



Battle Squids

Book of Proverbs: Seeking Wisdom

BIG IDEA: God is the source of all understanding, so we can go to Him for wisdom.

BIBLE BASIS: Proverbs 4:1-7; 1 Kings 3

KEY VERSE: “It is much better to get wisdom than gold.” Proverbs 16:16

★ SMALL GROUP CONNECT

BATTLE SQUIDS CONNECT QUESTIONS

Say: Today we’re starting a brand new series called “Battle Squids.” We’re going to have an awesome competition to help us learn all about the Book of Proverbs. In today’s story, we’ll be learning where a king named Solomon found the wisdom to make a *really* tough decision.

Question: What’s the toughest decision you’ve ever had to make?

Question: What do you think it means to be wise? How is that different from being smart?

Directions: If time permits, ask the kids to tell you everything they know about squids. When they’re finished sharing, tell them to think about how they can use that information to show team spirit during the competition. For example, 4 kids could combine to wave their arms in the air like 8 tentacles. Feel free to introduce some of the following squid facts:

- Squids swim through the water tail first instead of head first.
- Squids shoot black ink when they’re in danger. The ink helps them to hide.
- Some species of squid have been found living 13,000 feet deep in the ocean.
- A Giant Squid’s eye can be as big as a basketball.
- Some species of squid have the ability to glow in the dark.

ADDITIONAL TIME ACTIVITY—THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.





★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

STORY QUESTIONS

For Younger Kids:

1. What did you find interesting about this story?
2. How do you think Solomon knew which woman was the baby's mother?

For Older Kids:

1. What do you think this story teaches us about God?
2. Why do you think Solomon chose wisdom over riches?

PROVERBS MIX AND MATCH (Application Activity)

Set up: In one row, place the 6 “Proverb Head” cards face *down* on the floor. In a separate row, place the 6 “Proverb Tail” cards face *up* on the floor. The cards should be mixed up so that the “Head” card doesn’t line up with its corresponding “Tail” card.

Say: Today we learned about the wise sayings in the Book of Proverbs. If you’re looking to get wisdom from the Bible, the Book of Proverbs is a *great* place to start! A lot of times, the wise sayings in Proverbs have two parts to them—a beginning and an end. But for our game today, we’re going to call it the head and the tail. We’re going to play a game right now that will help us match a proverb’s head with its tail.

Directions: Choose a kid to flip over one of the “Proverb Head” cards. Read the card aloud. Tell the kids to look at each of the “Proverb Tail” cards and decide as a group which one is the best match. For younger kids, you may want to read each of the “Proverb Tail” cards to them. Once there’s a consensus, tell them if they’re right or wrong. If they’re wrong, have the kids do their best “squid death” (pretend like they’re a dying squid) and then let them choose again. If they’re right, have the kids give “squid 5” (high 5 with their pretend tentacles) and then ask what they think that proverb means. Continue playing until all the cards have been matched.

Proverbs “Head” and “Tail” cards:

- “My son, listen to your father’s advice. Don’t turn away from your mother’s teaching.” Proverbs 1:8
- “Become wise by walking with the wise; hang out with fools and watch your life fall to pieces.” Proverbs 13:20 (MSG)
- “A cheerful heart makes you healthy. But a broken spirit dries you up.” Proverbs 17:22
- “Anyone who hides their sins doesn’t succeed. But anyone who admits their sins and gives them up finds mercy.” Proverbs 28:13
- “A gentle answer turns anger away. But mean words stir up anger.” Proverbs 15:1
- “In all your ways remember [God]. Then He will make your paths smooth and straight.” Proverbs 3:6



SURVIVOR (Bible Memorization Activity)

Directions: Place the Bible verse sign in the middle of the group and read it carefully with your kids several times so they can begin to memorize it. When everyone is ready, turn the sign over so they can no longer read it.

Next, tell your group that they are all on a sinking ship and that you (the small group leader) are a part of a rescue team looking for survivors. To be a survivor, the kids have to complete a task while saying the Bible verse out loud. If they complete both the task and the Bible verse successfully, they have to yell, "I'm a survivor!" If they mess up on either the task or the Bible verse, they have to pretend to sink into the floor as if it were water. Today's Bible verse says:

"It is much better to get wisdom than gold." Proverbs 16:16

Listed below are some optional actions. Use as many as you wish, but consider asking the kids for ideas for challenging actions to complete while reciting the verse.

For everyone:

- Hop on one foot while turning in circles
- Perform push-ups
- Pat head with one hand and rub stomach with the other
- Jumping jacks
- Go back and forth giving "high 10s" to the kid on either side
- Pair up with another kid and do leap frog
- Quickly spin around in circles
- Perform sit-ups

Question: Why do you think God says it's better to have wisdom than money?

POPSICLE PRAYERS (Group Prayer Activity)

Supplies: Popsicle sticks and markers

Directions: Give every kid in your group a Popsicle stick and some markers. Tell them to spend a minute or 2 writing their name on the stick and decorating it however they would like. When time is up, have the kids place their sticks in a plastic cup. Next, have the kids take turns pulling a stick out of the cup without looking and read the name aloud. If they happen to pull out their own stick, have them put it back and draw again. Have the kid whose name is on the stick share a prayer request. During the "Battle Squids" series, we'll be studying the Book of Proverbs, so you may want to ask the kids if they need prayer for wisdom in any particular situation. Everyone should listen carefully to the request, but encourage the person who drew the name to pay special attention. The person who drew the name will keep the stick in their pocket over the coming week and pray for that person every time they see or feel the stick. Continue taking turns until all the sticks have been drawn. Finish by closing in a group prayer.

