

WEEK 1 PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

I can be wise by not choosing sides.

THE BIBLE

Wisdom and Favoritism:

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

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Wor-Ship Shanties

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "True North" (Rend Co. Kids)
 - "Make Right Choices" (LifeKids)
 - "Wise Up" (Kidspring)
 - "My Lighthouse" (Rend Co. Kids)

ACTIVITY | Would You Rather? Pirate Edition

- Ahoy, mateys! 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.
- Let's kick things off with a game that's all about choices!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a game of "Would You Rather?" with pirate-themed questions. Have each side of the room (or ship) represent one of the choices. Instruct the kids to go to the side of the ship that goes with the choice they would make.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of kicking things off with a game of "Would You Rather?" choose a fun pirate-themed book like [10 Pesky Pirates](#) or [Pirates in Pajamas](#) to read aloud.
- **Would you rather . . .**
 - . . . jump into a giant bowl of pudding or a giant bowl of gummy bears?
 - . . . swim with a bunch of sea turtles or a bunch of dolphins?

- . . . eat vegetables every day except your birthday, or eat whatever you want every day, but can only eat vegetables on your birthday?
- . . . have to always talk like a parrot, or have a parrot that never stops talking?
- . . . live on a ship for one year with everything you need, or live on an island without anything?

ACTIVITY | Treasure Treats

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a small box or bag for their “treasure chest.” Have four or five kinds of small prizes in piles at the front of the room, in addition to some things kids might not like. Tell the kids they can fill up their treasure chest with as many of the prizes as they would like, but tell them that another adult leader and you get to go first. Pull out a larger treasure chest and take most of the goodies before the kids get to collect their treasure.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Show toddlers two items at a time and have them pick their favorite of the two. Whatever they pick, tell them, “That’s my favorite, too!” Talk about how you can share because you both like the same thing.
- **Do you know what playing favorites is?** It’s liking a few things or people more than you like the others. We all have things that are our favorites, but sometimes when we play favorites, we forget that what we do might hurt the feelings of other people.
- **How did you feel when the leaders took most of the treasure?** Those are a lot of big feelings. You got to see how playing favorites can make people sad and feel left out. *[Collect everyone’s treasure chests.]*
- The better thing to do in that situation would’ve been not to play favorites so everyone could have a chance to collect the treasure!
- **Now, who wants me to share some of my treasure?** *[Allow the kids to come up and choose what prizes they would like out of your treasure box.]*

TEACHING TIME

BIBLE STORY | Wisdom and Favoritism

- **What are some things pirates do?**
- Pirates love adventure! Pirates are free to go wherever they want and do whatever they want.
- That sounds pretty great, right? But having no rules many times gets pirates into a lot of trouble.
- So, we are going to be different kinds of pirates – wise pirates! To be wise means we’re going to make good choices. So, let’s climb aboard, sailors!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create a large boat outline on the floor using tape ([like this](#), but without the cardboard), where the kids can sit inside. Create two pirate planks made out of two-by-fours the kids can walk on to “exit the boat” at the end of the Bible story. Write “Wise” on one plank and “Unwise” on the other, then set them up on either side of the tape outline. Gather some pirate accessories and ask a kid volunteer to be a pirate, adding one of the pirate accessories as you read from Proverbs 22:1-2; 8-9; 22-23, using an easy-to-understand translation of the Bible such as NIV or CEV.

- To be wise pirates, we have to follow what the Bible says. Let's see if we can dress up our friend to be a wise pirate!
 - *[Read verses one and two, then put the eye patch on your volunteer.]* The first thing the Bible tells us is that being a good person is far better than any amount of treasure.
 - *[Read verses eight and nine, then put the pirate hat on the volunteer.]* Next, we find that sharing with others and treating them kindly is something that makes God happy!
 - *[Read verses 22-23, then put the pirate hook on the volunteer's hand.]* And finally, the Bible tells us today that we need to treat all people fairly.
- Sometimes, someone is a "favorite" because of what they have, what they do, where they live, or a talent they're really good at!
 - **Do you think God has favorites?**
 - No, of course not! God made us all. Since God doesn't have favorites, we shouldn't either. We should love each other the same.
- Look at that! Our wise pirate is ready! Let's follow Wise *[name of the volunteer]* off this boat by walking off the correct plank. Let's help them choose the right way to go!
- **Should we walk . . .**
 1. **The Wise Plank and love everyone like God does by treating them fairly and kindly? Or . . .**
 2. **The Unwise Plank and think only of our favorites?**

BIG IDEA | I can be wise by not choosing sides.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Build a [pirate ship mast and sail](#) at the front of your room. Replace the sail each week with that week's new Big Idea. Ask a volunteer to play the part of Captain Solly each week. This fun pirate gets to teach the Big Idea each week, so make sure they know ahead of time what they're sharing. Add a puppet parrot to Captain Solly, if you'd like. Reveal the Big Idea each week by either raising or unfurling the sail.
- Ahoy, mateys! I'm Cap'n Solly, the Wise Pirate! Methinks I learned something really important today.
- A couple of weeks ago, I was out on the briny deep — that's what us pirates call the ocean — and me hearties were rustling over some doubloons. Me mateys start asking me who gets these valuable doubloons and I think, "Blimey! What am I supposed to do?"
- On me one hand, I have me best buccaneer, and on me other hand, there's a new buccaneer I don't know. Hm. . .what would a wise pirate do, aye? I need me a Big Idea!
- **Can I have a deckhand come help me set sail?** *[Choose a volunteer to come help reveal the Big Idea on the sail.]*
- Our Big Idea today is: **I can be wise by not choosing sides.**

VIDEO | Choose Your Own Adventure, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

ACTIVITY | Be a Buccaneer

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read aloud each scenario below. Hold up one finger when you read option one, and two fingers when you read option two. Have the kids show you what they would do by showing one or two fingers.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Have toddlers practice saying, "wise" and "unwise," by pairing it with an action like smiley face/sad face or thumbs up/thumbs down.

- **Look at someone next to you and say, “Hey, bucko!”**
- “Bucko” or “buccaneer” is what pirates call their friends! Let’s practice being a good buccaneer to everyone.
- You are sitting with your friends enjoying a snack. But on the other side of the room, you see a new kid sitting by themselves. **What would a good buccaneer do?**
 1. Ask the new kid to come sit with you and your friends.
 2. Pretend you didn’t see the new kid.
- You are playing a game with your cool, older cousin, but your younger brother feels sad because he doesn’t know how to play. **What would a good buccaneer do?**
 1. Tell your brother to go play something else.
 2. Play a game your brother knows how to play.
- Two of your friends are arguing over who should play with a toy next. They can’t decide, so they ask you to choose. **What would a good buccaneer do?**
 1. Find a new game all three of you can play together.
 2. Give the toy to the friend you like better.
- It can be easy to pick our favorites, but we heard today, **I can be wise by not choosing sides.** When we choose to love everyone the same, we get to show people the love of Jesus!

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for loving everyone the same. Help us to treat everyone kindly and fairly by not choosing sides and not playing favorites. Please help us to be wise! Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Pirate’s Booty

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out a bag of Pirate’s Booty white cheddar puffs to each kid.
- Today’s Big Idea is **I can be wise by not choosing sides.**
- A wise person treats others as they want to be treated because they know it will help them, not hurt them. Wise people are who we trust to keep us safe when we need them.
- **Who is someone you know who is wise?**
- **What can you learn from this person?**

ACTIVITY | Wisdom Hunt

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using the Wisdom Hunt printable, cut out and hide this week’s “X” in a spot within your space. For added fun, pass out telescopes for the kids to use as they hunt.
- Being wise doesn’t just happen. We have to make the choice to do what is right.
- So, let’s look for today’s Big Idea so that we can remember what wise choice we can make this week. If you’re not sure of what you’re looking for, remember the rule of treasure hunting: X marks the spot!
- You found it! Let’s say our Big Idea together: **I can be wise by not choosing sides.**

ACTIVITY | Pick Your Parrot

- Having favorite things is not always bad! Most of us have favorite foods, favorite things we like to do, and favorite colors!
- **From what you see here, which color is your favorite?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help the kids choose their favorite colors to create their own [parrot](#). Provide two color options of the following supplies for the kids to choose from: colored paper party cups, colored feathers, colored beaks, and googly eyes. Then, turn the paper party cups upside down and help the kids glue on their parrot's feathers, beaks, and googly eyes.
- Using your favorite color to make the parrot you want is a great choice!
- **Can anyone tell me when it might not be okay to pick a favorite?**
- It is not good choice to choose sides or a favorite when you will hurt someone by doing so. That doesn't mean you can never be on a team. It just means that even when you don't agree with someone, or you're on the opposite team, you will still love everyone the way God loves.

MEMORY VERSE | Hook the Verse

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Make a pirate hook ring toss ([like this](#)). Have the kids line up and take turns tossing the rings onto the hooks. Each time a ring hits the hook, practice the memory verse together as a group.

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute the coloring page along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse!

ACTIVITY | Adventure Ocean

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using blue water beads, fill a shallow bin with ocean creatures and toy boats. Add in some plastic pirates for a fun way to incorporate the theme.

ACTIVITY | Blimey Slimy Gold

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create gold slime using the instructions on the printable and add gold coins for the kids to mix in and play with.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Use a toddler-friendly slime recipe ([like these](#)). Pay close attention so that none of the slime gets ingested.

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.