



DATE(S)

January 14-15, 2023

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

Get Smart – Week 2 (Be Wise)

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

God wants us to be wise!

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Proverbs 2:12; Proverbs 12:15
Proverbs 13:1; Proverbs 14:16
Ephesians 5:15-17

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

"Real or Fake"

Do you STILL trust what you see??? Well, guess again! This screen game will put your group to the test to see if these pictures are real or fake! If a team answers correctly, they win a point, but if they answer incorrectly, they lose a point! This game can be played either in life groups or you can just have them play on their own and do sides of the room (one side if they think it is real – the other if they think it is fake).

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

ACTIVITIES

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

What is your BEST talent?

This new year – if you had to try one new food and one new drink what would it be?

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING

LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

Get Smart—Week 2 (Be Wise)
January 14-15 2023

Hey everyone! We are in the middle of our “Get Smart” series and today, we are going to talk about how to be wise. Let’s face it...sometimes people don’t make very wise decisions....like this guy for instance [tarantula picture]...or this guy [crocodile picture]

God wants us to be WISE!

Our THP today is more of a commitment statement or a goal. I want us to look at how we can become a wise person and how we can show wisdom in the decisions that we make.

Before we can even do that though we should talk about what wisdom even is. It is the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment. Take a second and think to yourself - does that describe me?

Now, the reality is even if you think it does...every single one of us has made a bad decision. Everyone here has made a dumb decision at least once in their life.

(Leaders Note: Share a personal story about a dumb decision you made and what you learned from it. I’m sure you can think of at least one!)

Some of these situations where we make dumb decisions, we even had people try to stop us or give us advice about doing the right thing...and we still did it anyway! The reality is that all of us could benefit from more wisdom in our life. Even the wisest people recognize that they can continue to grow in wisdom. There’s never a stopping point.

In light of my past experience, my current circumstances, and my future hopes and dreams, what is the WISE thing to do?

This is such an important question. Just think to yourself...if you had taken time to think about, ask yourself, and answer this question...how many mistakes or bad decisions could you have avoided?

Proverbs 2:12: *“Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men.”*

A smart person...even a foolish person can learn from their own mistakes; a WISE person learns from the mistakes of others. –Otto Van Bismarck

THE MESSAGE

Just like the situation and story I shared with you earlier, I learned from my own mistake. That happens to all of us, doesn't it? However, a truly wise person not only learns from their mistakes but also chooses to change because of their mistakes. We can see that our choices suffer negative consequences and it can cause us to think twice about making a similar choice again.

A wise person is a teachable person; a foolish person is a defensive person.

Proverbs 12:15: *"The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice."*

Proverbs 13:1: *"A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not respond to rebukes."*

These verses tell us that in order to be wise, we have to be open to the advice and instruction of others, which totally makes sense. I mean, if you wanted to build a roller coaster, some of you might have an idea in your head of what it looks like, how fast it would be, how many loops it would have, etc. Others of us wouldn't have a clue where to begin! Nevertheless, you would have to ask a team of engineers, construction workers, and designers to help you. They would have to give you advice so no one would die when they rode it!

Yet, in other areas of our life, we sometimes refuse to take advice from people who know us, know more than us, and care about us. THAT'S why they're telling us...BECAUSE they love us!

I think it is so easy for us to become defensive about a bad decision we have made. We might make excuses or try to soften the effect of the consequences. Here's the weird thing: if someone else did it, we wouldn't do that for them. We might think, "Well that's stupid." Isn't interesting that we judge other people by their actions, but we judge ourselves by our intentions?

A foolish person thinks they can get all the way to the edge of the cliff and NOT fall off; a wise person doesn't even try to find out. I know all of us have tried to push to the very edge with our parents or friends. It's like "How far can I go before they get mad or I get in trouble?" If you continue to think that way as you get older, wisdom won't have a place in your life. Proverbs 14:16 says, *"The wise fear the LORD and shun evil, but a fool is hotheaded and yet feels secure."*

A lot of us are quick to respond when someone is trying to give us wisdom and lead us in the right way. We don't ask ourselves if what they are saying can be helpful instead we respond with things like

- Nothing is going to happen.
- It's no big deal.
- _____ gets to do it. Why can't I?
- You're overreacting.

THE MESSAGE

Listen...wisdom does not come naturally to everyone. You have to seek it out! If you want to make better decisions or have more wisdom in your life, you can't do it on your own. This group at Northview Students can help you. Your leaders can help you. Your family can help you. A teacher can help you. Your church can help you. Ultimately, God can help you and you have to build your foundation on Him.

Matthew 7:24-27 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

Wisdom is listening to what Jesus says and then doing it. In this teaching, Jesus tells his followers that a wise man builds his house on the rock or a strong foundation. There are many places in the Bible where Jesus is called this rock, the foundation of our faith. When we walk in relationship with Jesus he will guide us in knowledge and understanding to build our lives on the strong foundation of his wisdom.

When we follow Jesus and his ways, we walk in wisdom and point others to his truth.

So the question today is in what ways are you striving to be a wise person? Are you making wise decisions? Do you tend to make a lot of excuses rather than accepting responsibility and learning from your mistakes? Are you building your foundation on Jesus and rooting yourself in his truth? I think all of us need to reflect on these questions. Let's begin to take steps to do what our THP says because **God wants us to be WISE!**

(Close in prayer)

CLOSING SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

***Leader's Note: Make sure to have some Bibles for the students to use.

What was the THP today and why was it important to the message?

Who would you consider to be the wisest person that you personally know?

Why?(Leaders Note: Help them to stay away from "God" or "Jesus" answers.)

Have you ever tried to give advice to someone or tried to keep them from doing something "unwise"? What happened?

Let's read this verse from the New Testament together: Ephesians 5:15-17. We're going to use our SOAP method. Here's a quick review on what the SOAP method is...

SCRIPTURE—Read the passage of Scripture out loud twice

OBSERVATION—Take some time to say or write down some words or phrases that stick out to you or you find interesting (or confusing). Write down questions if there are some things that are hard to understand.

APPLICATION—Think about how this Bible verse applies to your everyday life and how it can help you.

PRAYER—Pray at the end of your discussion (just like normal!). Pray that God would help you apply what you've learned and to keep learning/persevering when you mess up!

"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Be specific.

How can this group pray for you this week?

FINAL THOUGHTS

After your group is finished with your discussion questions, close in prayer!

Encourage those students in your group who made first-time decisions or who made re-commitments to follow Jesus today! Tell them that this group is a support system for them and they don't have to do this life alone. If there is a student who makes a first-time commitment to Christ, have them text NVSNEXT to 85379 or fill out a response card so you can capture their information and our staff can follow up with them. Once your group discussion is over, close your group in prayer!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
- Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Stupid Video of the Week
- Game videos and/or slides
- Message script
- Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

- Pro Presenter or Playlister