

Today's Bible Story: Think (Wise People See Danger) • *Proverbs 22:3*

Today's Bottom Line: Think before you act.

Monthly Memory Verse: *If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn't find fault. James 1:5 (NIRV)*

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

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

Leader enters, again wearing an archeological hat and carrying a shovel.

Video (Media Package): Countdown (30- or 60-second version)

OPENER

LEADER: “It’s another great day here at Kidzone—a great day to do a little digging! (*Pretend to dig with your shovel.*) Okay, maybe there isn’t any buried treasure here on this stage. But I DO know of a type of treasure that we can spend our whole lives trying to find: wisdom!

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App

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

Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme

“It’s important that we ‘dig deep’ and search high and low to find God’s wisdom. His wisdom is always worth searching for!

“I thought we could start out today by practicing our treasure hunting skills. I’ve hidden chocolate gold coins around the room, and in a minute, you’ll go on the hunt. But there are a couple of twists. For one thing, you’ll searching in the dark! You need these.

Hand out the flashlights and empty cups (one of each for each kid).

“Lights, please!

LIGHTS: Off

“There’s one more thing you should know. This corner . . . *(shine your flashlight on the ‘Safe Zone’ sign)* is the Safe Zone. As you search for the gold coins, from time to time, you’ll hear this sound.

AUDIO: Warning sound

“When you hear that sound, you must immediately stop what you’re doing and get to the safe zone. And I do mean immediately! Just look out so you don’t run into anyone on the way. As soon as everyone is in the Safe Zone, the danger sound will stop and you can resume the hunt. You can put all the coins you find in your plastic cup. Does anyone have questions? *(Pause for response.)*

“Let’s see how many coins you can find! On your mark, get set, GO!

AUDIO: Fun, adventurous music (like from a movie soundtrack)

AUDIO: Warning sound (interrupting the music, following the Leader’s cue)

a/v:

Keep an eye on the kids and make sure everyone plays fairly. As the kids search, every 30 seconds or so, stop the music and play the warning sound. When the warning sound plays, make sure that the kids stop searching and go to the Safe Zone. Then stop the warning sound and restart the music.

When you think the kids have found most—or at least many—of the coins, turn the warning sound on more often, to the point of it being ridiculous. The last time, leave the sound on until the lights come up.

LIGHTS: On

“Great job of treasure hunting, everyone! You certainly know how to ‘dig deep’ when there’s chocolate involved. Everyone pass your cups in for now. But don’t worry, you’ll get some coins when you leave Small Group later.

Collect the cups. Plan for someone to redistribute the coins so that, at dismissal, you can give out the cups with equal amounts of coins.

WORSHIP
REMINDERS....
What worship is.

"All right, let's stay on our feet so we can worship God together!"

WORSHIP

LEADER: "When we're not sure what to do, we can trust God to lead us! He is our safe place. As we read in Psalm 46:1 (NIV), 'God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble.' **[Basic Truth]** We can trust God no matter what, so let's tell Him that as we sing!"

Video: "I Can Always Trust You"

"That's right! Even when things feel dark or scary, we can trust that God is with us. No matter what we're going through, He is there to help us and give us peace. He is our treasure, forever! Let's worship Him now."

Video: "Even When"

SLIDE: Theme Background

"I love singing about the strength that God gives us. You can have a seat for now."

BIBLE STORY

SETTING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “Solomon was king of Israel for almost 40 years. When he first became king as a young man, he asked God for one thing: wisdom. And God made Solomon one of the wisest people the world has ever known!

“Many of Solomon’s wise sayings were collected and written down in the Book of Proverbs. *(Hold up Bible.)*

“This one in Proverbs 22:3 has some really great advice for us as we try to live with wisdom each day.

Assistant: Open the Bible to Proverbs 22:3 (NirV) and read.

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

“‘Wise people see danger and go to a’ what? *(Pause for response.)* Safe place. ‘But childish people keep going and suffer for it.’

“That’s a short verse, but there’s a lot of wisdom in it. If we can really understand it and put it into practice, then it’ll help us **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice**—even when it’s tough!”

STOP, THINK, ACT

LEADER: “First of all, it’s important to take time in your day to STOP.

Hold up the “STOP” sign.

“It’s easy to get so distracted that you don’t stop to take a breath and pay attention to what’s going on around you. Maybe you’re just rushing through life—doing what you want to do, when you want to do it. But you can find wisdom when you slow down . . . take a pause . . . and give yourself some time to THINK.

Set down the “STOP” sign and hold up the “THINK” sign.

“Look around you. Look ahead. Do you see danger? Ask yourself, ‘If I keep doing what I’m doing, what will happen?’

“Now, obviously, we don’t know exactly what will happen. God doesn’t tell us the future. But He has given us common sense to think through what is **LIKELY** to happen, based on what we know is true and what we see right now. He can give us the wisdom to see what we **SHOULD** do.

“That brings us to the third step: **ACT**.

Set down the “THINK” sign and hold up the “ACT” sign.

“Once you’ve stopped and taken time to think it through, **THEN** it’s time to make your move. It’s time to do what Solomon said: go to your safe place.

“Now, by ‘safe place,’ I don’t mean that corner over there. *(Point to the Safe Zone sign from the game.)* In fact, your safe place might not even be an actual place. It’s any kind of wise choice you make that keeps you away from danger or keeps you from getting in trouble.

“Foolish people barrel ahead without pausing to think. But wise people stop *(hold up the STOP sign)*, think *(hold up the THINK sign)*, then act. *(hold up the ACT sign).*”

TALKING BACK

LEADER: “Now that we know the steps we should take, let’s think through what that might look like in real life. I’ve got some signs here for each of you—STOP, THINK, and ACT.

Pass out a set of three signs to each kid.

“I’ll describe a couple of different scenarios. As you listen, hold up the sign that you think shows what you should do. I’ll call on you, and you can explain. Are you ready for the first one? *(Pause for response.)* Great. Let’s get started.

Hold up the clothes and laundry basket. Then

set them on the table.

“Your mom calls out to you to remind you to clean your room, and you’re already in the middle of cleaning it. You feel a little frustrated that she’s telling you to do it, yet again. You FEEL like talking back in a not-so-nice tone . . . so you . . .

Point out a kid who’s holding up their “STOP” sign.

“STOP, right? We should all be holding up our STOP signs right now before we do something we’d regret.

“So we STOP—then what should we THINK?

Hold up your “THINK” sign. (The kids should be doing the same.)

“Remember, when you THINK, you look around. You look ahead. Do you see danger? Ask yourself, ‘If I keep doing what I’m doing, what will happen?’ How about in this situation with your mom? What’s something you might THINK that could keep you from saying something you regret? When you think of something, hold up your THINK sign nice and high.

If a kid is holding up a “THINK” sign, call on them; otherwise, hold up your own “THINK” sign. Encourage answers such as, “If I say the first thing that pops into my head and talk back to my mom, that might lead to a week of no screen time or some other consequence.” Or, “It might make her mad and hurt our relationship.”

“Right. You’ve figured out it’s not a good idea to raise your voice to your mom. So

how should you ACT? What's your 'safe place'—or what's the safe thing you could do?"

If a kid is holding up an "ACT" sign, call on them; otherwise, hold up your own "ACT" sign. Encourage answers such as, "Hold your tongue and say, 'Yes, ma'am.'" Or "Pause your cleaning and walk into the room where she is and tell her—respectfully and kindly—that you were already cleaning and you'll get back to it right away."

VIDEO GAME

LEADER: "Let's try another example. Remember to hold up your signs if you have an idea.

Hold up the game controller. Then set it on the table.

"You're playing your new video game, and you've been playing it for a long time. You have a big test tomorrow, too, and you haven't studied. You're ALMOST to the next level . . . and you're having so much fun . . . but still, before you hit 'continue,' you choose to . . .

Point out a kid who's holding up their "STOP" sign.

"STOP. I know, it's tough. But you should probably hit pause on that game and do a little thinking.

Hold up your "THINK" sign. (The kids should be doing the same.)

"Remember, when you THINK, you look around. You look ahead. Do you see danger? Ask yourself, 'If I keep doing what I'm doing, what will happen?' What do you need to think about in this situation with the video game? If you have an idea, hold up your THINK sign.

If a kid is holding up a “THINK” sign, call on them; otherwise, hold up your own “THINK” sign. Encourage answers such as, “If I keep playing, I might not have enough time to study.” Or, “If I keep playing, I might fail the test tomorrow.”

“That’s right. You’ve figured out that it’s wise to stop playing the game, especially since you’ve already had plenty of time to enjoy it. The safe, wise choice is to give it a rest so you can get ready for the test. But let’s be honest. If you’re THAT close to leveling up, it will be really tough to stop the game and study. (*Hold up your ACT sign.*) What are some things you could do that would help you **[Basic Truth]** make the wise choice?”

If a kid is holding up an “ACT” sign, call on them; otherwise, hold up your own “ACT” sign. Encourage answers such as, “You could set a timer for only five more minutes of game playing before you study.” Or, “Maybe you could ask your brother or your mom to remind you to turn it off in a few minutes.”

ASSISTANT: **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

LEADER: “You all have some great ideas for how to STOP, THINK, and ACT. I bet you can think of some examples that have happened in your own life—situations when you forgot to stop and think. (*Hold up the STOP and THINK signs.*) Then you probably acted in a way that you wish you could go back and change. (*Hold up the ACT sign.*) That’s happened to all of us from time to time.

“You can probably think of times when you DID stop and think . . . and because of that, you **[Basic Truth]** made the wise choice. You put wisdom into action!

“From the very beginning, God designed people with the ability to think and act according to His wisdom. It’s still true for each one of us today. So don’t forget to stop, think, then act. (*Hold up the signs.*)

“As Solomon reminds us . . .

Open the Bible to Proverbs 22:3 (NirV) and read.

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

“You can keep your signs to help you practice this week and get in the habit of being wise. Remember . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Think before you act.

“Let’s ask God to help us do that.”

Video: Bible Story

SLIDE: Theme Loop

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, You are always with us. You’re always there to help us **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice.** Thank You for giving us wisdom when we remember to put our focus on You. Help us act as wise people and STOP, THINK, and ACT with the wisdom You’ve given us. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER

LEADER: “We can be wise if we follow Solomon’s good advice.

Open the Bible to Proverbs 22:3 (NIV) and read.

“Wise people see danger and go to a safe place.

“And, really, danger can come in all shapes and sizes. Danger could be a street without a crosswalk . . . a suspicious-looking website . . . or a movie that you know you’re not supposed to watch. It could be an unwise friend that you shouldn’t hang out with. It could be any temptation to break a rule.

“There might not be a big sign to warn you when there’s danger. (*Hold up the STOP sign.*) But let’s be real. We all know when something is dangerous—or at least we know when something MIGHT be dangerous. We can use the wisdom God has given us to stay out of that dangerous situation and walk the other way.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Think before you act. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “Think before you act.”

LEADER: “When you want to do something that you think might be dangerous, or if someone else tries to get you to do something dangerous, don’t just keep going without thinking about the consequences. Stop. Think. Think about what Jesus would do. Or talk to someone who’s wiser than you. It might save you from trouble.

“Then, after you’ve thought about what you should do, do it! Find your ‘safe place’ and go to it. Think about what’s wise and put wisdom into action. (*Hold up the signs.*) Stop, think, and act.

“In Small Group we’ll talk about what it looks like to do that in situations we face every day. Let’s go!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

SLIDE: Theme Background with music

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways (25 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God (10 minutes)

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Leader
- Archaeologist hat
- Shovel
- Plastic cups, one for each kid
- Small flashlights, one for each kid plus one for the Leader—see “What You Do”
- Chocolate gold coins (a few for each kid); or these can just be regular, non-chocolate toy gold coins
- Large “Safe Zone” sign