

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Some decisions are too important to leave to chance. Seek wisdom from God, and he will direct your decision-making.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn to find wisdom in God.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Kings 3:4-15. Solomon asks for wisdom.

MEMORY VERSE:

"The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. " - Proverbs 4:18 (NIV)

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

SUMMARY:

In the game of Life, there are some things that happen by chance, and some that hap-pen by our decisions. We cannot let random chance rule our lives and make decisions for us. God wants us to seek him out and gain wisdom so when the pressure comes, we can make the best choices.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us the wisdom we need to make wise choices.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

EASY AT HOME OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A quarter

Flip the quarter a few times. Have a few kids try to predict if it will be heads and tails.

How many of you have ever made a decision based on the flip of a coin? What sort of decisions have you made with a flip of a coin?

A coin toss is a fun, easy, and simple way to make small choices. How many of you would use a coin flip to decide between two movies to watch? How many would use a coin flip to decide between a burger and chicken for dinner? How about chocolate or vanilla ice cream? How about deciding which of your two favorite shirts to wear?

How many of you would flip a coin to choose your college? How many of you would flip a coin to decide whether you want to get married or not?

When it comes to big decisions, the flip of a coin isn't such a hot idea, is it? Are you really going to leave big decisions in your life to chance? Not if you're wise.

Wisdom is a gift from God. We can gain wisdom through prayer, Bible study, and our elders. God wants us to seek wisdom and put it to use in the tough decisions of our lives. He wants us to be wise about the friends we choose, the education we pursue, the relationships we have, the way we spend our money, and more.

Wisdom isn't knowledge. It's using knowledge to make the best choices. It's asking what God would want us to do and having the courage to do it - no matter what.

Don't leave the big choices in your life up to chance. Ask God to give you wisdom, and put that wisdom to use when you need it!

FAMILY GAME TIME

SPIN TO WIN

ITEMS NEEDED:

Two spinners from board games with identical numbers or dice

INSTRUCTIONS:

Map out a race course for your competitors.

The winner is whoever gets to the finish line first. Racers will each take turns taking steps toward the finish line. On their turn, they must spin their spinner and only take as many steps as the spinner allows them. They can be as big a step as the racers want to take, but they can only go so many steps.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Real life isn't dependent on the spin of a wheel or the roll of the dice, but the choices we make. We can make better choices when we rely on God for wisdom.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

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INTRO

How many of you have played the game of Life? Life's a pretty complicated game to learn, isn't it? But then, life itself can be pretty complicated. In the game Life, you have some important decisions to make. Do you go to college, or do you skip college and get a job? Do you get married, or do you go it alone? All these decisions have an impact on how you do going around the board. Having a family will help you in some places but cost you money in others. Same thing for going to college! So how do you know how to make the right choices?

Other decisions in the game are made for you - specifically, how far can you go on your next turn? Right in the middle of the game board is the spinner, with numbers from 1 to 10. When we play the game of Life, we agree to let the spinner make decisions for us.

In a way, the spinner is a reflection on life because it reminds us that not every aspect of life is in our control. Accidents happen, good fortune happens, and we have no way of controlling those outside events. On the other hand, the spinner is a very random, haphazard way to move through the game. No one makes decisions in real life based on the spin of a spinner, or the roll of a die, or the flip of a coin. Or do they?

How many of you have ever made a decision based on the flip of a coin? Flipping a coin is an easy and fun way to make a decision that's pretty unimportant, such as chocolate or vanilla, or hot dog or hamburger. But some decisions are too big to leave to chance. That's why we need help in making the best choices when those big moments come. Today, we're going to look to a man in the Bible to show us how we can make wise choices.

READ 1 Kings 3:4-15

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

MAIN POINT

Solomon had a tough job. The king of Israel had a huge responsibility, and he wanted to do the best job he could. So above everything else he might have asked for, Solomon asked for wisdom.

Wisdom is different than knowledge. Knowledge is knowing facts and figures. Knowledge is knowing who, what, when, where, and how. Wisdom is knowing how to make the best decision based on the knowledge you have.

DRIVE IT HOME

Wisdom will help you to make big decisions in your life too. Do I go to college? Should I get married? Should I buy a house? Or in the case of your lives today: should I help my friend cheat on a test? Should I join in making fun of the new kid or be a friend to him? Should I keep this money I found, or find out who it belongs to?

Of course to get wisdom, you need to know where it comes from. Wisdom comes from God, the same person who granted it to Solomon. And God gives us a number of ways to gain wisdom from him.

For starters, we can go directly to God. Praying about our big decisions is a great way to gain the wisdom we need. Let God know the choice you have to make, and God will guide you to the answers.

One of the places God will send you to find wisdom is the Bible. Solomon wrote an entire book of Wisdom, Proverbs, that you can find right in the middle of your Bible. There are 31 chapters in Proverbs, so if you read a chapter a day, you'd finish it in a month.

If you read Proverbs, one of the lessons Solomon repeats over and over is to listen to your parents. Parents, teachers, pastors, and coaches can all be great sources of wisdom, and Solomon wisely encourages us to listen to them when we can. We can learn from the mistakes of others rather than repeat the same mistakes, and they can often help us with those tough choices.

Some decisions in life are too important to leave to chance. Don't make those big choices flippantly, or with the flip of the coin. When a big choice comes to you, take it to God. Pray about it. Look for wisdom in God's Word. Talk to your parents, or someone older who can advise you. In the end only you can make those big choices, and the more wisdom you gain, the better choices you will make.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

*Dear God,
Please give me the wisdom I need to make wise choices.
In Jesus' name, Amen*



LESSON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER

How many kids do you think you will have when you are all grown up?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read 1 Kings 3:4-15

Who was Solomon?

What choice did God offer to Solomon?

What did Solomon ask God to give him?

Why do you think Solomon asked for wisdom?

Are there people in our lives that can help us gain wisdom? Who?

How can we gain wisdom from God?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for the wisdom you give us. Help us to gain wisdom from you and from others so that we can make wise choices.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



LESSON REVIEW GAME

Multiple Choice.

1. Who was Solomon?
A. David's son
B. King of Israel
C. Both A and B*
2. What did God offer Solomon?
A. Anything he wanted.*
B. Wisdom.
C. Gold and silver.
3. What did Solomon ask for?
A. Power.
B. Wisdom.*
C. Wealth.
4. The best source for wisdom is
A. Self-help books
B. Talk shows
C. God*
5. Wisdom will help us
A. become rich.
B. make the best choices in our lives.*
C. gain lots of power.



CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids draw a comic based on Solomon's story of receiving wisdom from God.