



WISDOM

Bible Story: Jesus Prays in Gethsemane – Matthew 26:36-46

Point: When I have tough decisions to make, God helps me.

Bible Verse: “Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.” ~ Proverbs 3:6 NIRV

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION

- Read the Bible story Matthew 26:36-46.
- Say the point and Bible verse together.
 - Point – ***When I have tough decisions to make, God helps me.***
 - Verse – ***Proverbs 3:6 “Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.”***
- Discuss the following questions
 - **Who will show us what the wise decision is when we have a choice to make?** (God)
 - **What does it mean to, “Seek His will in all you do?”** (When you need to make a decision, take a minute to ask God what to do.)
 - **When should you ask God for wisdom?** (When you have a decision to make, when you’re not sure what to do, when people tell you to do different things, etc..)
 - **In the Bible story, Jesus made a hard decision: He chose to die on the cross. What do you think made Him choose to do that?** (Answers will vary.)
 - **Kids make lots of decisions every day. Out of all those decisions, are there ones where God’s wisdom is especially helpful? What are they and why is God’s wisdom so helpful?** (Answers will vary. *Parent note: the wisdom a parent would ask for and the wisdom a kid would ask for are different. You might gain some great insight into what your kids are thinking about and/or struggling with by how they answer this question. OR, perhaps your kids aren’t aware that there are things they SHOULD be asking for wisdom about.*)
 - **How can you create the habit of asking God each time you need wisdom?** (Answers will vary.)
 - **Is there anything you want to ask God for wisdom about this week?** (Answers will vary.)
 - **Is there anything you’re struggling with or afraid of that we can pray for?** (Answers will vary. Pray together.)

ACTIVITIES

“Strategy Game”

Parent Note: All of the games and activities listed involve strategy or “decision making” and the story this week is all about asking God for wisdom when making decisions. As the kids are having fun playing the games, remind them that just like in these games, life also involves making decisions. It’s wise to pause and think and ask God before acting.

Supplies needed: Any board game you have around your house that involves “strategy” (Clue, Checkers, Tic-Tac-Toe, Memory Game, cards, etc.), or play a game outside that involves “strategy” (Red Rover, basketball, football, golf, etc).

Other ideas:

1. Download the “Game of Life” app and play it together.
2. Go to abcya.com and pick what grade your child is in. Once in that grade category, select “Strategy” and choose a strategy game to play.

“What Should I Do?”

Supplies needed: No Supplies needed.

Say: When we make decisions without seeking God, things can get foolish pretty fast! But when we remember God is with us to help us make wise decisions, things tend to go a lot better for us. Let’s read a story about that.

1. **Read** the story below.
2. **Pause** at each “Decision Time” and ask your kids what to do.
3. Regardless of what your kids say, choose the underlined answers. **NOTE:** Be silly when you’re going against the kids’ advice so they can laugh about it instead of getting frustrated.

What Should I Do??

Everything is weird, I don’t have to get up and head out to school in the morning, but I still have work to do. My parents tell me getting a good night’s sleep is still important but I’m having trouble falling asleep. I see my journal sitting next to my Bible. I know writing in my journal would help me calm down. But I also see my tablet with my favorite game, BUG BLASTER, ready to play. My parents have told me I’m not allowed on my tablet after bedtime. But I really want to play.

DECISION TIME!

Should I journal about how I’m feeling, read the Bible verse I’ve been learning in Hope Kids, and go to sleep? **OR** *Should I play BUG BLASTER on my tablet to calm me down until I fall asleep?*

I decide to play BUG BLASTER. But the funny thing is, it doesn’t make me feel any calmer. In fact, the longer I play, the more awake I feel. So, I keep playing. It takes me *hours* to fall asleep. When my mom wakes me up in the morning, my eyes don’t want to open. She has to come back in my room four times just to get me out of bed. And once I’m up, I’m *so* cranky. I snap at my sister and complain about how tired I am. When it’s time for breakfast, I don’t even want the food my mom’s set out for me. You know what I do want? COOKIES. Cookies sound great. And Mom’s in her room getting ready for the day, so I could probably grab a few and she wouldn’t even notice.

DECISION TIME!

Should I eat the healthy breakfast my mom made for me? **OR** *Should I grab some cookies and eat them?*

I grab three cookies and eat them before my mom comes back. And then, I *lie* to her and tell her I’m not very hungry and can’t finish the breakfast she made for me. Fast-forward a couple of hours. It’s time for me to work on my school work. By now, I feel awful. I’m super sleepy because I stayed up so late and my stomach is growling because I ate cookies for breakfast instead of something healthy. And guess what else? I just can’t focus. I’m so tired, I actually fall asleep halfway through and don’t even finish my work.

Fast forward to 5:00. I tell my mom about *everything*: about sneaking time on my tablet *and* eating cookies for breakfast. I tell her I fell asleep and didn’t finish my work. I would’ve done fine if I had made wiser choices. My mom is pretty disappointed in me. She grounds me from my tablet for a week and puts it on the top shelf in the living room.

DECISION TIME!

Should I accept my consequence with a good attitude? **OR** *Should I throw a fit and tell my mom it's ridiculous to ground me for a whole week?*

My mom is right. My choices were poor—and my lies weren't good for our relationship. I decide to accept my consequence without arguing or complaining. We hug, and I feel a lot better. When bedtime comes around, I start to feel nervous about tomorrow. I see my journal and my Bible. But I also know I could sneak my tablet from the living room and get some time in on BUG BLASTER.

DECISION TIME!

Should I write in my journal about how I'm feeling, read my Bible verse, and go to sleep? **OR** *Should I sneak my tablet and play BUG BLASTER as long as my eyes will stay open?*

No more foolishness for me! I write in my journal about how nervous I'm feeling. I ask God to help me calm down. I also write about the unwise choices I've made and what I've learned. I read my Bible verse, too! Proverbs 3:6 *Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.* It dawns on me: that's what I've been missing! I've forgotten to ask God to help me make wise choices. His choices are always good and will make me feel good too. I finish journaling and reading in 15 minutes. When my mom tells me to turn out my light, I head for bed and fall asleep peacefully. When my mom wakes me up the next day, I feel great! ... But then I see what we're having for breakfast, and it doesn't look very good. And I know my parents got some double chocolate chunk cookies last night, and those sound pretty tasty.

DECISION TIME!

Should I eat the healthy breakfast my mom made for me? **OR** *Should I grab some cookies and eat them?*

I decide to try the breakfast my mom set out for me, and guess what? It actually tastes pretty good! Now I feel strong and ready to face my day. I feel so awake and prepared. I'm able to stay awake, do my work, and get it done early! I tell my mom how much easier it was for me to get my work done when I wasn't distracted by sleepiness and my tummy growling! I'm so glad I learned that God can help me make wise choices!

Say: Making a wise decision is hard, especially when you really *want* to do something foolish, instead! Thank you, Jesus, for always being with us to help us know *and* choose the wise decision.

JOURNAL

- Think about a decision you have to make today. Write or draw a picture of how you might ask God for the wisdom to make that decision.
- Write down your prayer requests.

PRAYER

- Pray for the requests that you wrote down in your journal.

- Pray for wisdom to make decisions.

Not sure what to say? Pray this: God, thank You for Your promise to give us wisdom. I need your wisdom in _____ (fill in what you want to ask God about). Please help me remember to ask You for help and remember to trust you. In Jesus' name, Amen.