

## I Can Choose Wisely!

### **Week 1 (17th Sep 2023):**

**The Big Point:** I Can Choose Wisely!

**God's Word:** The Story of the Two Builders (Matthew 7:24-29)

**Memory Verse:** Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord, not for human masters. Colossians 3:23 (NIRV)

**Application:** I will choose wisely and do what pleases God.

**Series Aim:** To empower children to make choices to be the best "me" wherever they go and bring praise to Jesus!

**Creative Video:**  [The Parable of the Two Builders](#)

### Primary Huddle Guide #1

**Duration:** 20-25 mins

#### **Before Sunday:**

- Pray and prepare yourself by reading through this Huddle Guide and the Word Study of the week found on the [HopeKids Service Plan Blogspot](#).
- All Huddle Leaders are to prepare your own "script" and things to say. Feel free to inject your own questions or discussion points whenever necessary to suit the needs of your children.

#### ● **NOTES:**

- You are highly encouraged to always make your own preparation by reading the Word Study.

#### **Before Service on Sunday Morning:**

- Please note that there are **no materials sent to centres for primary huddle this week.**
- Prepare all the items that are needed for Huddle Time. For this week:

- Physical Bibles
- HopeKids Notebooks
- Writing Materials
- Whiteboard Marker (optional)
- Marker
- **For younger lower primary kids:** A4 Paper (to bring / prepare)
- **Optional:** You may opt to prepare pictures of landmarks (see game below) to show the kids through iPad/laptop/phone.

**During Huddle Time:**

- Have the children sit in a circle, keeping it to 12 children per group.
  
- Welcome and ease the children into Huddle Time by:
  - Introducing yourself and the kids to one another
  - Air high-fives, fist bumps
  - Playing small ice breaker games
  
- Remind the kids that the BEST rules still applies during Huddle Time

**Activity 1: Ice Breakers (5-10 mins)**

**Objective:** To open the small group time with the kids. To connect kids to each other, to huddle leaders.

**Welcome:**

- Introduce yourself and welcome the kids to Huddle Time (small group time).
- If there are new kids, make sure to go one round of introduction.

**Game 1: Foundations Quiz**

**Note:** *You can prepare a series of pictures to show the kids the landmarks as well.*

Alright, HopeKids! Let's start with a short game on famous landmarks of the world. I am going to read out the name of a famous landmark or building and you need to tell me where it is, either the city, the country or even both if you know. But you got to put up your hand at the

count of three if you want to try to answer. Alright, ready?

**Note:** *You don't have to do all of the options below. Similarly, you can opt to prepare more*

1. The Eiffel Tower (Paris, France) - completed 1889
2. The Great Wall (Beijing, China) - built and added on over 2000 years, since 770 BC
3. The Great Pyramids (Giza, Egypt) - completed between 2560 BC and 2540 BC
4. The Colosseum (Rome, Italy) - completed 80AD
5. The Taj Mahal (Agra, India) - completed 1648 AD
6. The Parthenon (Athens, Greece) - completed 432 BC
7. Angkor Wat (Siem Reap, Cambodia) - completed between 1110 and 1150

Great effort, HopeKids! Some of you really know the famous landmarks of the world. And so, what was the point of this activity? These landmarks have really stood the test of time, and that is because they have been carefully architected and built on strong foundations. That is why they are all still standing now.

This links to our lesson today, about the parable of the wise and foolish builders!

### **Activity 2: Discussion and Reflection (10-15 mins)**

**Objective:** To connect kids to each other, to huddle leaders and what they learnt to their daily lives!

**Materials Needed:**

- Physical Bible
- Writing Materials
- HopeKids Journal

**Engage the kids with the following questions and allow them to ask or discuss. For lower primary, use whiteboards or pictures to bring across the point!**

- **Qn: What did the foolish man build his house on? Why was he foolish? What happened when the rain came?**
  - *Allow kids to share/respond.*
  - Have you been to the beach and tried to build a sandcastle? And if you are too near the waves, should a strong wave come, the sandcastle will simply be destroyed by the wave. The sand is too soft.

- The foolish man is the one who built his house on sand. This is foolish as sand is soft and not firm. When the rain comes, and the water rises, the winds will blow and beat against the house and it will fall with a loud crash. (Paraphrased from Matthew 7:27)
- **Qn: What did the wise man build his house on? How was he wise? What happened when the rain came?**
  - *Allow kids to share/respond.*
  - The wise man built his house on the rock. This is wise because the rock is firm and hard. When the rain comes and water rises, the winds blow and beat against the house but it will not fall since it is built on the rock which is strong and firm. (Paraphrased from Matthew 7:25)

Now, I want everyone to flip to and read Matthew 7:24-27.

- *Allow kids time to flip and read together or get some of them to read one verse each.*
- **Qn: The Bible tells us in clear terms what the wise man and foolish men refer to in terms of their actions. So can you tell me what is it?**
  - Wise man: a person who hears God's word and puts them into practice.
  - Foolish man: a person who hears God's word and does not put them into practice.
  - This refers simply to obeying what we learnt from God's Word.

And so, the house is like a metaphor for our lives. Our lives are the houses in the story and if we are doing and obeying what God's Word says, we are building our lives on the strong and rocky foundation which is God's Word and God's love for us.

God's Word is a firm foundation because it is the truth that comes from God Himself. And God's love for us is a firm foundation that will never change. Even if you don't feel it, God has told us again and again through His word that He will never leave, He will never forsake His people. (Deuteronomy 31:6, Hebrews 13:5-6) And most important of all, God has shown us His love for us through Jesus who gave his life so that we can know God and be with God again. God's Word and God's Love is a firm foundation, and we know God is a good God that we can trust and obey.

- **Qn: What is our Big point for today?**
  - I Can Choose Wisely.

- In other words, you can choose to be wise and make wise choices for your lives. And you do that by obeying God's Word - putting what you heard into practice in your daily lives.
- *Give an appropriate example from your life which kids can relate to.*

***For younger kids, ask the following question and give them a piece of paper to draw a picture of how they want to build their lives/houses.***

- **Qn: What is one thing you can obey from God's Word today?**
  - *Allow kids to answer freely.*
  - *Pray for the kids to commit to what they say they would like to obey.*

***For older kids, you may want to continue with further discussion questions below:***

- **Qn: What do you find hardest to obey? Why?**
- **Qn: What do you think Jesus wants you to do about that?**
  - *Allow kids to answer freely and engage them in discussion.*
- **Qn: What is one thing you want to commit to obey from God's Word from today?**
  - *Allow kids to answer freely.*
  - *Pray for the kids to commit to what they say they would like to obey.*

Shall we pray together?

- *Pray in your own words and keep in mind the kids' predicaments as you pray.*
- *Possible prayer:*

*Dear God,*

*You are the most powerful and the wisest of all. You are good, which is why we can trust and obey you. Help me, God, to choose wisely in my daily decisions and choose to trust you, and bring you praise, even if it's hard or awkward. Give me the courage to obey Your Word. Thank you for loving me.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### **Activity 3: Memory Verse**

**Objective:** To hide God's Word in the children's hearts

**Materials needed:**

- Physical Bible
- Recommended to prepare: small pieces of paper or post-its
- Writing Materials

**Note:** Please note that we do not have a memory verse video for this series. Huddle Leaders are highly encouraged to go through the memory verse with the kids within huddle time!! Huddle leaders can also first explain the meaning of the verse before getting the kids to memorise.

**Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord, not for human masters. Colossians 3:23 (NIRV)**

This series aims to empower kids to make the best choice they can, to bring praise to Jesus wherever they go. Through the three weeks, we will go through making wise choices, choosing to work hard, and choosing to be responsible. In this first week, we go through what making wise choices is about and it is simply to trust and obey God and His Word.

This attitude can be brought to all situations, including their daily school and home life, to give their best and make the wise choice to work at everything they do (from homework to house chores, to practices and enrichment classes) with all their heart, with the hope to please God first and foremost rather than people. We choose wisely to please God and bring praise to God through our daily choices!

*Huddle leaders can do this in various ways. If using small strips of paper/post-its:*

- *You can give each kid one of the strips of paper for them to write on like a dictation.*
- *You can make it a game by having each kid in your huddle group write one word and have the kids put the memory verse together using their word.*

**Announcements**



Next week, we will continue learning about making our best choices. See you next week!