

STUMIN

SMALL GROUP
LEADER GUIDE

MIDDLE
SCHOOL
FOCUS

CHEAT CODES

MARCH 1, 2023

Week 1 of a 4-week series about the relationship between wisdom and faith

BOTTOM LINE

God gives us wisdom for life.

SCRIPTURE

[The purpose of Proverbs] is to teach people wisdom.

- Proverbs 1:2a NLT

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track.

- Proverbs 3:5-6 MSG

GOALS OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand what wisdom looks like and to encourage them to apply wisdom to their lives



>> BEFORE GROUP

THINK ABOUT THIS: The conversations over the next four weeks in this series will center around wisdom. Because that term may be unclear to your middle schoolers, be sure to define it in this conversation to kick off small group. Wisdom is doing what's best for you and the people around you. It's more than right and wrong. Rather, it's about trusting in and following what God says is best. And wisdom is something we can only find in God, who gives it generously when we ask. So, this week, encourage your group to ask God for wisdom. Be sure also to define what it means to listen for God's wisdom. While they won't literally hear God's voice (though that would be cool!), they can hear God through the pages of Scripture, the leading of the Holy Spirit, the words of other Christians in their lives, and more. Helping to make these abstract and potentially new concepts more concrete will help them take hold of the ideas you're talking about not just this week, but over the course of the whole series.

>> DURING GROUP

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.

DISCUSS THIS:

- What's your favorite video game or online game? What cheat codes have you used while playing it?
- Think of a wise person you know. What makes them wise?
- In your own words, how would you define "wisdom"?
- Describe a situation where choosing to be wise would be difficult.
- Share a story about a time you made a wise or an unwise decision.
- How do you think choosing to be wise could make your life better?
- How might listening for God help you choose what's wise?
- There are a lot of ways we can listen for God's wisdom, like in the Bible, through worship music, in nature, through messages at StuMin, or in the words of other Christians. What else would you add to this list?
- Which of these ways do you want to try listening for God this coming week?
- Where did you see God this past week?

TRY THIS:

- Work together as a group to memorize Proverbs 3:6 (*Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track.*) by turning it into a song or a rap.

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>> BEFORE GROUP

THINK ABOUT THIS: This series focuses on the value of wisdom—specifically the wisdom that comes only from God. Because wisdom may feel like an abstract term or concept to your students, it's important to define it by example. So, encourage them to think about who the wise people in their lives are. What is it about the way they live that puts wisdom on display? Ask students to consider what wisdom looks like lived out in real people they really know first. Then, shift the focus back to them, asking them to consider what characteristics they just described in others that they may see in their own lives, too.

>> DURING GROUP

Create meaningful conversations. Adjust the questions as needed and ask thoughtful follow-up questions as the conversation unfolds. Don't feel like you need to answer every question.

DISCUSS THIS:

- In your own words, describe what it means to be wise.
- Who is the wisest person you know? Describe what it is about them that shows you they're wise.
- Why do you think God wants to give us wisdom?
- In what ways might wisdom help you win at life?
- Share about a confusing or challenging situation you are experiencing in your life right now. How might wisdom give you a cheat code toward resolution?
- As you look ahead to college or the next phase of your life, how do you think wisdom can help you get there and then navigate through it?
- What's one way you can pursue wisdom this week?

>> AFTER GROUP

Leaders, remember that sometimes you see things in your students that they may not recognize in themselves. So, this week make time to connect with them and point out ways you've seen them exercise wisdom in their lives. Be a voice that encourages them to keep being wise by reminding them they already are!