

AUGUST 29TH SCRIPT

Leader enters, wearing an archeological hat and carrying a **shovel, headset, coins, Bible, marker board, markers**
3 – legged race / bandana, TIMER

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

Video (Media Package): Theme

OPENER

LEADER: “Yes! I’m so glad to see all of you here today. We’ve had a ton of fun here at [your environment’s name], all month long. We’ve been ‘digging deep’ to find something that’s more valuable than any buried treasure. I’m talking about 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

“We can find wisdom when we spend time talking to God . . . reading the Bible . . . and hanging out with wise people. All of those are great ways that we can grow wiser in our relationship with God. Because you know what? God’s wisdom is always worth searching for. It can help us every single day of our lives!

“For today’s game, we’ll see how much progress we’ve all made on our digging skills. We’re bringing back every single game we’ve played this month for one epic relay race!

“You know what that means—time to divide into two teams.

Try to divide the teams equally according to age and ability. Assign one kid from each team to each task in the relay, although two need to be assigned to the three-legged race. Assign all additional kids on each team to the gold coin hunt. (For the other three tasks, try to pick kids who were there all month and already familiar with the games.)

Note: If you have fewer than ten kids in attendance, you can make everyone one single team going through the race together, racing against a three-minute timer.

“As you can see, everyone has a specific assignment in this relay. However, the thing that makes it a relay is that you can’t do your task until the person before you completes their task.

Bring the first two kids over to the buckets of cereal.

“So, we’ll start out with [kids’ names], who will find the marble in the mushy cereal using their toes. *(Pour the water in the buckets.)*

“Once they’ve successfully retrieved their marbles, it’s time for [kids’ names] to jump into action.

Bring the next two kids to the pie pans full of crushed cookies and gummy worms.

“[Kids’ names], you’ll put on the blindfolds and dig for gummy worms in the cookie ‘dirt’—but you can use your hands this time!

“After they’ve pulled out three gummy worms, then *(reference the kids who aren’t part of the other tasks)* all of you are up.

Address the kids who will hunt for gold coins.

“You’ll hunt around the room to find five gold coins. When your team has found five, we’ll finish with [kids’ names].

Bring the final two pairs of kids to the tape lines, facing the trash can full of balloons.

“They’ll tie their legs together with the bandanas like this. *(Demonstrate.)* Then they’ll walk, three-legged style, to the trash can and look for a balloon that matches their bandana color. When they find it, they’ll walk back to the finish line—carrying the balloon between them without touching it with their hands. At that point, your entire team needs to gather and recite the memory verse, James 1:5. If you get stuck, no worries; we’ll put it on the screen.

“The first team to complete this entire challenge, wins! Are there any questions?
(Pause for response.)

“Okay, places everyone! Remember, no starting your task until you’re certain your teammates before you have finished. On your mark, get set, go!

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

Stand back and keep an eye on each station, making sure the kids wait to start until the appropriate time. Cue the Memory Verse Slide when one team is about to complete their last task.

SLIDE: Memory Verse (on Leader’s cue)

When the first team finishes, have them say the memory verse together. Then lead them in encouraging the remaining team to finish.

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

“Amazing job, everyone! Wow! You all have really learned how to ‘dig deep’—and you really know how to work as a team. Please bring all the supplies, then let’s sing and celebrate God, because all of our wisdom comes from Him!”

Get the kids to help you collect the supplies from each station before you move on to Worship. Provide paper towels and wipes so the kids who did the messy tasks can clean-up.

WORSHIP

LEADER: “Before we worship God together, let’s watch this video.

Video: Live Loud *Video from Get Reel*

“We’re never alone because God is always there for us. He’s always there to give us wisdom. All we have to do is run to Him! Let’s sing about it!

Video: “*I Run to You*” *Dance Moves Music Video*

“I can run to God and know that He’ll be there for me because **[Basic Truth] I can trust Him no matter what.** As King Solomon once said, ‘*Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding.*’ (Proverbs 3:5, NIV) We can trust God—always! Let’s worship Him now.

Video: “*I Can Always Trust You*”

SLIDE: *Theme Background*

“I am so thankful that we follow a God who can help us and guide us—through the good times AND the tough times. I love worshipping Him with you! You can all have a seat.”

OFFERING

BIBLE STORY- LEADER

SETTING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “The apostle Paul was someone who really thought he had everything figured out. As a Jewish religious leader, Paul knew the 613 Jewish laws inside and out. He was convinced that he knew the exact right way to live. He tried to stop people from following Jesus because he didn’t believe that Jesus was the Savior God had promised.

“But then Paul MET Jesus in a flash of light—and his entire way of thinking changed! Paul then knew the truth, that Jesus is the Son of God. Paul began to travel to lots of different places, starting new churches as he shared the amazing news about Jesus. He wrote long letters—both to the churches he started and to those he heard about or wished to visit.

“Many of Paul’s letters are collected in the Bible (*hold up Bible*), including a famous letter he wrote to the church in Rome.

“In his letter to the Romans, Paul shared the truth about what God has done for us in sending Jesus—and how, if we put our faith in Jesus, it can change our lives. Paul gave a big challenge in Romans 12:2.

Open the Bible to Romans 12:2 (NIRV) and read.

“Don’t live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.”

THE WAY OF THE WORLD

LEADER: “Paul knew all about having a mind makeover! But changing your thoughts isn’t easy. Like if I said, ‘Whatever you do, don’t think about an elephant.’ (*Pause.*) DO NOT THINK ABOUT AN ELEPHANT. (*Pause.*) You’re thinking about an elephant, aren’t you?

“It’s REALLY hard to control your thoughts. When Paul wrote, ‘Don’t live the way this world lives,’ he was basically saying don’t let the world around you push you into thinking and saying and doing things.

“If we listen to the messages we get from certain movies or songs . . . from the way we hear people talk on TV or maybe even from some people we know . . . we might start to think things like this . . .

*As you say these phrases, write them on the dry erase board with the **red permanent marker**. Take your time so that the kids will wonder what’s next. (You can use shorthand for some, like “Be worried,” “Be angry,” “Stuff = happy.”)*

“Get it all.
Make money.
It’s all about me.
Be worried . . . all the time.
Be angry . . . all the time.
Have stuff and you’ll be happy.

“If we’re not careful, we can forget to think about what really matters. We can let the world around us tell us how to act, what to say, and what to think. And once those thoughts start, it can feel impossible to NOT think them.”

*Try to erase the words with the eraser.
Exaggerate your attempts to erase the ink by
pressing down hard, then try using your hand,
or even a spray bottle with water and a paper
towel. Then stand back and look perplexed.*

CHANGING YOUR MIND - ASSISTANT

LEADER: “So what can you do? It seems like it would be impossible NOT to think that way if those are the kinds of things you hear all the time.

“Well, according to Paul, it IS possible, if we allow our minds to be transformed with God’s wisdom. Remember, Paul wrote, ‘Let your way of thinking be completely changed.’ (*Romans 12:2, NIV*)

“We have to constantly change, or RENEW, our minds so that we can remember what’s most important. We can ask God to begin to change our thoughts so that we can live each day with wisdom. We can talk to other people who follow God, who can show us what it looks like to live God’s way instead of the way of the world.

“We can also read the Bible (*hold up Bible*) to change our minds with God’s wisdom. God has given us so many amazing truths we can focus on in His Word! Like the verse we heard a little while ago, Proverbs 3:5.

LEADER:

*Switch to the **black dry erase marker** from here on out.*

Write “PROVERBS 3:5” in big letters, covering as many of the words (i.e. as much of the red ink) as you can.

Open the Bible to Proverbs 3:5 (NIV) and read.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding.

Write “TRUST IN THE LORD” on the board, continuing to cover as many of the red words as you can. (Say the words as you write them.)

“And there’s Philippians 4:6-7 . . . –ASSISTANT .

Write “PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7” in big letters.

Open the Bible to Philippians 4:6-7 (NIRV) and read.

“Don’t worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him. Then God’s peace will watch over your hearts and your minds.

Write “DON’T WORRY,” “TALK TO GOD,” “ASK AND PRAY,” “GIVE THANKS.” (Say the words as you write them.)

“And also Romans 8:39 . . . ASSISTANT

Write “ROMANS 8:39” in big letters.

LEADER:

Open the Bible to Romans 8:39 (NIRV) and read.

“Nothing at all can ever separate us from God’s love. That’s because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.

Write “NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM GOD’S LOVE,” and draw a cross. (Say the words as you write them.)

Make sure that all of the negative words (red) are completely covered up by the black dry

erase marker. If not, write a few of the words over again like “TRUST IN THE LORD,” etc.

“God’s Word is full of wisdom and truth that will help us keep our thoughts on track!”

NEW THOUGHTS

LEADER: “As you focus on the truth that you read in the Bible—and as you spend time talking to God, and talking to others who follow God—your thoughts will shift.

Begin erasing the board. It will lift up the permanent red ink as well as the black dry erase ink.

If there are any remnants of the red lines still visible, quickly write over them with black then erase them.

“Over time, new thoughts will replace the old ones.

Once the board is at least mostly clean, write the new positive words (all caps) below in black.

“ASSISTANT”

As you focus on trusting God, instead of being worried, you’ll find WISDOM.

“Instead of being frustrated or angry, you’ll find yourself experiencing FAITH, PEACE, and COMFORT.

“Instead of feeling unloved and alone, you’ll remember that nothing can separate you from God’s love. You’ll feel LOVED and SECURE. You’ll know that you BELONG. And you’ll begin to share love and kindness with others, instead of only thinking about yourself.”

Set the marker down and face the kids.

WATCH BIBLE STORY

LEADER:

WRAPPING UP THE STORY -

LEADER: “These new thoughts will begin to replace the worried, angry, selfish thoughts that you might have had before. It’s as though God changes you from the inside out! Instead of being pushed around from the outside and paying attention to everything the world tells you, you have a brand-new way of thinking.

“As Paul wrote . . .

Open the Bible to Romans 12:2 (NirV) and read.

“Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.

“The more you invite God to change what happens in your head, the more you’ll grow in wisdom. And that’s something you can continue to do, every single day. God is always there to help you become wiser and wiser as you learn to follow Him.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Never stop growing in wisdom.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for giving us such an amazing way to grow in wisdom. You can help us change our thoughts so we can focus on You—and what’s true about You—instead of the things we might hear in the world around us. You want us to ‘dig deep’ and discover what matters most, and You’ve given us all we need to become wise. Help us spend time reading Your Word, talking with You, and spending time with people who follow You, so we can keep growing in wisdom. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER

LEADER: “A lot of people in the world do things just because everyone else is doing it. But Paul wrote that we shouldn’t live the same way as the world. We should think differently. We should even stand out—like Jesus did.

“You see when Jesus was here, He showed us a different way to live . . . a way where we don’t just like but LOVE everybody—even our enemies! When we put our faith in Jesus, when we believe that He died for us and then came back to life, His Holy Spirit will CHANGE us. We’ll be able to live in a completely new way. We’ll want to share His love with the people around us.

“Being wise means that we don’t make choices based on what we see in the world around us. We don’t make choices based on what WE want or what will help us get ahead. We can ask God to help us think differently so we can make choices based on what HE thinks is most important. Then we’ll be able to do what’s most important—love Him and love others.

“But remember, completely changing your way of thinking takes time. It’s something you and God will work on your whole life. And that’s okay! Just remember . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Never stop growing in wisdom. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “Never stop growing in wisdom.”

LEADER: “Wisdom is a treasure you’ll always be hunting for. But it’s worth the hunt! Let’s keep digging together in Small Group!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

SLIDE: Theme with music