



Talk to the Hand 'Cuz the Savior Ain't Listenin'

Bible Story: Talk to the Hand 'Cuz the Savior Ain't Listenin' (Jesus tempted in the wilderness) • *Luke 4:1-13 (Supporting: Matthew 4:1-11)*

Bottom Line: Discovering what God says helps you make the wise choice.

Memory Verse: "Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me." *Psalms 119:105 (NirV)*

Life App: Knowledge—learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Plug-In:(Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story. *Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray for your few, as the "rubber meets the road" and they put what they know about God into practice. Ask God to give them strength and courage to do the right thing when the pressure is on, and that their actions would speak truth into their friends' lives.*

1. Early Arriver Idea

What You Need: Offering container, Rory's Story Cubes® or "Story Cards" Activity Page

What You Do:

- Welcome kids as they arrive and invite them to place their offering in the container.
- Ask them if anyone completed last week's challenge to learn one new thing about following Jesus. Allow kids to share.
- Then, play a few rounds of either Rory's Story Cubes®, or use the Story Cards from the Activity Pages.
- Kids can lay 4 cards at random and use the pictures on them to tell a story.
- Give kids a few guidelines about their stories—the main character must always make the unwise choice in any situation he/she faces.
- Then the rest of the group can come up with one way the main character could have made a wise choice instead.
- Talk about the results of unwise choices, sometimes small, problems and sometimes all-out disasters!

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Connect Groups: (Small Groups, 25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

*** 1. Along the Path (*application activity / review the Bible story*)**

What You Need: A roll of butcher block or craft paper, markers, masking tape

What You Do:

- Roll out the butcher paper for several feet and tape down the ends so it lays flat on the floor of your small group environment.
- Draw a path along the center of the paper, about 12" wide.
- Give kids markers and direct them to write or draw temptations off the path—the ones Jesus faced, as well as ones they face today.
- Help them brainstorm times when and situations where they feel tempted to make unwise choices.
- They can also decorate the area off the path with desert images—cacti, rocks, snakes, etc.
- Along the center of the path, write the **[Bottom Line] Discovering what God says helps you make the wise choice.**
- Let kids decorate those words with blooming flowers, water waves/droplets, fresh fruit and vegetables, etc. Older kids can help younger kids by drawing outlines of these things, and letting younger kids color them in.

What You Say:

"This is truly a work of art! This path can also show us how many things can tempt us to make unwise choices. If we didn't know what God said about making the wise choice, we could head off into the wilderness and end up in some pretty big disasters, like (*read a few temptations from the "desert" area*). Those choices could wreck our relationships with God and other people really quickly. Jesus was able to use God's word to resist the temptations the devil threw at Him. He knew exactly what God said about each of the things the devil suggested. The temptation to make unwise choices is real, and I know from experience!

[Make it Personal] (Share an age-appropriate time when you were tempted to make an unwise choice that would hurt your relationship with God or others, such as excluding a friend from a trip to the mall, or finding lots of excuses not to read your Bible or spend time in prayer. If you were able to overcome the temptation, share how God's word helped you make the wise choice. If you gave in, share how the unwise choice affected you and what you'd do differently next time)

"I am so glad, though, that **[Bottom Line] discovering what God says helps you make the wise choice.** Knowing what God had to say about (*your situation*) really helped (*or would have helped*) me make the wise choice then, and I know it will help all of you."

2. Top Ten Reasons (*application activity*)

What You Need: "Top Ten Reasons Charades" Activity Page

What You Do:

- Select one child to start and bring him in front of the group. Give him a "Top Ten Reasons Charades" card and encourage him to act out the scenario on it. No talking is allowed.

- Let the rest of the group guess the scenario; the first one to stand and guess correctly becomes the new actor.
- Continue playing until all Top Ten Reasons for making an unwise choice have been revealed.
- Afterward, let kids pick a few of the reasons for making an unwise choice and come up with a couple ways (for each one) to make a wise choice instead.

What You Say:

“There are a lot of reasons why we might be tempted to make the wrong choice. When we let our emotions take over instead of focusing on God’s Word, we might give in to temptation. If your friend spills her drink all over your lunch, what emotion might try to take over? (*Allow for answers*) What about if you’re talking with your dad and he has to correct you for something you said that you didn’t even know was wrong? (*Allow for answers*) You might get carried away and make an unwise choice. But instead, you can do what Jesus did and look to what God says. In the Bible, God tells us to forgive others, like your friend with the spill; and He tells us to be respectful to our parents, and that goes for even when you don’t like their rules. **[Bottom Line] Discovering what God says helps you make the wise choice.**”

3. Hearing Light (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: Masking tape, Bible, (*Optional*) small flashlights; 1 for each kid

What You Do:

- Gather the group and read Psalm 119:105 from the Bible out loud together to remind them of the verse.
- Make a path on the floor of your small group area from two long pieces of masking tape placed a couple of feet apart.
- Line up the group along both sides of the path.
- Select one kid to go first; she will start at one end of the path and close her eyes, trying to keep to the path without looking.
- While she is walking, the entire rest of the group—on both sides of the path—will recite the verse out loud, to guide her along the path (by listening to their voices).
- If you are using the optional flashlights, kids can hold them above their heads towards the center of the path, making an arch above the walker’s head.
- Let each kid have a turn walking the path with their eyes closed while the group guides them by saying the verse aloud.

What You Say:

“There are times when we’re tempted to make the unwise choice and it seems like we can’t see the light from God’s Word to show us the path. But just like in this activity, we have friends and leaders in our lives who can help us remember that **[Bottom Line] discovering what God says helps you make the wise choice.** How are some ways that you could help a friend discover what God says about making the wise choice?” (*Allow for answers. Some answers could include: looking up verses about specific things your friend is dealing with; memorizing verses so you can live out God’s Word yourself*)

Discussion questions:

- You’re reaching an age when you need to make some wise choices that affect a lot of your relationships: what group of friends you’ll have, what kind of clothes you will wear, shows you’ll watch, websites you’ll visit and music you will listen to. Are you looking forward to being “in charge” to make these kinds of choices? Are there any temptations involved with these—like the temptation to impress to other kids, to disobey your parents, to invest your time in things that aren’t wise or helpful?
- There are many things God has to say in Proverbs about being wise and making the

wise choice. Look up Proverbs 13:20. (*Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm. Proverbs 13:20, NIV*)

- What do you think that verse means? How can you walk with the wise? Who are the wise? What negative consequences are there for people who don't make the wise choice according to this verse? Can you give an example from your life or maybe a character from a book or movie? What temptations did this person face?
- How can we show love and kindness to everyone but not become a companion of fools that suffers harm?

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: The Path from Activity #1, markers

What You Do:

- Gather the kids around the path from Activity #1 and have everyone pick a marker to use.
- Tell them to walk the path slowly, using the marker to outline their shoes on the path as they take each step. If you'd like, let kids put their names in each of their steps.
- Set aside the markers and gather around the path to pray.

What You Say:

"Dear God, Thank You for giving us Your Word to guide us. Help us to stay on the path and not give into temptation by remembering that ***[Bottom Line]*** **discovering what God says helps us make the wise choice.** Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, show parents the path and their kids' footprints on it. Point out the drawings of different temptations and tell adults that your group talked about making the wise choice this week.