



FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

WORSHIP | DISCUSS | ACTIVITY | MEMORIZE

WEEK 1

**I CAN BE WISE BY
NOT CHOOSING SIDES**



BIG IDEA

**BE VERY CAREFUL,
THEN, HOW YOU LIVE
—NOT AS UNWISE
BUT AS WISE.**

EPHESIANS 5:15 (NIV)

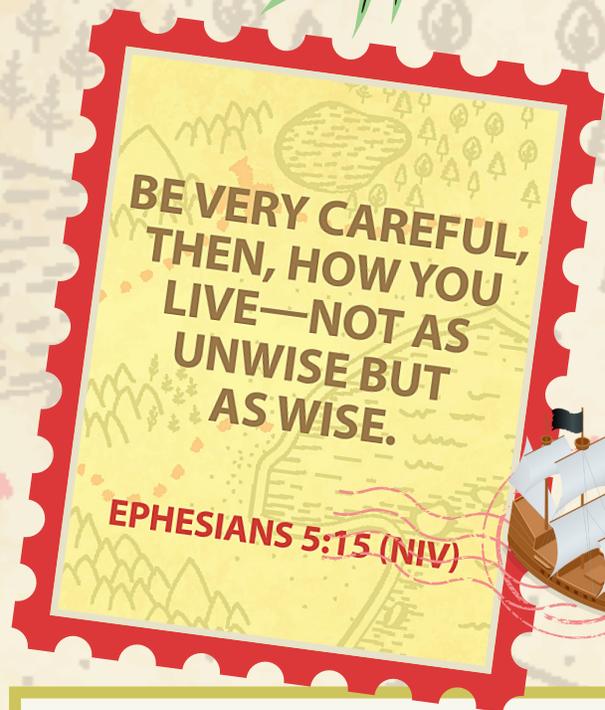
MEMORY VERSE

**I CAN BE WISE BY
NOT CHOOSING SIDES**



BIG IDEA

This month is all about choosing your own adventure! We make choices every day — some are small choices and some are big, but all of our choices matter in our adventures.



WORSHIP

“True North” (Rend Co. Kids)
“Make Right Choices” (LifeKids)
“Wise Up” (Kidspring)
“My Lighthouse” (Rend Collective)

DISCUSS

Read James 2:9. What does this verse say about favoritism?

What are some ways you might be tempted to show favoritism?

What can you do to remind yourself to choose wisely and not choose sides?

What do you show when you don't show favoritism?

MEMORIZE

Practice this month's memory verse with the signs a combination of SEE and ASL
START MEMORIZING!

growcurriculum.org/Ephesians5-15

ACTIVITY

Hold a ball of yarn and begin a story that would fit into our theme for today (e.g., “There was once a pirate named Sam who lived on her ship. One day, Sam chose to dive into the ocean while sharks were swimming nearby. Was that wise?”) Then, toss the ball of yarn to another kid (while still holding onto the end of the string) and have them build on your story with another action, and have the family decide if that was wise or unwise. Have the kid toss the ball of yarn to another family member while still holding onto a piece of string that now connects you with them.

Every choice we make leads to another, like how we are all connected by this yarn. That's why it's important that we make wise choices to build on rather than unwise ones! Remind yourself to make good choices this week, and remember our Big Idea for this week: I can be wise by not choosing sides!

CHOOSE YOUR OWN
ADVENTURE

Favoritism Forbidden

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 | James 2:1-10

A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

2 Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the Maker of them all.

8 Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity, and the rod they wield in fury will be broken.

9 The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

22 Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court,

23 for the Lord will take up their case and will exact life for life.

1 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.

2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in.

3 If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet,"

4 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

6 But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court?

7 Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself,"^[a] you are doing right.

9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.



FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

WORSHIP | DISCUSS | ACTIVITY | MEMORIZE

WEEK 2

**I CAN BE WISE BY
NOT CHOOSING SIDES**



LAST WEEK

**BE VERY CAREFUL,
THEN, HOW YOU LIVE
—NOT AS UNWISE
BUT AS WISE.**

EPHESIANS 5:15 (NIV)



THIS WEEK

Ahoy, mateys! This month is all about choosing your own adventure and making good and wise choices along the way!
Today, we're talking all about the words we speak and choosing wisely.

**BE VERY CAREFUL,
THEN, HOW YOU
LIVE—NOT AS
UNWISE BUT
AS WISE.**

EPHESIANS 5:15 (NIV)

DISCUSS

What did the writer of Psalm 19 want to be pleasing to God?
Read James 3:9.

What are the two things we can use our tongues for?

Why is it important to speak wisely to others?

In what situation this week will you need to make sure that you speak wisely?

How do you think speaking wisely will help your relationships with other people?

WORSHIP

"True North" (Rend Co. Kids)
"Make Right Choices" (LifeKids)
"Wise Up" (Kidspring)
"My Lighthouse" (Rend Collective)

MEMORIZE

Practice this month's memory verse with the signs a combination of SEE and ASL
START MEMORIZING!

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ACTIVITY

Give everyone a plate, a spoon, and a tube of toothpaste. When you say, "Go!", race to see who can get all the toothpaste out of the tube the fastest. Once you declare a winner, give them the second task: Who will be able to put the toothpaste back inside the fastest? Obviously, this will be impossible...

Our words are much like squeezing the toothpaste out of the tube. When we speak too quickly and unwisely, it doesn't take long to make a mess with our words. Once those words are said, we can't take them back, just like we can't get the toothpaste back in the tube. Words have a lot of power to help or to hurt.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN
ADVENTURE

Taming the Tongue

Psalm 19; James 3:4-10

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

3 They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.

4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

5 It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

6 It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

8 The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.

10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

11 By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

12 But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

13 Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

JAMES 3: 4-10

4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.

5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.

6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind,

8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness.

10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.



FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

WORSHIP | DISCUSS | ACTIVITY | MEMORIZE

WEEK 3

I CAN BE WISE BY
CHOOSING MY WORDS
CAREFULLY



LAST WEEK

BE VERY CAREFUL,
THEN, HOW YOU LIVE
—NOT AS UNWISE
BUT AS WISE.

EPHESIANS 5:15 (NIV)

MEMORY VERSE

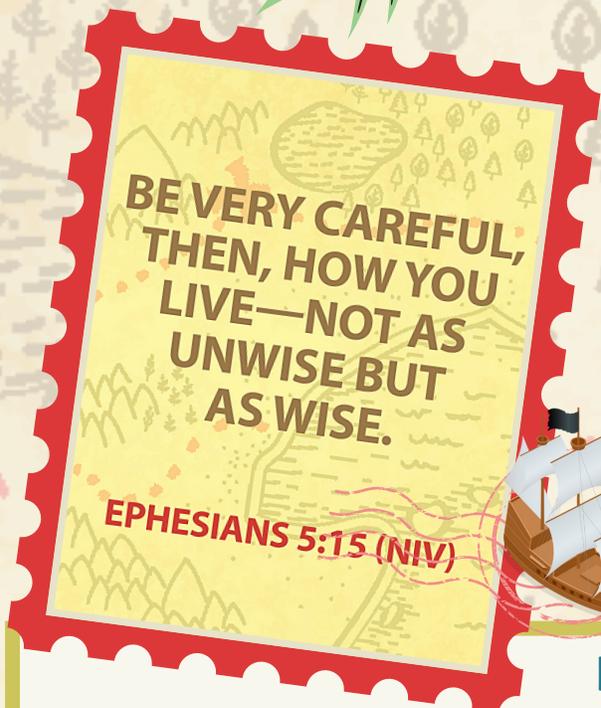
I CAN BE WISE BY
CHOOSING TO DO GOOD



THIS WEEK

Ahoy, mateys! This month is all about choosing your own adventure and making good and wise choices along the way!

Today, we are going to talk about how wise choices and the right choices are almost always the same things.



DISCUSS

What does Psalm 1 compare a “righteous” person to?
How about a “wicked” person?

Read James 3:17. What are some words to describe the wisdom that comes from God?

Why do we need God’s wisdom to do good?

What might be an example of the wrong kind of wisdom?

What is something good you can do this week?

WORSHIP

“True North” (Rend Co. Kids)
“Make Right Choices” (LifeKids)
“Wise Up” (Kidspring)
“My Lighthouse” (Rend Collective)

MEMORIZE

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ACTIVITY

Have supplies to make a telescope. Start with an empty paper towel roll. Cover the roll with black construction paper. Fasten the paper to the roll with tape or hot glue. Use gold duct tape for the ends and a couple of stripes in the middle. Be sure not to cover the ends so the kids can see through them. Use a silver permanent marker or a white paint pen to write “Wisdom Watcher” on the side.

One way that helps us choose to live wisely and do good is when we have friends who are looking out for us and encouraging us to do so!

Use these “wisdom watchers” to look out for each other and look for ways to do good!

CHOOSE YOUR OWN
ADVENTURE

Two Kinds of Wisdom

Psalm 1; James 3:13-18

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,

2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.

4 Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

15 Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.



FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

WORSHIP | DISCUSS | ACTIVITY | MEMORIZE

WEEK 4

I CAN BE WISE BY
CHOOSING TO DO GOOD



LAST WEEK

BE VERY CAREFUL,
THEN, HOW YOU LIVE
—NOT AS UNWISE
BUT AS WISE.

EPHESIANS 5:15 (NIV)



MEMORY VERSE

I CAN BE WISE BY
CHOOSING GOD

THIS WEEK

Today, we're going to talk about the absolute best place we can put our faith. Just like we've been talking about this entire month, where we put our faith is an important choice we have to make on our adventure.

**BE VERY CAREFUL,
THEN, HOW YOU
LIVE—NOT AS
UNWISE BUT
AS WISE.**

EPHESIANS 5:15 (NIV)

DISCUSS

What does the Bible say we should do instead of leaning on our own understanding?

Read James 5:16. What type of person's prayer is effective?

What is one thing you can pray to God for help about?

What is one thing you can praise God for?

What might choosing God look like for you this week?

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ACTIVITY

Fill one clear container halfway with water and another clear container halfway with vinegar. Prepare two small bags of baking soda. Dump one whole bag of baking soda into the water.

It will do nothing but settle at the bottom. Dump a little bit of the other bag of baking soda in the vinegar, and there will be a bubbly reaction.

Let's pretend this baking soda is like our faith, and this first container represents us.

When we put our faith in ourselves, not much happens. It sort of just sinks to the bottom and makes the liquid cloudy.

This second container represents God, though, and when we put our faith in God, the reaction is very different.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN
ADVENTURE

Wisdom Bestows Well-Being

Proverbs 3:1-8; James 5:13-16

My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,

2 for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity.

3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.

8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

15 Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

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