- optional: music for transitions

TEACHER: In today's story, Moses was trying to lead all by himself, and it was too much! Jethro, his wise father-in-law, told him to share the load and let others help. This game shows how leadership works best when we share it!

Setup

1. Have kids stand in a large circle.
2. Choose one child to be the leader.
3. Explain that everyone must copy whatever motion the Leader does.

How To Play:

1. The Leader starts doing simple motions:
 - clap
 - jump
 - spin
 - march
 - pat head / tap knees
2. The group copies the Leader.
3. After 10–15 seconds, call out "SWITCH!"
4. Choose a new Leader and continue.
5. Repeat several rounds so MANY kids get a turn to lead.



TEACHER: Did you notice how fun and easy it was when LOTS of people took turns leading? That's what Jethro taught Moses — wise leaders share the load, and everyone is stronger when we work together.

Debrief: We don't have to do everything alone. God gives us friends, helpers, and leaders so we can serve together wisely and joyfully.



Object Lesson (5 minutes)

The Two-Strand vs. Three-Strand Rope

Supplies Needed

- one piece of yarn or thin string (single strand)
- one braided rope or 3 strands twisted together
- optional: label each strand (Moses, helpers, God)

TEACHER: Moses was trying to do everything by himself. Jethro told him, “This work is too heavy for you — you need helpers!” This rope will show us why.

1. Show the single piece of yarn. Say, “This is like one person trying to handle everything alone.” Tug on it lightly to show how easily it bends or frays.
2. Hold up the braided rope. Say, “Now this is like Moses working with helpers, and God giving them strength.” Pull hard — the rope holds strong.
3. Say, “One strand breaks fast, but when we bring others in, we become strong together. That’s wise leadership!”

Debrief: God didn’t design us to do life alone. Just like the braided rope, we’re stronger when we serve with others and rely on God’s strength.



Bible Story (15 minutes)

Week 2 – Jethro Saves the Day (Exodus 18:13–27)

TEACHER: Have you ever tried to do too much at once—homework, chores, helping friends—and ended up stressed or frustrated? That’s what was happening to Moses! He was trying to take care of EVERY problem for EVERY person in Israel. But God sent someone wise to help him.

After leaving Egypt, the Israelites were learning how to live as God’s people. Moses was their leader, but he was taking on WAY too much leadership.

Enter Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law—a wise man who cared about Moses’ health and the people’s wellbeing.

READ (NIV): Exodus 18:13–14

“Moses sat as judge for all the people from morning till evening.

Jethro asked, “Why are you doing all this ALONE?””

Moses was exhausted! He thought he had to fix every problem.

READ (NIV Summary): Exodus 18:17–23

“What you are doing is not good... You will wear yourself out.”

“Select capable, trustworthy leaders to help you.”

Jethro told Moses to share the load by training good helpers—leaders who feared God and loved the people.

READ (NIV): Exodus 18:24

“Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said.”



Moses obeyed the advice, shared responsibilities, and the whole nation was blessed because of it.

Summary: Sharing the load is smart leadership and blesses everyone.

Say together: I can ask for help, share responsibility, and serve with others.

GOSPEL CONNECTION: Jesus also shared His work with others—He chose twelve disciples to help Him share God’s love everywhere.

And today, He invites us to work together with His Spirit and His people.



Discussion Questions & Prayer (5-10 minutes)

TEACHER: Moses learned that wise leaders don't try to do everything alone. God gives us friends, family, teachers, and helpers so we can share the load and serve together. Wisdom means knowing when to ask for help—and when to offer it.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it a problem for Moses to handle everything by himself?
2. What wise advice did Jethro give, and how did it help the people?
3. Who are some people in your life who help you — and how can you help others too?

PRAYER: God, thank You for filling our lives with people who help and support us. Teach us to be wise like Jethro and Moses—to ask for help when we need it and to work with others to serve You. Give us humble hearts and strong teamwork.
In Jesus' name, Amen.



Jethro Helps Moses (Exodus 18:13–27)



Word Search Puzzle

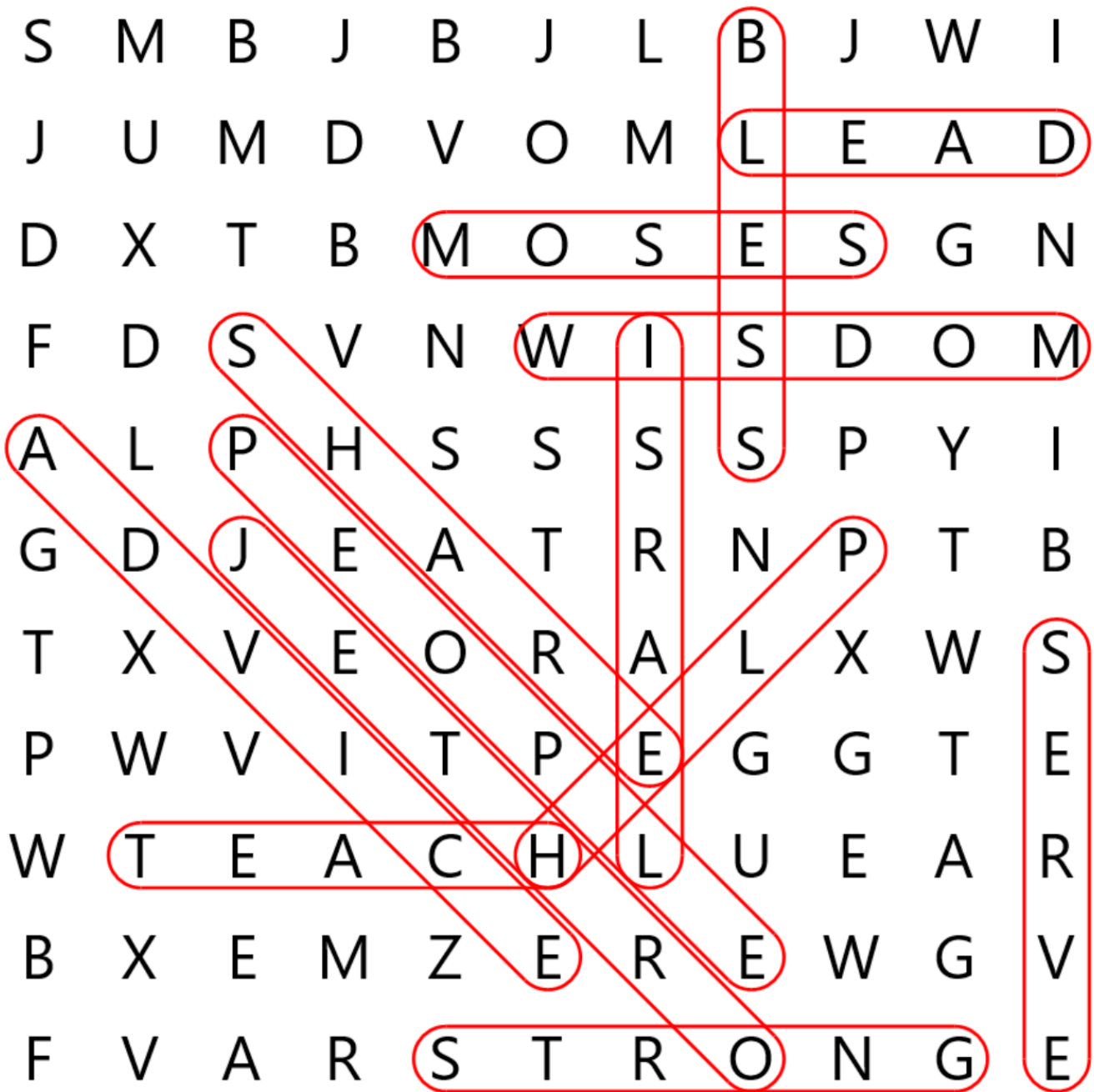
ADVICE – BLESS – HELP – ISRAEL – JETHRO – LEAD

MOSES – PEOPLE – SERVE – SHARE – STRONG – TEACH – WISDOM

S	M	B	J	B	J	L	B	J	W	I
J	U	M	D	V	O	M	L	E	A	D
D	X	T	B	M	O	S	E	S	G	N
F	D	S	V	N	W	I	S	D	O	M
A	L	P	H	S	S	S	S	P	Y	I
G	D	J	E	A	T	R	N	P	T	B
T	X	V	E	O	R	A	L	X	W	S
P	W	V	I	T	P	E	G	G	T	E
W	T	E	A	C	H	L	U	E	A	R
B	X	E	M	Z	E	R	E	W	G	V
F	V	A	R	S	T	R	O	N	G	E



Word Search Answers



Craft Activity (5-10 minutes)

Wise Leader Medal

Supplies Needed

- cardstock or thick paper (cut into circles for medals)
- crayons or washable markers
- scissors (optional — pre-cut circles for younger kids)
- hole punch
- ribbon, yarn, or string (about 18 inches per child)
- optional: stickers, foil paper, or star shapes for decoration



TEACHER: Today we learned that wise leaders don't try to do everything alone — they share the load and listen to good advice, just like Moses did with Jethro.

This Wise Leader Medal will remind us that real leadership is humble, helpful, and full of teamwork!

Instructions

1. Give each child a cardstock circle (3–4 inches wide).
2. At the top, help them write one of these titles:
 - "Wise Leader"
 - "Helper Award"
 - "I Share the Load!"
3. Around the edges, have kids write or draw leadership qualities:



- *kind*
 - *helpful*
 - *humble*
 - *wise*
 - *team player*
4. Punch a hole at the top of the medal.
 5. String ribbon, yarn, or string through the hole so they can wear it home.
 6. Decorate with markers, stars, stickers, or foil to make it look official.

Say together: I can ask for help, share responsibility, and serve with others!

Debrief: Wearing this medal reminds us that wise leaders serve WITH others, not by themselves.





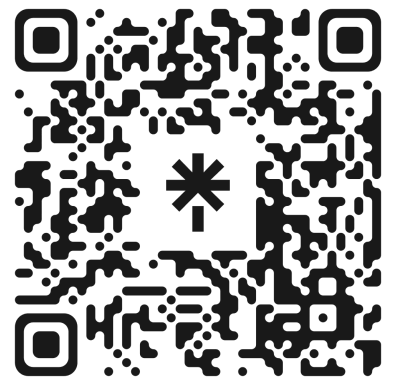
Week 3 — Trick Question

- Bible Story: Jesus Stumps the Scholars (Luke 20:20–40)
- Key Discovery: Jesus answers traps with God’s truth and wisdom.
- Takeaway: I can pause, pray, and answer with truth and respect.

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Week 3 – Supply List

Group Game — Trick Question Takedown

- ☐ printed trick/real question list
- ☐ 2 buzzers or simple hand-clap system
- ☐ optional: scoreboard or whiteboard

Object Lesson — The Quick Answer Spill

- ☐ 3–5 plastic cups for a small tower
- ☐ table or flat surface
- ☐ list of quick/trick questions

Bible Story Teaching

- ☐ Bible

Word Search & Coloring Page

- ☐ printed word-search handouts (provided below, 1 per child)
- ☐ printed coloring page (provided below, 1 per child)
- ☐ crayons or colored pencils

Craft — Wise Words Speech Bubble

- ☐ speech-bubble cutouts (cardstock or thick paper)
- ☐ crayons or washable markers
- ☐ scissors (optional — pre-cut for younger kids)
- ☐ optional: stickers, stars, decorative tape
- ☐ optional: popsicle sticks



Introduction Game (5 minutes)

Trick Question Takedown

Supplies Needed

- question cards (teacher-prepared)
- optional: scoreboard or tally marks
- optional: buzzers or simple “clap to answer” system

TEACHER: Today we’re learning that Jesus didn’t fall for the trick questions people asked Him. He stayed calm, thought carefully, and answered with God’s wisdom. Let’s see if *you* can slow down, think, and answer wisely!

Setup

1. Divide the kids into two teams.
2. Explain the key rule: You must wait 3 seconds before answering ANY question.
3. If a team answers too quickly, the other team gets the point.

How To Play: Use a mix of real questions, simple Bible questions, and silly trick questions. After reading a question, hold up three fingers and count down: “3... 2... 1... GO!” Kids answer only AFTER “GO!”

Sample “Real” Questions

- “What’s the first book of the Bible?”
- “What day comes after Monday?”
- “How many legs does a dog have?”

Sample “Trick” Questions



- “What do cows drink?”
(Most say *milk* — answer is *water*.)
- “Which weighs more, a pound of feathers or a pound of bricks?”
(Same weight.)
- “If you’re running in a race and pass the person in second place, what place are you in?”
(Second place.)

Sample “Bible Trick Questions”

- “How many animals did Moses take on the ark?”
(None — Noah built the ark.)
- “Did Jesus trick people?”
(No, He spoke truth with wisdom.)

TEACHER: Great job pausing and thinking! That’s exactly what Jesus did when people tried to trap Him. Wise people don’t rush — they stop, think, pray, and answer with truth.

Debrief: Wisdom means slowing down and answering with truth and respect — just like Jesus.



Object Lesson (5 minutes)

The Quick Answer Spill

Supplies Needed

- 3–5 plastic cups stacked into a small tower
- a list of simple but surprising questions
- table or flat surface

TEACHER: Sometimes we get tricked because we answer too fast. The religious leaders tried to trap Jesus with trick questions — but He stayed calm, thought carefully, and answered with God’s truth. Let’s see what happens when we *rush* instead of pause.

1. Place the cup tower on the table.

“This tower is like our thoughts — steady when we stay calm.”

2. Choose a volunteer.

Tell them:

“When I ask you a question, try to answer it as fast as you can.”

3. Ask a surprising question, such as:

- “What do cows drink?” (*Kids often say milk; answer is water.*)
- “What color is an orange?”
- “What day is Christmas on?”

Often the child will rush, laugh, or accidentally bump the table — and the tower may wobble or fall.

4. Reset and repeat, but this time say:

“Now we’re going to *pause* and think before answering.”



Hold up your hand and count:

“3... 2... 1... now answer.”

5. Ask the same question. The tower stays steady.

TEACHER: When we rush, we get confused or knocked off balance.

But when we slow down, think, and ask God for wisdom, we answer clearly — just like Jesus did.

Debrief: A calm heart helps us answer wisely. Jesus shows us how to think before we speak.



Bible Story (15 minutes)

Week 3 – Jesus Stumps the Scholars (Luke 20:20–40)

TEACHER: Have you ever felt like someone was trying to trick you with a question? That's exactly what happened to Jesus! Some leaders wanted to trap Him with His own words — but Jesus answered with the perfect mix of truth and wisdom. The religious leaders were jealous of Jesus. They didn't like the way people listened to Him and followed Him. So they tried to catch Him saying something wrong by asking Him trick questions in public. But Jesus couldn't be fooled.

READ (NIV Summary): Luke 20:20–22

"They sent spies who pretended to be honest. They asked, 'Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?'"

This was a trap! If Jesus said "yes," people would be angry. If He said "no," the government would be angry. They thought He couldn't win.

READ (NIV Summary): Luke 20:23–25

Jesus knew their trick. He said, "Show me a coin."

"Whose picture is on it?"

"Caesar's."

Jesus said, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

Wow! Jesus didn't argue. He didn't panic. He paused, thought, and answered with God's truth.



READ (NIV Summary): Luke 20:27–40

“Another group tried to trick Him with a confusing question about heaven. Jesus answered with perfect wisdom, showing them they didn’t understand Scripture or God’s power.”

No matter how many tricky questions they asked, Jesus answered calmly and wisely.

Summary: Jesus answers traps with God’s truth and wisdom.

Say together: I can pause, pray, and answer with truth and respect.

GOSPEL CONNECTION: Jesus is God’s wisdom for us. He sees every trap, trick, and test — and He shows us the right way to respond. When we follow Him, we can think clearly, speak kindly, and stand strong in the truth.



Discussion Questions & Prayer (5-10 minutes)

TEACHER: Jesus never rushed to answer. He paused, prayed, and responded with wisdom. We can do the same — especially when someone asks a hard question, tries to trick us, or pressures us to respond quickly. Wisdom grows when we slow down and ask God for help.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why were the religious leaders asking Jesus trick questions?
2. How did Jesus respond when people tried to trap Him?
3. What can *you* do when someone asks a confusing or tricky question?

PRAYER: *God, thank You for giving us Jesus, who always answered with wisdom and truth. Help us pause, pray, and think before we speak. Give us calm hearts, wise minds, and respectful words—especially in confusing or tricky moments.*
In Jesus' name, Amen.



Jesus Answers the Trick Question (Luke 20:20–40)



Word Search Puzzle

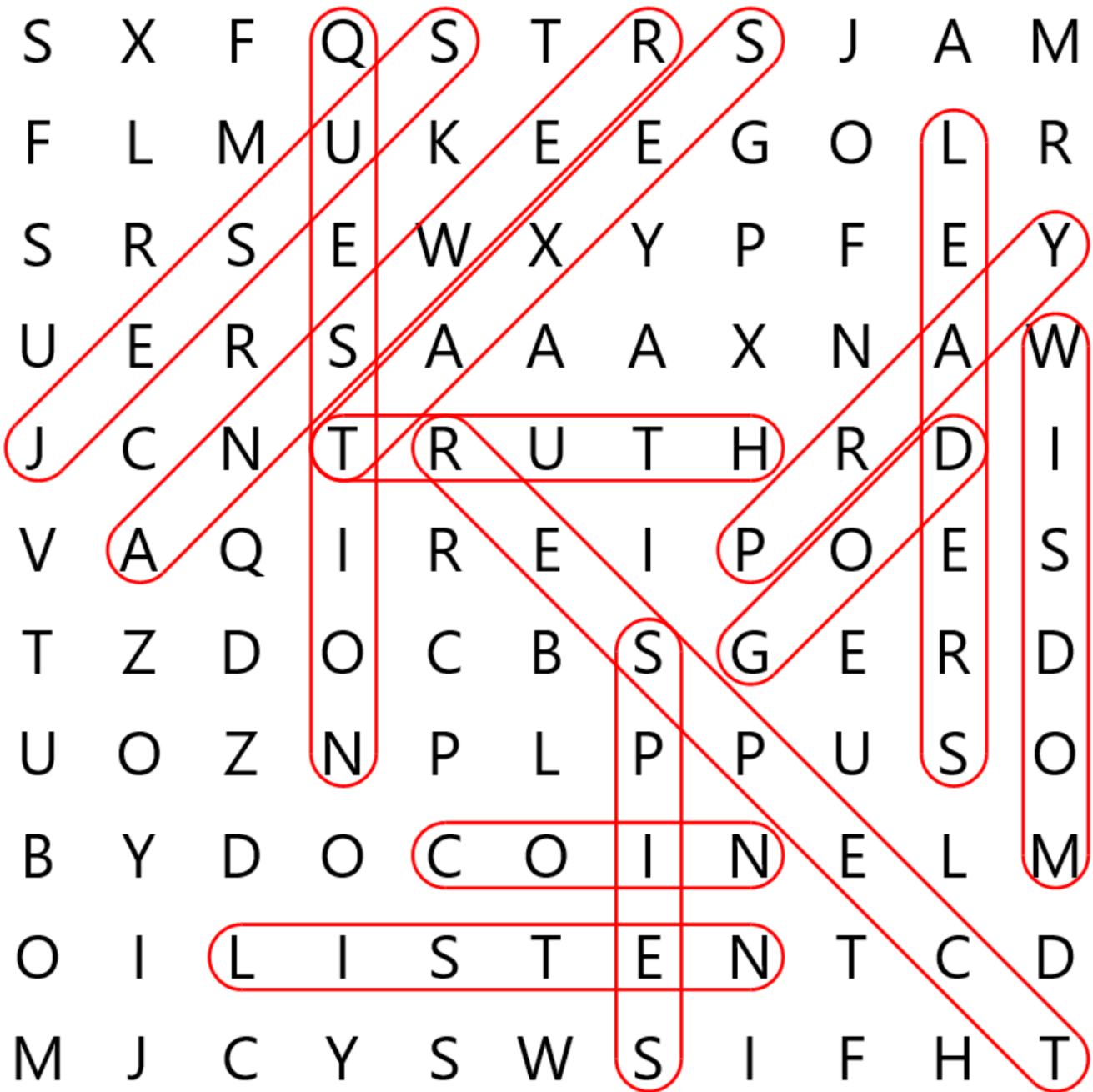
ANSWER – COIN – GOD – JESUS – LEADERS – LISTEN

PRAY – QUESTION – RESPECT – SPIES – TAXES – TRUTH – WISDOM

S	X	F	Q	S	T	R	S	J	A	M
F	L	M	U	K	E	E	G	O	L	R
S	R	S	E	W	X	Y	P	F	E	Y
U	E	R	S	A	A	A	X	N	A	W
J	C	N	T	R	U	T	H	R	D	I
V	A	Q	I	R	E	I	P	O	E	S
T	Z	D	O	C	B	S	G	E	R	D
U	O	Z	N	P	L	P	P	U	S	O
B	Y	D	O	C	O	I	N	E	L	M
O	I	L	I	S	T	E	N	T	C	D
M	J	C	Y	S	W	S	I	F	H	T



Word Search Answers



Craft Activity (5-10 minutes)

Supplies Needed

- white cardstock or thick paper (speech-bubble shape per child)
- crayons or washable markers
- scissors (optional — pre-cut for younger kids)
- optional: stickers, star shapes, or decorative tape



TEACHER: Today we learned that Jesus answered trick questions with wisdom and calm truth. He didn't rush or get trapped — He spoke with clarity and respect. We're going to make a Wise Words Speech Bubble to remind us to speak wisely too!

Steps

1. Give each child a speech bubble shape (pre-cut or traced).
2. At the top, help them write: "Speak Truth with Respect"
3. In the rest of the bubble, kids can:
 - write examples of wise words
 - draw pictures of someone speaking kindly
 - add key phrases like *pause*, *pray*, *think*
4. Decorate with markers, patterns, stickers, or stars.
5. Optional: glue onto a popsicle stick so kids can "hold up" their wise words reminder.

Debrief: Our words matter. When we choose calm, truthful, respectful answers, we're following Jesus' example.

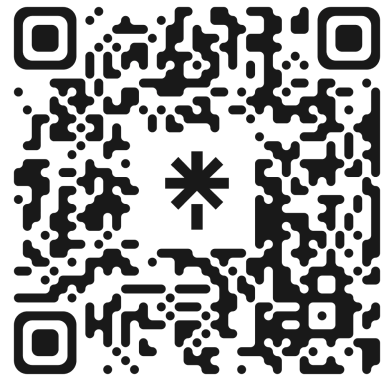


Week 4 — Snap Judgment

- Bible Story: Solomon & the Baby (1 Kings 3)
- Key Discovery: God's wisdom is compassionate and discerning.
- Takeaway: I can choose what is loving and right, even when it's hard.

Video Bible Stories: Use this link to access recommended Bible story videos and bonus content for this curriculum series. <https://linktr.ee/WiseUpLessons>

Parent Connect: Print extra copies of this overview page to share with the families in your ministry.



Week 4 – Supply List

Group Game — Judge It! Snap Decision Round

- ☐ open space
- ☐ optional: WISE/UNWISE signs
- ☐ optional: bell or sound for each round

Object Lesson — The Two Boxes Test

- ☐ fancy decorated box (empty)
- ☐ plain box (with a note or small prize)

Bible Story Teaching

- ☐ Bible

Word Search & Coloring Page

- ☐ printed word-search handouts (provided below, 1 per child)
- ☐ printed coloring page (provided below, 1 per child)

Craft — Wisdom Crown

- ☐ yellow/gold construction paper (crown strips)
- ☐ crayons or washable markers
- ☐ scissors (optional — pre-cut for younger kids)
- ☐ glue sticks or tape
- ☐ optional: jewel stickers, stars, foil pieces, glitter glue



Introduction Game (5 minutes)

Judge It! Snap Decision Round

Supplies Needed

- open space
- optional: printed “👍 WISE” and “👎 UNWISE” signs or thumbs-up/thumbs-down cards
- optional: soft bell or beep sound for each “round”

TEACHER: In our story today, King Solomon had to make a VERY hard decision — and he didn’t rush. He used God’s wisdom to look deeper than the surface. Let’s see how wisely *you* can judge a situation!

Setup

1. Have kids stand spread out with room to move.
2. Explain the key rule: You **MUST** freeze for 3 seconds before making your decision.
3. After the freeze, show thumbs up (wise) or thumbs down (unwise), OR move to WISE/UNWISE signs.

How To Play: You will read fast scenarios that sound simple — but need deeper thinking. Kids freeze for 3 seconds, then respond. Use these sample rounds (you may add more):

Round Examples



- *"Your friend loses a game and gets upset — you shout 'I WIN!'"*
→ Freeze → UNWISE (You choose compassion over winning.)
- *"You find a lost pencil on the floor and put it in your pocket."*
→ Freeze → UNWISE (Return it or turn it in.)
- *"Someone makes fun of your drawing. You listen, breathe, and don't snap back."*
→ Freeze → WISE (Self-control + kindness.)
- *"You get blamed for something you didn't do. You stay calm and explain respectfully."*
→ Freeze → WISE (Truth with respect.)
- *"Your sibling wants a turn with a toy you love — you hide it."*
→ Freeze → UNWISE (Selfish choice.)
- *"You hear two sides of a story before making a judgment."*
→ Freeze → WISE (Seek the full truth.)

Debrief: Wisdom means pausing, thinking, and choosing compassion and truth — not reacting without thinking.



Object Lesson (5 minutes)

The Two Boxes Test

Supplies Needed

- Box A: fancy, decorated, colorful, or gift-wrapped
- Box B: plain, brown, or simple-looking
- something meaningful to place inside Box B (stickers, a note that says “Wisdom,” a small treat, etc.)
- optional: a blank slip of paper to put inside Box A

TEACHER: In today’s story, Solomon had to see the truth beneath the surface.

Two women each claimed the same baby — and Solomon needed God’s wisdom to discover the real mother. This object lesson shows why we can’t trust looks alone.

Steps

1. Hold up Box A — the fancy one.

Ask: “Which box do you think has the better prize?”

Most kids will choose the decorated box.

2. Hold up Box B — the plain one.

Say: “This one doesn’t look very exciting... but should we pick based only on looks?”

3. Let kids vote for the box they want.

4. Open Box A

- Show that it’s empty or contains something silly.

Kids react!



5. Open Box B

- Show the note or small treat.
- Explain how it held the real treasure.

TEACHER: Sometimes the *outside* of something looks exciting, but the *inside* tells the truth. Solomon didn't make his decision based on quick appearances — he used God's wisdom to see the heart of the situation.

Debrief: Wisdom looks past the outside and seeks the truth. God helps us see what really matters.



Bible Story (15 minutes)

Week 4 – Solomon & the Baby (1 Kings 3)

TEACHER: Have you ever had to solve a hard problem? King Solomon became famous because he asked God for wisdom — not riches, not power, but the ability to make the right choices. And one of his first tests was a VERY tough situation.

Solomon was the new king of Israel. God appeared to him in a dream and offered to give him anything. Solomon asked for a wise heart so he could lead God's people well. God loved his request and made him the wisest king who ever lived.

READ (NIV Summary): 1 Kings 3:16–22

Two women came to Solomon fighting over one baby.

Each claimed, "The living baby is mine!"

This was a heartbreaking situation. No one knew who was telling the truth.

READ (NIV Summary): 1 Kings 3:23–25

Solomon said, "Bring me a sword."

"Cut the living child in two and give half to each woman."

He wasn't going to hurt the baby — he was using wisdom to reveal their hearts.

He knew the true mother would rather *lose* her baby than see him harmed.

READ (NIV Summary): 1 Kings 3:26–27

The true mother cried out, "Please, give the baby to her — just don't hurt him!"



Solomon said, "Give the child to the one who showed compassion. She is the mother."

Solomon looked deeper. He listened. He used compassion, not snap judgment.

Summary: God's wisdom is compassionate and discerning.

Say together: I can choose what is loving and right, even when it's hard.

GOSPEL CONNECTION: Jesus is the perfect picture of wisdom and compassion.

He sees our hearts, cares for our pain, and always chooses what is right.

When we follow Him, God gives us wisdom to make loving choices too.



Discussion Questions & Prayer (5-10 minutes)

TEACHER: Solomon didn't rush to judge the situation. He paused, looked deeper, and used God's wisdom to choose what was loving and right. We can learn from him — wisdom comes from slowing down and caring about others, not reacting too quickly.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Solomon discover who the real mother was?
2. Why is it important to slow down and look deeper instead of making snap judgments?
3. What's a situation where *you* need God's wisdom to choose what's right and loving?

PRAYER: *God, thank You for giving Solomon wisdom to see the truth. Please give us the same kind of wisdom — help us pause, look deeper, and choose what is loving and right. Fill our hearts with compassion for others and guide our decisions every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Solomon's Wise Choice (1 Kings 3)



Word Search Puzzle

BABY – CARE – CHOOSE – COMPASSION – GOD – HEART

KING – LOVE – SOLOMON – SWORD – TRUTH – WISDOM – WRONG

L	R	M	E	P	G	V	C	A	R	E
X	O	V	W	N	Q	T	H	H	I	R
S	I	P	I	J	W	R	O	N	G	O
B	O	K	S	R	D	U	O	A	K	L
I	M	L	D	R	R	T	S	A	D	T
U	Q	W	O	V	C	H	E	D	J	D
U	G	W	M	M	A	H	L	Q	T	Y
M	S	T	L	L	O	V	E	J	B	K
A	H	V	G	O	D	N	Q	A	A	X
S	L	Z	J	Z	N	O	B	S	R	E
C	O	M	P	A	S	S	I	O	N	T



Word Search Answers



Craft Activity (5-10 minutes)

Wisdom Crown

Supplies Needed

- yellow or gold construction paper (or any color for crowns)
- crayons or washable markers
- scissors (optional — pre-cut strips for younger kids)
- glue sticks or tape
- optional: jewel stickers, star stickers, foil pieces for decoration



TEACHER: Solomon asked God for wisdom — and God gave it to him!

Today we'll make a Wisdom Crown to remind us that God gives wisdom to anyone who asks, including *you*.

Steps

1. Give each child a long strip of construction paper (or two strips taped together) to make a crown.
2. Help them shape the top into points or arches.
3. On the front, write: "God Gives Me Wisdom"
4. Around the crown, kids write or draw words that describe wise choices:
 - *love*
 - *truth*
 - *patience*
 - *kindness*
 - *compassion*



- *discernment*

5. Decorate with markers, patterns, stickers, stars, or foil to make it special.
6. Fit the crown to each child's head and tape or glue the ends.

TEACHER: When we ask God for wisdom, He gives it to us generously. Wisdom helps us look deeper, choose compassion, and do what's right — just like Solomon.

Debrief: Wisdom is a gift from God that helps us respond with love and truth in every situation.

