

Family Devotional

From February 12, 2017

Play*: Gather play-dough, clay or something you can give to each person in your group to play the following game. Give these instructions to the group, "The leader in this game will tell you what to do with the _____. As leader, you can choose anything safe and fun. You could tell us to toss it to each other, flatten it like a pancake, or poke holes in it. Listen to the leader. If you do anything other than what your leader says, you'll have to step out of the game." Switch leaders every now and then. Everyone can get back in the game when you switch leaders.

Reflect:

- As leader in our game, how did you decide what to do with the _____?
- What's it like to be a leader?
- Why does a leader need wisdom?
- What are other times we need wisdom to make good choices?

We don't just need wisdom when we are leading others. We all make choices every day, like what's safe or unsafe, or what's the right or wrong way to behave and treat others. It's nice to know that God knows what to do in every situation. That's why we ask God for His kind of wisdom!

Read: James 3:13-18

Reflect: This passage talks about two kinds of wisdom. One is a worldly wisdom that puts yourself at the center of everything and encourages you to make decisions based on what is best for you and will make you look good. The other kind of wisdom is God's wisdom. Re-read verse 17 to hear more about God's kind of wisdom.

If "our self" is at the center of the world's wisdom, who is at the center of godly wisdom? Re-read verse 13 for a hint.

When acting in humility, we are not diminishing our own value in anyway, but instead we're saying, "I choose to recognize the value that God has placed in others just like He has placed it in me."

When we put God first and allow him to show us how to make decisions that are loving and considerate of others, it not only bring Him glory, but ends up being far better for us too!

Share about a time when you or someone you know chose to follow godly wisdom even when it might not have seemed like the "normal" thing to do.

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize/meditate on Proverbs 3:5-6 this week.

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."*

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond: "Dear Jesus, thank you for showing us what it looks like to make wise decisions. Help us to always look to You for wisdom and follow godly wisdom instead of our own understanding.....Amen."

*Game adapted from childrensministry.com