

Large Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Opener
- Worship ("Know You More" and "The Good Thing")
- Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Conversation Starter
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Take a Snapshot
2. Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
3. Verses to Take with You
4. Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd guide.

THIS MONTH
▼



Today's Bible Story

Samuel Anoints David

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Conversation Starter

What does it mean to be wise?

Bottom Line

God can help you make the wise choice.

Memory Verse

"It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver."

Proverbs 16:16 NIV



Inclusive Pro Tips

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-cancelling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

① Welcome

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as kids enter.**SLIDE** → Theme**Optional Video** → Theme Loop

→ Host enters.

Optional Video → Countdown**Optional Video** → Theme Intro**Optional Video** → Theme Loop

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [NAME OF ENVIRONMENT]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

Opener

HOST: "Welcome to Wisdomland, everybody! Wisdomland is a theme park, but you don't just ride roller coasters—you become wiser! God, the wisest, wants to go with you through every up and down of your life and help you make choices to help you live well. My name's **[HOST NAME]** and today, you're going to be part of our special game in Wisdomland called: Decision Dilemma!"

"We all know theme parks are full of decisions. Which ride do you go on first? Do you get pizza or nachos or pizza nachos **(THAT SOUNDS AMAZING)**? Who sits in the front seat of the coaster? But guess what? Life is the same way! Every day, you make decisions that matter. That's what this whole series is about: God wants to help you make wise decisions so you live better and well!"

"Today, we'll kick things off with a team competition—Decision Dilemma. Here's how it works: I'm going to read out some tricky scenarios, scenarios where we want to find wisdom, scenarios that you might face in real life. But the situations will be tricky, so we'll talk them through."

"I'm going to give each team a buzzer **(OR PADDLE)**. Your job is to discuss the situation with your group, and buzz the buzzer **(OR RAISE YOUR PADDLE)** when you have some thoughts to share."

"I'll divide our group into teams and give each team a buzzer **(OR PADDLE)**.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

- Divide the room into at least two teams, give each team a buzzer (or paddle). If your group is small, and if it's easier, kids can just raise their hands when their team is ready to share their answers.

"Ready for your first Decision Dilemma? I'll call out a scenario. You discuss your group's response, and hit the buzzer (OR RAISE THE PADDLE) when you're ready to share your team's thoughts. Here we go!

"You see someone being left out at lunch. Is it wise to sit with them, even if your friends tease you? What is the wise thing to do and why?

- When a group signals in, invite them to share what they think the wise thing to do is. Encourage them to share their reasoning behind their answer, and try to make the point that God loves everyone and choosing courage over comfort is what God would do.

"Great job! Here's the next decision to make! You have homework due, but your favorite show just dropped a new episode. Do you binge-watch your show first, or finish your work? What's the wise thing to do and why?

- When a group signals in, invite them to share what they think the wise thing to do is. Encourage them to share their reasoning behind their answer, and try to make the point that being a student is a priority, and it honors God to work hard and be faithful.

"Great discussion! Here's your next decision you're faced with: A friend tells you a secret that could hurt them or someone else. Should you keep the secret and not share it with anyone, or tell a trusted adult? What's the wise thing to do and why?

- Invite the groups to discuss amongst themselves what wisdom looks like in this scenario, signal when they're ready, and discuss their reasoning behind their thoughts.

"Wow! I loved hearing everyone's thoughts and reasoning behind that. Here's our last decision dilemma: You have money to spend—do you buy candy, save your money, or give some away? What's the wise thing to do and why?

- Invite the groups to talk amongst themselves, buzz in when they have thoughts, and share their reasoning behind their thoughts. Prompt the kids to share stories of wise versus unwise spending.

"Decision Dilemma shows us something really important: Wisdom isn't always about having a quick answer. Sometimes you need to pause, think, and ask God for help—especially when there isn't an obvious right or wrong. God loves you and wants to help you go through any situation you face wisely and well!

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Today's Bible Story is about someone who had to follow God's leading to make the wise choice, but God walked him through it every step of the way. There were confusing moments and moments this person didn't understand, but God still went with him through it all and told him what the wise thing to do was."

"But before we look at that true story from the Bible, let's worship the One who goes with us through everything, and who wants to guide us to goodness with His wisdom!"

② Worship

→ Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Let's keep the energy rolling! One of the most powerful things in the process of finding God's wisdom is to turn your attention to God. Worship through music isn't just singing songs—it's about refocusing your heart, your mind, and your whole life on what matters most. As we worship, we draw near to the wisest One!"

"Maybe you're the type who loves to sing at the top of your lungs. Or maybe you connect best by reading lyrics, moving with the music, or just closing your eyes and listening. However you worship, know this—God sees you and loves when you turn your heart toward Him."

"Our first song today is 'Know You More' by Orange Kids. This song is basically a prayer—asking God to help us know Him more, trust Him more, and become more like Him. As we get closer to God, we'll get wiser because He is the wisest! Let's make this your prayer, whether you sing or just listen in your heart."

AUDIO → "Know You More" / track 1 from Focus

WORSHIP LEADER: "Awesome! Worship isn't about performance—it's about honesty and connection. Now let's sing another song that reminds us about the good thing God gives us in wisdom! God wants us to live well, so He gives us the good thing of wisdom! This song is called: 'The Good Thing.' Let's worship through it together!"

AUDIO → "The Good Thing" / track 1 from The Good Thing

WORSHIP LEADER: "Great job, everyone! Before we move on, let's lock in our Memory Verse for this month. I'll say a line, and you echo it back, okay?"

SLIDE → Memory Verse

It is much better to get wisdom than gold. (PAUSE FOR KIDS TO ECHO YOU.)

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

It is much better to choose understanding than silver. (PAUSE FOR KIDS TO ECHO YOU.)

Proverbs sixteen, sixteen. (PAUSE FOR KIDS TO ECHO YOU.)

WORSHIP LEADER: "Remember: Wisdom is better than any thrill ride, prize, or trophy. And God loves to share His wisdom with anyone who asks. Thanks for worshiping with me. Now, let's lean in and hear our true story from the Bible!"

③ Bible Story (Communicator Script)

SLIDE → Theme Background

→ Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Okay, Wisdomland crew—real talk. Has anyone ever looked at a theme park map and thought, 'Whoa, there's no way I'm going to find everything in here!?' You see all those winding paths, wild ride names, and hidden snack stands, and you just hope you don't get lost, right?"

→ Hold up the "Theme Park Map" printable and look confused.

"Here's the thing: Life can feel exactly like that. Some days, the way forward is crystal clear—like a bright sign pointing to your favorite ride. Other days, it's like the map is upside down, and you're just hoping you're headed the right way. Sometimes you need a little extra help to figure out where to go next."

TENSION

→ Hold up the magnifying glass.

COMMUNICATOR: "That's where wisdom comes in. Wisdom isn't just about being smart, getting good grades, or knowing all the answers. Wisdom is about seeing things clearly—finding the best way forward, especially when the path is confusing or there's a choice to make in the moment. Sometimes, wisdom means zooming in to see details others might miss. Sometimes, it's about stepping back and asking, 'What's really important here?'

"Let's say you're at a theme park, and your group can't decide which ride to try next. One friend wants the roller coaster, another wants to go to the arcade, and someone else just wants food. What do you do? Or maybe you've got a situation at home or at school where everyone expects you to make a quick decision, but you feel stuck. Those are wisdom moments—times when you need to pause, zoom in, and ask God for help."

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Here's the cool thing about wisdom: God will give it to anyone who asks Him for it. James 1:5 (NIV) says: 'If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you.'

"That's a promise, not just for adults or for people in the Bible, but for you—right now, right where you are.

→ **Demonstrate moving the magnifying glass over the map.**

"Let's imagine this map is your life. There are so many possible paths, so many choices—some that seem obvious, and some that aren't. Sometimes, you need to take a closer look. Maybe you're looking for a shortcut, or maybe you need to see if there's something dangerous up ahead that you can't see. The magnifying glass helps you find the details you might miss, just like God's wisdom helps you notice what really matters, even in the moment.

"As we head into today's story, I want you to think about what's happening in your life right now. Is there a choice, a situation, or a relationship where you need God's wisdom? Hold that in your mind. Today's Bible Story is all about a big moment when God guided someone to wisdom. God went with this person through every step and showed him what was wise.

"Let's get ready to dive in—and as we do, ask God to show you something new. Maybe there's a detail or a path you haven't noticed yet, and God is ready to help you see it!"

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

"Before we dive into today's story, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing this year! We're going through the entire story of the Bible!

"Why? Well, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we can get to know Him! So as we go through the stories of the Bible, we'll get to know God!

"We're going to go through God's Big Story! (GESTURE TO SLIDE.)

SLIDE → God's Big Story

"Each week, we'll look at a story from God's Big Story and add a picture of that story to our timeline, so we can see where we've been in the Bible as we journey along. (GESTURE TO TIMELINE.)

"Let me bring you up to speed on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

"So you might remember that in the very beginning, God made everything! He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore! It was so sad.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"And awful things happened to the world too. Pain, sickness, and death entered into it.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way! So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Many years later, Abraham's great-grandson Joseph ended up in Egypt. After some hard times, God helped Joseph become a super-important leader there! Joseph saved his whole family by bringing them to Egypt. But hundreds of years passed. God grew and grew His people. A new Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, came along. He didn't know about Joseph. He saw how many of God's people there were, he got scared, and he started being mean to them.

"God's people cried out to God for help. He answered! He brought His people out of slavery into a beautiful home He had for them—the Promised Land! After some time living in the Promised Land, God's people wanted a king like the other nations around them. And that's where we are in God's Big Story."

TRUTH

"Today, our story comes from a book of the Bible called 1 Samuel. (**HOLD UP BIBLE.**)

"Open your Bible or Bible app to 1 Samuel 16, and picture this: The nation of Israel, God's people, were stuck. They wanted a king, just like all the other countries around them. So, God gave them Saul—tall, impressive, the kind of guy everyone thought would be a great leader. But it didn't take long before Saul's choices started to slide. He ignored God, cared more about his own popularity, and kept making decisions based on what seemed easiest or most popular, instead of what God said.

"There also was a prophet who lived during Saul's time. He listened to God and shared God's messages with the people. At God's direction, Samuel had anointed Saul to be king. But Saul had gone bad as king. And Samuel was sad about it. But God had a plan. The Bible says:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:1 (NIV) and read.**

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you be filled with sorrow because of Saul? I have refused to have him as king over Israel. Fill your animal horn with olive oil and go on your way. I am sending you to Jesse in Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

"But Samuel was honest—he was afraid. He said:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:2 (NIV) and read.**

"How can I go? Suppose Saul hears about it. Then he'll kill me."

"Have you ever felt stuck between what you know is right and what

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

feels scary? Even Samuel, a very wise man who loved and trusted God, wrestled with fear. But God helped him through the moment and answered him:

→ Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:2-3 (NIV) and read.

"Take a young cow with you. Tell the elders of Bethlehem, 'I've come to offer a sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice. Then I will show you what to do. You must anoint for me the one I point out to you."

"Notice that God didn't give Samuel the whole plan—just the next step. That's often how wisdom works. God might not lay out the whole map for your life, but He'll guide you as you go, giving you what you need right when you need it. Are you willing to trust God with the next step, even if you don't know what's around the corner?"

"So Samuel obeyed. He went to Bethlehem, and the town leaders were nervous. Maybe they had heard about Saul, maybe they were just worried—Samuel was a big deal, and prophets usually showed up for important (SOMETIMES SCARY) reasons. Samuel reassured them: 'I've come in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' He invited Jesse and his sons to join the sacrifice.

"At the sacrifice, Samuel saw Jesse's first son—Eliab. He looked impressive, strong, confident. Samuel thought, 'This has to be the one.' But God interrupted his thoughts and shared:

→ Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV) and read.

"Do not consider how handsome or tall he is. I have not chosen him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outside of a person. But the Lord looks at what is in the heart."

"Highlight that in your Bible—God isn't impressed with appearances, grades, followers, or popularity. He cares about your heart—what's happening on the inside, and particularly, how you love Him.

"Jesse called forward his second son, Abinadab. Then his son Shammah, then four more. Seven sons in total, and each time, Samuel listened for God's whisper.

"Each time, God said, 'No, not him.'

"Samuel could have chosen what looked obvious. He could have picked the firstborn, the biggest, the strongest—what everyone expected. But Samuel waited for God's wisdom in the moment, even if it made him stand out or look strange.

"Let's step into this scene—seven sons have stood before Samuel, and God has said no to every single one. This is the conversation between Samuel and Jesse.

→ Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:11a-b (NIV) and read.

"Are these the only sons you have?"

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"No," Jesse answered. "My youngest son is taking care of the sheep." "David wasn't even there. His own family didn't think he was important enough to invite! Maybe you've felt like that—overlooked or underestimated. Remember, God sees what others miss. He cares deeply about people, and about you! Even if no one else notices you, God does!"

"Samuel told Jesse:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:11c (NIV) and read.**

"Send for him. We won't sit down to eat until he arrives."

"The whole family and the prophet were waiting. Someone rushed out to the field to get David. And David came in to the sacrifice. The Bible described David this way:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:12a (NIV) and read.**

He looked very healthy. He had a fine appearance and handsome features.

"But once again, remember, God wasn't picking a king based on looks. He was looking at David's heart. He knew that David loved Him and that he had done his best to follow Him. God saw the kind of person David was when nobody was watching, the choices he made when he was just caring for sheep in the fields.

"Then God said to Samuel:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:12b (NIV) and read.**

"Get up and anoint him. This is the one."

"All the older brothers—bigger, stronger, more experienced—were watching as Samuel reached for his horn of oil and walked over to David. There was silence, maybe disbelief, maybe surprise. But Samuel obeyed.

"Samuel took the oil, a symbol of God's calling and blessing, and poured it on David's head. The Bible says:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:13 (NIV) and read.**

So Samuel got the animal horn that was filled with olive oil. He anointed David in front of his brothers. From that day on, the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully on David.

"Let's not rush past that. In the Old Testament, God's Spirit would come upon certain people. But because of Jesus' death and resurrection, when we choose to follow Jesus, God's Spirit lives inside us today. And God's Spirit came powerfully on David—not because he was ready to be king that day, but because God was starting something new in him. God wanted to be even closer to David.

"But David didn't become king right away. He went back to the fields for

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

years, taking care of sheep, learning, growing, and waiting. God was preparing him for something big—even when no one else could see it. “So what does it look like for you to wait for God’s wisdom? Maybe you’re hoping for a big change, or maybe you feel stuck in the ordinary stuff—school, chores, practice, family life. God isn’t just interested in your ‘big moments.’ He wants to build wisdom in you every day, right where you are. The choices you make when no one is watching—being honest, working hard, loving your family—those are the choices that shape your heart. That’s what God saw in David.

“Think about what it would feel like to be anointed king, but then told to go back to shepherding sheep. Would you be tempted to brag or rush things, or would you trust God’s timing? Real wisdom trusts God’s timing. David’s story reminds us that you don’t have to be the oldest, strongest, or most popular for God to notice you—He’s looking for hearts that love and trust Him.

“Samuel, for his part, had to trust that God knew what He was doing. Samuel might have wondered if people would understand or support his choice. But Samuel was faithful to what God told him, not just what others expected. That’s what sets wise leaders apart: they listen for God’s voice, even when it leads them down unexpected paths.

“After Samuel anointed David, you’d think everything would change overnight. But that’s not what happened! Instead of moving into the palace, David went right back to his everyday life—taking care of sheep. That’s where God kept building wisdom in him. While David was alone with the sheep, he learned how to protect them from wild animals, how to play music, how to worship God, and how to listen for God’s voice. No one else saw it, but God did. Those quiet, faithful choices were shaping David into a wise leader long before anyone called him ‘king.’

“Meanwhile, Saul was still king. God’s favor had left Saul because he kept making unwise choices, choosing his own way instead of God’s. Saul became more insecure, more jealous, and less open to God and His wisdom. This is a huge reminder for all of us—when you choose to ignore God’s voice, wisdom slips away. When you invite God in, wisdom grows.

“One of the most famous stories about David happened during these waiting years—the story of David and Goliath. Israel’s army, the army of God’s people, was in a standoff with the Philistines. Every day, a giant named Goliath stepped forward and shouted at Israel’s soldiers. He was over nine feet tall, wore massive armor, and carried huge weapons. Goliath dared anyone to fight him, saying:

→ Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 17:8 (NIV) and read.

“Choose one of your men. Have him come down and face me.”

“Day after day, no one dared to accept the challenge. Was it wise for the soldiers to hide in fear and let Goliath keep talking? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)

“David wasn’t even a soldier—he was just bringing food to his brothers. But when he heard Goliath mocking God and saw everyone hiding,

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

something stirred in him. David trusted God and knew he was strong because God was with him.

"David told Saul:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 17:32 (NIV) and read.**

"Don't let anyone lose hope because of that Philistine. I'll go out and fight him."

"Was it wise for David to step forward, even though he was younger and smaller? (PAUSE FOR RESPONSES.)

"David picked up five smooth stones and his sling-tools he'd practiced with while caring for sheep—and he went out to face Goliath. The giant laughed at him, but David replied:

→ **Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 17:45 (NIV) and read.**

"You are coming to fight against me with a sword, a spear and a javelin. But I'm coming against you in the name of the Lord who rules over all."

"David ran forward, slung a stone, and struck Goliath in the forehead. The giant fell, and the Israelites, God's people, won an unbelievable victory.

"David's courage came from His closeness with God and the wisdom he got from that closeness—wisdom to remember God's power, to step up when everyone else was afraid, and to trust that God is the strongest, even when the odds looked impossible.

"Here's what you need to know: Wisdom isn't about always having the biggest voice, the best looks, or the strongest muscles. It's about being close to God, remembering what He has said is true, and going with Him together through life, one step at a time, no matter what you face! God goes with you every step of the way. And relying on Him? That's wisdom.

"After David's victory over Goliath, his life changed forever. People cheered for him, sang songs about him, and King Saul brought him into the palace. But even then, life wasn't easy. Saul became jealous and tried to hurt David. David spent years on the run, hiding in caves and forests, never sure who he could trust. Yet even then, David kept searching for God and His wisdom every step of his life.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "Sometimes, David made mistakes—big ones. He sinned. There were times when he lost his temper, made selfish decisions, or even hurt others. But the difference was, whenever David sinned, he was willing to stop, admit it, and ask God for forgiveness. He came back to God. That's wisdom too: not pretending you're perfect, but being humble enough to own your mistakes, to come back to God, and to let God help you grow.

"As we see in David's anointing story, wisdom isn't just about what people see on the outside—it's about the honesty and openness in your heart with God. God cares far more about your willingness to listen, to ask for help, and to trust Him, than He does about how strong, talented, or impressive you look.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

"Eventually, David became king, just as God promised. He led Israel through great victories and some tough losses. But the true legacy David left wasn't his army or his palace—it was the way he kept coming back to God. When he was lost, scared, or overwhelmed, David turned to God, just like he did as a young shepherd. When he sinned, He turned to God. That's why we're still talking about his story today.

"And here's the coolest part: God's wisdom that helped Samuel choose David, and helped David face giants, is available to you. You don't have to wait until you're older or until you feel important. God's Spirit is ready to guide you right now, right where you are.

"So how does this play out in real life? Maybe you're trying to make a big decision about friends, sports, activities, or how to treat someone at school. Maybe you're wrestling with something no one else knows about. Wisdom starts with pausing, inviting God into the process, and listening for His guidance—even if it's just one small step at a time.

"You might feel like you're in the 'waiting years,' like David in the fields, wondering if God really sees you or has a plan for you. Or maybe you're facing a 'giant'—a problem or fear that feels too big to handle. Wisdom is knowing you don't have to face it alone. God loves your heart. He wants to fill you with His wisdom, and He'll help you see the next right step, even when the way forward feels foggy.

"Remember, Samuel's story isn't about getting it right every time or knowing all the answers in advance. It's about showing up, listening for God's voice, and being willing to trust Him—even if it's awkward or hard. Wisdom is built one choice at a time, and God is patient as you grow. Your willingness to listen, learn, and lean into God's wisdom can make a difference, not just in your life, but in the lives of everyone around you.

"So as you head out this week, keep your spiritual 'magnifying glass' close. Keep looking for wisdom in every moment—big and small. Ask God for help, and don't be afraid to wait, try again, or change direction if you need to. God wants to give you His wisdom so you can go through life well!

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

STORYTELLER: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!

SLIDE → God's Big Story

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story with David kneeling and having Samuel pour oil over his head to anoint him as the next king. (GESTURE TO SLIDE.) That's where we are in God's Big Story!

"This week, we looked at the story of the prophet Samuel and how he listened to God. Samuel had an important job to do—anointing the next king—and God helped him know what was wise. God helped Samuel see that David's good heart toward Him was what was most important.

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

But God was doing something even bigger through David. God loved David and us so much that many, many years later, Jesus, the Savior of the world, would come from David's family. God was working on a plan that would stretch for hundreds of years—all the way to Jesus! God was working through David to save us, because Jesus would rescue us all!

"Let's put our image on the timeline

SLIDE → Week 1 Timeline Image

- If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's timeline image on the clothesline.

"This week we talked about Samuel."

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "When we think about Samuel, we can remember that God helped him see what was truly wise.

"But the story doesn't end with Samuel, it continues with you. Every day, you have moments that matter—moments when you might feel nervous, invisible, or stuck. In those times, God sees you. He cares about your heart, and He loves to guide you, just like He did with Samuel and David.

"As you leave today, remember that wisdom isn't about always having the answers—it's about going with God through everything, asking Him for help, and being willing to trust Him, one step at a time.

"As you head into this week, here's something to carry with you and talk about with God and others:

SLIDE → Conversation Starter

[CONVERSATION STARTER] "What does it mean to be wise?"

SLIDE → Theme Background

"Does wisdom look like always having the right answer? Or is it about going with God through everything, and asking Him for help as you go? Think about where you need wisdom most right now. Who can you talk to? What's one step you can take to listen for God's voice and live out wisdom this week? Don't rush past the question—let it shape your prayers, your friendships, and your choices. God is ready to guide you, moment by moment. But before we head out, let's talk to God together now!"

Preteen

Large Group

October — Week 1

25 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

③ Prayer

COMMUNICATOR: "God, thank You for seeing us and loving us. Thank You for helping Samuel listen, for choosing David, and for sending Jesus. Please give us wisdom for the moments ahead—at school, at home, and everywhere we go. Help us listen, trust, and follow You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

SLIDE → Theme

Optional Video (MEDIA PACKAGE) → Theme Loop

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Welcome/Opener

What You Need

- Host
- Game show buzzers (like these: <http://bit.ly/4IUuNvD>) or ping-pong paddles (one for each team; if not available, use hand-raising)

Music and Sound Effects

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room

Large Group Visuals

- Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

Optional Videos

- Theme Loop
- Countdown
- Theme Intro

What You Do:

- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download music and/or sound effects on an authorized basis from a resource such as Apple Music®, Amazon Music®, and/or a sound effect library and have it ready to play. Or, if you choose to stream music, refer to the terms and conditions of your streaming service. Note that you will likely need a commercial license in order to stream music publicly. Also confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform music and sound effects in your kids' environments, such as a blanket PERFORMmusic™ license from CCS. Note: Legally a song and/or sound effect belongs to the songwriter/composer who created it and the publisher who markets it. Performance rights organizations (PROs) license public performances (live or recorded) of their members' music. PROs in the U.S. are ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC. It is up to you to make sure your church has permission to perform or play a recording of a song and/or sound effect.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Worship

What You Need

- Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects

- "Know You More" from Focus
- "The Good Thing" from The Good Thing

Optional Videos

Available for purchase.

- "Know You More" Dance Moves or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- "The Good Thing" Dance Moves Video or Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)

What You Do:

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from *Amazing Kids Worship* and *Orange Kids Music*. We've created these songs to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids, incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at [store.ThinkOrange.com](http://thinkorange.com) or for free with APlay.

A Worship Leader and live instruments are recommended to sing along with the music tracks. Encourage children to be active during worship by incorporating the appropriate hand motions.

- Download all songs and have them ready to use.

Note: Make sure your church has obtained licensing rights to play or perform music. You can obtain a license to perform worship music from Christian Copyright Licensing International (www.ccli.com). It covers over 200,000 worship songs for congregational singing. You are responsible for including the copyright information on all songs reproduced under the Church Copyright License (including song lyrics projected onscreen). This includes the song title, writer credit(s), copyright notice, and your church's CCLI license number. You can include this information on one of the lyric slides, or you can create a separate slide detailing this information, but the copyright information must appear at least once for each song you play or perform. For example: "Hallelujah" words and music by John Doe ©2000 Good Music Co.

CCLI License # 0000

- Dance Moves Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many *Orange Kids Music* songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- Visit the Orange Store for Music Scope and Cycle purchases. Check out the Ministry Leader Guide for more information.

PLANNING

Getting Ready: Bible Story

Optional for God's Big Story

- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room
- God's Big Story Slide
- Week 1 Timeline Image Slide
- We recommend that you create a timeline in your Large Group room that you can add to throughout this curriculum year as we travel through the Bible. This can be a simple clothesline or a section of the wall where you can hang the printed timeline images in order, week by week. We'll provide a timeline image for each week of curriculum. The timeline image is listed as a slide, but can be printed. A [God's Big Story poster](#) is available as well in the Orange Store.

Optional Videos

- Theme Loop

What You Need:

NOTE: We're so excited to be going through key stories of the Bible this year and learning more about its Author—God! It's God's Big Story! But to provide you with flexibility as you experience God's Big Story in your own unique setting, there's more than one way to use the following script!

If you want to follow "God's Big Story," read the following script straight through. Each week will build on the previous ones. But, if your church wants to teach a Large Group session on its own as a standalone, without connecting it to what has come before, there are two sections in the script below that are optional—"God's Big Story Opener" and "God's Big Story Closer."

Whatever way you decide to use the following, know that we're praying diligently for you—we're asking God to help kids see and believe that He loves them, He invented them, and He wants to be their closest Friend. Forever. It's an honor to get to know God with you through the Bible this year!

- Communicator
- Bible
- Magnifying glass prop (like this: <http://bit.ly/44J4KAi>)
- "Theme Park Map" (printable)

Music and Sound Effects

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals

- Theme Background Slide
- Conversation Starter Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Theme Slide

What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
- Print out the "Theme Park Map" printable and fold it into thirds, like a map.

Video Enhancements for Your Environment

Available in your media files and APlay.

Our Large Group scripts are interchangeable with these videos so you can plug and play the way you need to each week.

For 252 Kids (KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 3RD GRADE):

→ StoryLab: Invite elementary kids to engage with inquisitive young hosts as they explore core biblical truths and stories in a STEAM-inspired setting.

For 252 Preteen (4TH AND 5TH GRADE):

→ The So & So Show: Guide preteens to explore questions of faith through a YouTube-style show full of humor and lots of zany fun.

Additional environment enhancements including:

→ Motion graphics, including loops
→ Themed transitions
→ Countdown videos (30 seconds, 60 seconds, and 5 minutes)

APlay

Get the most out of your curriculum with APlay! JoinAPlay.com is an all-in-one media organization and presentation tool. Experience all of your Orange Curriculum media assets, now pre-built and fully customizable. No more sorting through multiple download folders.

APlay is free with your curriculum subscription and packed with features to help your weekly experience run smoother. APlay gives you more time to focus on what truly matters — more ministry, less media management with Apple TV-based media solutions.