

## Trusting Jesus

# I Can Trust Jesus

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 1 • October 4/5/6 • Trusting Jesus Gathering

Side 1 • Small Group # 1

10 minutes



PRO TIP

Today kids will be talking all about what it means to trust Jesus. Some kids may emotionally embrace this next step in their relationship with Jesus aloud, others may quietly pray and accept him, while some may not be ready today. No matter how kids respond to the message, encourage them that Jesus loves them no matter what! Let them know that you are and will continue to be there for them as they learn more about him and be ready with resources to support them!



WELCOME

Welcome each kid by name.

Ask:

- If you had to pick a superhero to guard your valuable treasure, who would it be? Why do you trust them?
- If your pet could talk, do you think you could trust them with your most embarrassing moment? Why or why not?



PRAY

**Pray:** Dear Jesus, trust can be a confusing thing to figure out. We might not fully understand who to trust, how to trust, or why we should trust the people or things around us. Today, help us to focus and learn to trust you in new ways. Help us discover that your love, peace, and security are bigger than anything we might experience in the people or things around us. Help us experience your big love today. Amen.

Give each kid a Bible.

Say:

- We are going to read a great Verse about trusting Jesus. I want everyone to open their own Bible and read this Verse for themselves. Then we will read it together. Let's go!
- Lead everyone in your Group through finding the Verse using the Table Of Contents.

Read:

- Proverbs 3:5-6

Review:

- What do you do when you are trying to understand something? (Ex: Ask for advice, look it up on a device, try figuring it out yourself)
- What do you think this Verse means when it says that Jesus will make your paths smooth and straight? (He will lead us in the best direction, like a flashlight showing the way in the dark. It's like you are lost in the woods and don't know where to go, but Jesus is like your map AND your guide leading you out.)
- Is there anything you can think of that is keeping you from trusting Jesus?

Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight. Proverbs 3:5-6**

## Trusting Jesus

# I Can Trust Jesus

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 1 • October 4/5/6 • Trusting Jesus Gathering

Side 2 • Small Group # 2

15 minutes



### ACTIVITY

Sit as a Group and set them up well to pray, explaining that we fold our hands and close our eyes so that we can focus on talking to Jesus.

**Pray:** *Dear Jesus, we each get to have our own relationship with you. Our personal relationship with you will look different from anyone else's. Today, as we pray, some people might have already made the decision that they will trust you with their life. I pray that those friends find new opportunities to trust you. Some of our friends today have questions, I pray that they would bravely explore finding the answers to those questions. And some of our friends are ready to trust you with their life for the very first time here today. They are going to tell you that now. I am going to give a moment of silence here for everyone to talk to Jesus and say a personal prayer to him.*

After a moment of silence say, *Amen.*

- Ask kids if it was their first time they prayed to trust Jesus. As they respond, celebrate warmly, cheer, clap, and smile. Write their first and last names down to submit to your Captain.
- Give kids who chose to trust Jesus a Bracelet and Color Guide. Review what each color means.
- Give all kids a Trusting Jesus Guide and Trusting Jesus Sticker.
- Take out the Game Board and Trusting Jesus Game Card Set. Give each kid a Horse Game Play Piece. Play the game using the Game Board Instructions.
- Create a respectful, safe, and honest space with your Group as you play the game.
- Kids will take their Horse Game Play Piece home with them.



### CHALLENGE

**Say:** *If you already trust Jesus, pick one thing in your life you can turn away from so you can trust Jesus more.*

*If you have questions and don't trust Jesus yet, think about what might be stopping you and ask for help when you need it!*

*If you just trusted Jesus today, start growing your relationship with him! You could pray more, start a prayer journal, or talk with someone who also trusts Jesus.*



### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Share, in an age-appropriate way, your personal story of trusting Jesus. You can share when you first trusted Jesus, and what you had to turn away from to trust him.

**Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.**



### TAKE HOME

Bandana (1 per kid, upon entering environment)

Western Cup (given in Small Group with the following inside)

- Trusting Jesus Guide
- Trusting Jesus ABC Sticker
- Horse Game Play Piece

Kids who trusted Jesus

- Trusting Jesus Bracelet & Color Guide (given in Small Group)



# God Helps You Make The Wise Choice

Older Elementary Small Group Guide  
Week 2 • October 11/12/13  
Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes



## PRO TIP

Last week kids heard a powerful message about what it means to trust Jesus. This week, kids may be coming back with more questions. Some may be ready to take that next step! Prioritize taking time to listen to any other questions they have. Remind them that you are here for them and praying for them as they grow in their faith!



## WELCOME

**Welcome each kid by name.**

**Ask:**

- What's your favorite thing to do when you are by yourself? Pass the bean bag around the circle, allowing each kid to share.



## PRAY

**Pray:** Dear God, thank you for always being with us and loving us. Thank you for sending Jesus to show us how to be wise and thank you for your Holy Spirit who goes everywhere with us. Please help us listen for your voice and trust you every day, so we can make wise choices too. We want to listen to your voice more than anything. Please teach us how. We love you, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Give each kid a Bible.**

**Say:**

- Today's story is all about a man who this book is named after— Samuel! As we'll see, Samuel learned how important it is to listen to God. God helped him see what really matters.

**Read:**

- 1 Samuel 16:1-13

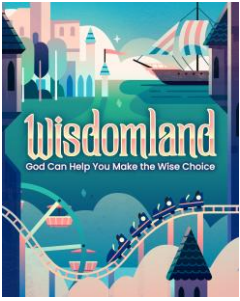
**Review:**

- God told Samuel to anoint a new king from the sons of Jesse in Bethlehem. One by one, Jesse's older sons passed before Samuel, but God reminded him that he looks at the heart, not outward appearance. Finally, Jesse's youngest son, David, was called from tending sheep, and God told Samuel, "This is the one." Samuel anointed David, and the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him.



## BIBLE

**Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.**



# God Helps You Make The Wise Choice

Older Elementary Small Group Guide  
Week 2 • October 11/12/13  
Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes



## ACTIVITY

**Say:** *We're going to practice our Memory Verse!*

Take out the Verse Card Set and Blindfold. Have kids put the Memory Verse together using the cards. The first time, try to do it as fast as you can. The second time, put it together silently. The third time, choose one kid to be blindfolded while the rest of the kids help them figure it out! Take turns with the blindfold and give other kids the opportunity to try.



## CHALLENGE

**Say:**

- *What is something big you have to do this week? (Test, game, etc.)*
- *Write down our Memory Verse and look at it this week. Remember that even when you have something big, can God give you wisdom to help you make the wise choice!*



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Ask:**

- *God looks beyond our appearance and focuses on what's in our hearts. Why do you think inner qualities are more important to God than outward looks?*
- *How do you imagine David felt when Samuel chose him to be king instead of his older brothers? What might have gone through his mind?*
- *What are some character traits or attitudes that you think God values in a person's heart? How can you work on growing those in your own life?*
- *Have you ever been chosen for something—like a team, a role, or a responsibility—that surprised you? How did you respond, and what did you learn from that experience?*
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

**Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.**



## TAKE HOME

Encourage kids to share the bottom line with their grown-ups

**It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver. Proverbs 16:16**



# You Can Ask God For Wisdom

Older Elementary Small Group Guide  
Week 3 • October 18/19/20  
Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes



PRO TIP

Some kids may know how to ask God for wisdom in their family, friendship, emotions, and learning. Other kids may be new to going to God through prayer, worship, time in the Bible, and more. Model with kids the different ways you go to God. Tell them about what that looks like in your life, and encourage them with ways they can do the same!



WELCOME

**Welcome each kid by name.**

**Ask:** *What is your favorite part of the Fall season? Allow each kid to share.*



PRAY

**Pray:** *God, thank you for loving us and for giving us the Bible so we can learn your wisdom. Thank you that you promise to help us. When we don't know what to do, help us stop and ask you for help. Fill us with wisdom, kindness, and love—so we can make wise choices every day. We trust you, God! We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.*

**Give each kid a Bible.**

**Say:**

- *This week, we're looking at the third king of God's people and a really wise thing he asked God. We are talking about King Solomon!*



BIBLE

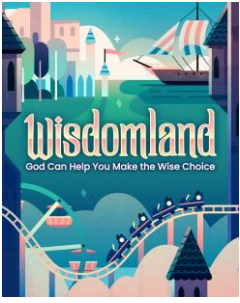
**Read:**

- 1 Kings 3:4-5

**Review:**

- *King Solomon loved God and wanted to follow Him. One night, God spoke to Solomon in a dream and said, "Ask for anything you want." Solomon didn't ask for money or to beat his enemies—he asked for wisdom to know what was right and to lead the people well. God was pleased and gave Solomon great wisdom and also gave him riches and honor.*

**Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.**



# You Can Ask God For Wisdom

Older Elementary Small Group Guide  
Week 3 • October 18/19/20  
Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes



## ACTIVITY

Pass out the Map Of Wisdomland Activity Sheet. Point out the four lands on the map and talk about what they mean.

- Familyland: *Sometimes it's hard to listen or get along at home. But godly wisdom helps us love our families and make good choices.*
- Friendshipland: *Friendships aren't always easy, but God can give us wisdom to be kind, patient, and loving.*
- Emotionland: *We all feel big feelings sometimes! Godly wisdom helps us know what to do when we're angry or sad.*
- Learningland: *At school, we need wisdom from God to follow directions, ask for help, and do the right thing even when it's hard.*

Help the kids in your Group come up with one thing they can do to make a wise choice in each area. Have them write it down.



## CHALLENGE

### Say:

- *There will be lots of times in life when we don't know what to do. Maybe you feel left out on the playground, or you're not sure what to do when you're mad. Maybe you want to help a friend, but you don't know how.*
- *When that happens, when you don't know what to do, you can always do what Solomon did—you can ask God for wisdom! Pray 3 different times this week, asking God for wisdom!*



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Ask:

- *Solomon asked God for wisdom instead of wealth or power. Why do you think choosing wisdom was more important than asking for money or control?*
- *God was pleased with Solomon's request. What does this tell us about what God values most in us when we ask for things?*
- *If God asked you, "What do you want most from me?" How would you answer? What kind of things would be really important to ask for?*
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

**Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.**



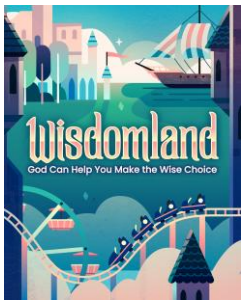
## TAKE HOME

Map Of Wisdomland Activity Sheet

- *This map shows all the different kinds of choices we have to make. But God gives us wisdom to make the right choice. We only have to ask him for wisdom – just like Solomon!*

**It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver. Proverbs 16:16**





# Be Wise Because Your Choices Matter

Older Elementary Small Group Guide  
Week 4 • October 25/26/27  
Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes



PRO TIP

**Choosing to what is right is hard for everyone, especially kids! During kZones, take the time to get to know the kids in your group better. Learn about the things they do after school, on the weekends, and with their friends. Then, use what you know about their lives to help them to prepare for the tough choices that they may face.**



WELCOME

**Welcome each kid by name.**

**Ask:** *What's one thing that made you laugh recently?* Allow each kid to share.



PRAY

**Pray:** *God, we're so thankful that you hear every prayer we say. Thank you for loving us and sharing your wisdom with us. Please help my friends here trust you and follow your way. Even when it seems like no one around us is following you, God, please give us the boldness and wisdom to follow your way no matter what! We love you, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.*

**Give each kid a Bible.**

- A long time ago, Israel had many kings—some followed God, but many did not.
- King David's son, Solomon, started out loving God and asking for wisdom to lead the people. God made him the wisest man ever and blessed him with great wealth and peace. Solomon built a beautiful temple for God, but later, his heart turned away because he followed false gods. After Solomon died, the kingdom split into two parts: Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Most of the kings that followed did not obey God, and they led the people into sin.
- God sent prophets like Elijah and Elisha to remind the people to worship him.
- Sometimes the kings listened, but often they refused and chose evil instead. Over time, both kingdoms turned so far from God that he allowed enemies to take them over. Even though it was a sad time, God still promised that one day, a perfect King would come to save his people forever—and that King is Jesus.



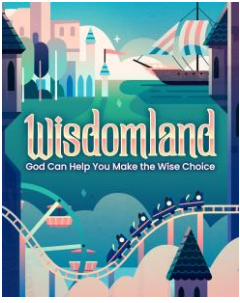
BIBLE

**Read:**

- 1 Kings 3:9
- 1 Kings 8:61
- 1 Kings 18:39
- 2 Kings 6:16
- 2 Kings 17:13

**Review:** *1 and 2 Kings teach us about the importance of wise leadership, wholehearted devotion to God, recognizing his power, trusting him in tough times, and responding to his loving guidance. These books show that God's heart is always for his people—to lead, protect, correct, and bless them when they seek him.*

**Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.**



# Be Wise Because Your Choices Matter

Older Elementary Small Group Guide  
Week 4 • October 25/26/27  
Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes



## ACTIVITY

Divide the kids into 2 groups. Give each group a few Jenga Blocks to build a base. Place the remaining blocks in a pile in your group area, an equal distance away from each team's base.

**Say:** *Each of you is part of a team of builders. Your goal is to build the tallest, strongest tower. But there's a twist. On your turn, you can either: take a block from the center pile OR steal one block from another team's tower.*

Let each team play until you run out of blocks.

**Ask:** *How did it feel when someone stole your team's block? What were you focused on: winning or building wisely?*



## CHALLENGE

**Say:**

- *It's hard to choose the wise thing when we have a tough decision to make.*
- *What is one hard decision you have to make this week?*
- *Before you make your decision, ask a trusted friend or a parent to give you advice!*



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Ask:**

- *What is one specific way you can ask God to guide you in making wise choices this week?*
- *What does it mean to love God with all your heart, and how can that shape the way you live each day?*
- *How can you listen to God's voice and choose to do what's right, especially when it feels difficult or unpopular?*
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

**Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.**



## TAKE HOME

kid Dedication Postcard (given at the door)

**It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver. Proverbs 16:16**



