



LESSON 1 SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Ice hockey is a fast-paced, action-packed game that requires everyone to wear pads and helmets. Why? Because it's too dangerous to play without them! If we choose to go our own way instead of following God, we'll find that it's like playing hockey without pads. It's just not going to end well.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn "God's way is always the best way."

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Kings 22:1-40, Ahab Doesn't Listen to God

MEMORY VERSE:

"The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice."
Proverbs 12:15 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

Ahab, the foolish and evil king of Israel, wanted his friend Jehoshaphat, the godly king of Judah, to go to war with him against the country of Aram to reclaim the city of Ramoth Gilead. Ahab had many false prophets who were encouraging him in this, telling him that he would be successful.

Jehoshaphat asked Ahab to inquire of a true prophet of God as to what to do. Ahab reluctantly asked the true prophet Micaiah about going to war against Aram, and Micaiah told him that he would be killed if he did so.

Ahab ignored the prophet's advice from God and foolishly went to war against Aram, and was killed in the battle.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

*Thank you for putting wisdom in the Bible, and for sending wise people in our lives.
Help us to be wise and to listen, and to walk in Your way.*

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



MEMORY VERSE

The way of foolish people seems right to them. But those who are wise listen to advice. Proverbs 12:15 (NIV)

The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice. Proverbs 12:15 (NIV)

Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others. Proverbs 12:15 (NLT)

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise. Proverbs 12:15 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Display the verse on a video screen or the focal wall and read it aloud with the kids. Ask “what does it mean to be wise?” Wait for responses. A good answer would be “wise people know the right thing to do, and they do it. A foolish person might know the right thing to do, but he or she won’t do it.” Say the verse again in unison.

SMALL GROUP:

Display the questions and responses on the focal wall. Say the verse in unison. Then the teacher will ask the question and the group will respond.

Ask: What seems right to a fool?

Answer: Their own way.

Ask: What do the wise do?

Answer: Listen to advice.

Ask: Where does the Bible say this?

Answer: Proverbs 12:15

Say the verse together, then repeat the questions and answers a time or two, depending on time and the attention of the children.



SKIT

NO PADS HOCKEY

ITEMS NEEDED:

A microphone for the reporter. The coach might wear a ball cap and a whistle or some other gear for costuming.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

Reporter—Chas or Chelsea Chatterbox, male or female

Coach Winters—either male or female

The coach starts the skit exercising, and is often moving, running in place, stretching, doing jumping jacks, etc.

REPORTER: Hello, sports fans, and welcome back to the Winter Sports Spectacular. I'm your host, Chelsea (or Chas) Chatterbox, and we're here today at the New Sports Development Center. Here with me is Coach Winters, head of New Sports Development! Um, coach? Could you stand still, please?

COACH: (stops exercising) Hello, Chas (or Chelsea)! It's great to be on the show.

REPORTER: Thanks, Coach. So, what do you do here at New Sports Development?

COACH: Well, we have some fantastic events at the Winter Olympics. Ski jumping, ice skating, bobsled racing, all kinds of things. But we're always trying to develop new sports, keep things fresh and exciting, you know? (Starts exercising again.)

REPORTER: Coach! (Coach stops moving, guiltily.) So, what are you working on now?

COACH: Oh, you're going to love this one, Chelsea (Chas)! You know ice hockey?

REPORTER: Sure! I love hockey! Opposing teams, heavily padded and protected, using sticks and speed and skates to move a rubber puck up and down the ice into the opponents' goal. Fast paced frantic fun!

COACH: Wow, you really do know ice hockey.

REPORTER: Oh, I sure do, coach. So, what new thing are you doing with ice hockey?



SKIT

COACH: Get this. “No Pads Hockey!”

REPORTER: No pads hockey? What? Why?

COACH: Well, I’ve been kind of thinking. The pads are expensive, they’re hot, they’re heavy, it takes the players a long time to get into them. If we take off the pads, they’ll be ready for the game sooner, it’ll be cheaper, they’ll be able to move around easier, it’ll really speed things up. Believe me, you can skate a lot faster without all that protective gear on. It’ll be great! (Starts exercising again.)

REPORTER: But, but, coach, it won’t be safe!

COACH: (Stops moving) Not safe? What do you mean?

REPORTER: I mean, the pads are there for a reason. Hockey is dangerous. Players are moving very fast, and they’re moving the puck at very high speeds. Without their protective gear, when there’s a collision between players or someone gets hit with a puck, they could really get hurt. Didn’t you check with any experts on this?

COACH: Experts? Oh, yeah, I talked to some doctors and some hockey players and some sports medicine people, but they all said “no pads hockey” was a bad idea, so I didn’t really listen to them. (Starts exercising again.)

REPORTER: But they were trying to give you good advice. You should listen to good advice.

COACH: (Stops moving) You should?

REPORTER: Sure! Proverbs 12:15 says “the wise listen to advice.”

COACH: Oh, yeah! That’s in the Bible, isn’t it?

REPORTER: Well, yes.

COACH: Oh, I love the Bible! It’s got lots of God’s good advice in it. I wouldn’t dream of trying to live my life without following God’s advice. That’d be as dumb as....as dumb as.....

REPORTER: As dumb as playing hockey without pads?



SKIT

COACH: Yeah! And, okay, I guess that is a dumb idea, isn't it?

REPORTER: If you say so, coach. Well, that's all the time we have today. Thanks for being with us, coach.

COACH: Thanks for having me. (Coach jogs off.)



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A football helmet or some other piece of protective sports gear (catcher's mask, knee pads, etc.). The following is written for football, but it can be adapted to different sports.

Can anybody tell me what this is for? (Wait for responses). That's right. You wear it to play football. Do you see this padding in the helmet? That's to keep the athlete from getting hurt when they're playing the game. The coach of the team will tell his or her players they need to wear their protective gear when they play. The coach's job is to take care of the players, and he or she knows the sport best. You could say the coach is wise about football. What would happen if the player ignored the coach's advice? (Wait for responses.) That's right, they might get hurt. The Bible tells us in Proverbs 12:15 that fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to advice. And it's a wise person who listens to people who know what they're talking about.



LARGE GROUP GAME

BOBSLED RACE

ITEMS NEEDED:

Either cardboard boxes large enough for the smaller members of the class to sit in comfortably or enough pieces of cardboard for all members of the class to sit on, depending on which variation is used.

INSTRUCTIONS:

A smooth tile floor is best, but a carpeted area will work. Break the group into teams of three or four, with the smallest member of the team sitting in the cardboard box, and the remaining team members trying to push the “bobsled” from one end of the activity area to another in a race against the other teams. Repeat and vary as appropriate for your group.

VARIATIONS:

For a calmer alternative, have the kids sit on pieces of cardboard and use their hands and feet to “scoot race” their “bobsleds” from one end of the activity area to the other. If the group is too large for everyone to do this at once, divide the group, with those not actively racing serving as a cheering section for the others.

WHAT’S THE POINT?

“Bobsled Race” ties into the “Winter Olympics” theme of this month’s lessons, and can also be used to emphasize that athletes need to listen to and follow directions.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Ice hockey is a fast-paced, action-packed game that requires everyone to wear pads and helmets. Why? Because it's too dangerous to play without them! If we choose to go our own way instead of following God, we'll find that it's like playing hockey without pads. It's just not going to end well.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn "God's way is always the best way."

KEY PASSAGE:

Scripture: 1 Kings 22:1-40, Ahab Doesn't Listen to God

INTRO:

The Winter Olympics are happening this month, and there will be athletes from all over the world in China to compete. Now you probably know that sports are very difficult. Men and women work and train very hard to be able to do what they do. Did you know that sports can also be dangerous? If you don't know what you're doing, or you don't follow the rules, or you're not careful, people can get hurt. One popular winter sport is hockey. Do you know what hockey is? (Wait for responses.) That's right. Ice hockey is a fast-paced, action-packed game that requires everyone to wear pads and helmets. Why? Because it's too dangerous to play without them, and playing without them would be foolish. If we choose to go our own way instead of following God, we'll find that it's like playing hockey without pads. It's just not going to end well.

In today's Bible story we read about a king who behaved very foolishly. The story takes place in the land of Israel, a long time ago. It was a dark time for Israel. Many of the people had stopped listening to God and were doing all sorts of evil things, and their king, Ahab, was the worst of them all. He didn't want to listen to anything God or His prophets had to say, and so he surrounded himself with false prophets who would tell him what he wanted to hear. He was a very foolish king. Let's read about his story.

READ 1 KINGS 22:1-8



LARGE GROUP LESSON

MAIN POINT:

Ahab had trouble with a country called Aram and he wanted to go to war against it. He had a friend named Jehoshaphat, who was the wise and godly king of Judah, and Ahab asked Jehoshaphat to go to war with him. Ahab asked all his false prophets if he should go to war, and they told him “yes,” but Jehoshaphat gave him the good advice to find a true prophet of God.

Ahab did know one true prophet, a man named Micaiah, but he didn’t want to ask his advice, because Micaiah was always trying to get Ahab to listen to God and Ahab didn’t want to. But they did ask Micaiah. Do you know what Micaiah said? He told Ahab that God said if Ahab went to war with Aram he would be killed.

But Ahab didn’t want to listen to God! Have you ever heard of anybody so foolish? It’d be like taking your car to a mechanic and your mechanic tells you that you need new wiper blades and you tell him that you’d rather put in new headlight bulbs instead. Or you go to a doctor because you’re sick, and your doctor tells you to take this medicine and you go and you take a different kind.

So Micaiah, the prophet of God, told Ahab that if he went to war with Aram, God said he would be killed. Ahab didn’t listen, and went to war with Aram.

Anybody want to guess what happened? (Wait for responses.) Ahab got killed in battle! Do you think he should have listened to God?

DRIVE IT HOME:

Lots of people don’t like to be told what to do. I don’t always myself. But sometimes if we go our own way rather than the way God wants us to go, bad things happen. (The teacher can tell a short personal story of not following advice if desired, and how that turned out.) Because of our sin nature we resist authority and wisdom, and we have to be taught to obey and listen. But God really does want what’s best for us, and so He put a LOT of wisdom in the Bible, and He puts wise people in our lives to help us make good decisions. And we’re wise if we listen. God’s way is always the best way.

Sadly, the Bible also tells us that there are a lot of false teachers in the world. Ahab had a few of those, didn’t he? They give us bad advice rather than good, and the bad advice usually sounds more fun at first. So we need to pray that God will help us listen to and follow good advice.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

*Thank you for putting wisdom in the Bible, and for sending wise people in our lives.
Help us to be wise and to listen, and to walk in Your way.*

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What's something you really would like to do, but you know it'd be a bad idea? (Wait for responses and discuss appropriately. You might suggest eating too much candy even when your parents say not to. What might happen? You might get sick.)

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Display the questions and responses on the focal wall. Say the verse in unison. Then the teacher will ask the question and the group will respond.

Ask: What seems right to a fool?

Answer: Their own way.

Ask: What do the wise do?

Answer: Listen to advice.

Ask: Where does the Bible say this?

Answer: Proverbs 12:15

Say the verse together, then repeat the questions and answers a time or two, depending on time and the attention of the children.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

A variation of "Simon Says." The teacher says "Listen and do. Stand on one leg." (Hop up and down, sit down, etc.) If the teacher doesn't say "listen and do," you don't do it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

-Who was the foolish king in today's story? Ahab.

-What did he want to do? Go to war.

-What did the godly prophet Micaiah tell him? That if he went to war he would be killed.

-What happened? Ahab was foolish and went to war and was killed.

-Whose way is always best? God's way.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to be wise and to listen, and to remember that Your way is always best.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What's something you really would like to do, but you know it'd be a bad idea? (Wait for responses and discuss appropriately. You might suggest eating too much candy even when your parents say not to. What might happen? You might get sick.)

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Display the questions and responses on the focal wall. Say the verse in unison. Then the teacher will ask the question and the group will respond.

Ask: What seems right to a fool?

Answer: Their own way.

Ask: What do the wise do?

Answer: Listen to advice.

Ask: Where does the Bible say this?

Answer: Proverbs 12:15

Say the verse together, then repeat the questions and answers a time or two, depending on time and the attention of the children.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

A variation of "Simon Says." The teacher says "Listen and do. Stand on one leg." (Hop up and down, sit down, close your eyes, etc.) If the teacher doesn't say "listen and do," you don't do it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Was Ahab a good king? Why or why not? (He didn't listen to God. The teacher can also mention that the Bible tells us that Ahab did many other evil things.)
- What did you think of King Jehoshaphat? Why? (He was a wise king who wanted to listen to God.)
- Should Ahab have listened to Micaiah? (Yes, because he got killed by not listening.)
- Whose way is always best? (God's way.)
- Why is God's way always best? (Lots of possible responses. God knows everything, God loves us and wants what's best for us, God is in control.)

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to be wise and to listen, and to remember that Your way is always best.

In Jesus' name, Amen



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

1. Who was the foolish king in today's story?
Ahab, king of Israel
2. Who was the wise king in the story?
Jehoshaphat, king of Judah
3. What did the false prophets say?
That Ahab should go to war with Aram
4. What does Proverbs 12:15 say the wise do?
Listen to advice
5. Whose way is always best?
God's way

MAKE IT STICK

WINTER GAMES LESSON 1

5 SIMPLE WAYS
YOU CAN MAKE
THIS LESSON STICK
WITH YOUR KIDS

THIS WEEK'S LESSON:



IN THE CAR:

On the drive home, ask your child what he learned about this week:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

This week we talked about the story of Ahab. Ahab, the foolish and evil king of Israel, wanted his friend Jehoshaphat, the godly king of Judah, to go to war with him against the country of Aram, in order to reclaim the city of Ramoth Gilead. Ahab had many false prophets who were encouraging him in this, telling him that he would be successful.

Jehoshaphat asked Ahab to inquire of a true prophet of God as to what should be done. Ahab reluctantly asked the true prophet Micaiah about going to war against Aram, and Micaiah told him that he would be killed if he did so.

Ahab ignored the prophet's advice from God and foolishly went to war against Aram, and was killed in the battle. I Kings 22:1-18, Ahab Doesn't Listen To God



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kids what wisdom is. (Knowing and doing the right thing.)

What do wise people do? (Listen to advice.)

What did the foolish king Ahab do? (Didn't listen to advice.)



AT DINNER:

- Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why do you think your lesson said that God's way was the best way?

- Is God's way always the best way?

- What does it mean to be wise? Is it the same thing as being smart? (Wisdom is knowing and also doing the right thing.)

- Do people sometimes listen to what they want to hear and ignore what they don't?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

Proverbs 12:15



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

Our children learned this week about the story of Ahab, the foolish and evil king of Israel, and his story from I Kings 22 where he didn't want to listen to God, went to war when he was warned not to, and was killed in battle as a result.

We'll be talking about the Winter Olympics this month, and today we used the humorous idea of "No Pads Ice Hockey" as an example of something that was a foolish idea.

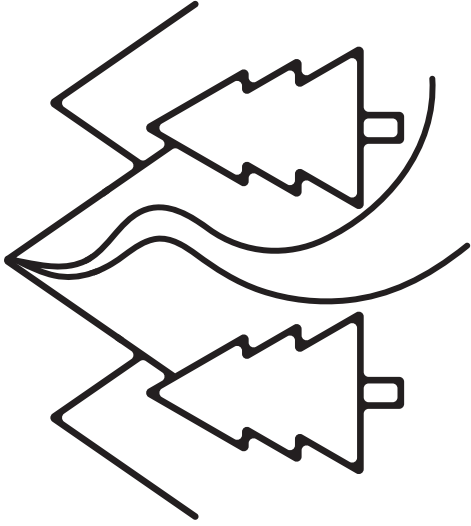
We learned that the wise listen to advice (Proverbs 12:15) and that God's way is always best.



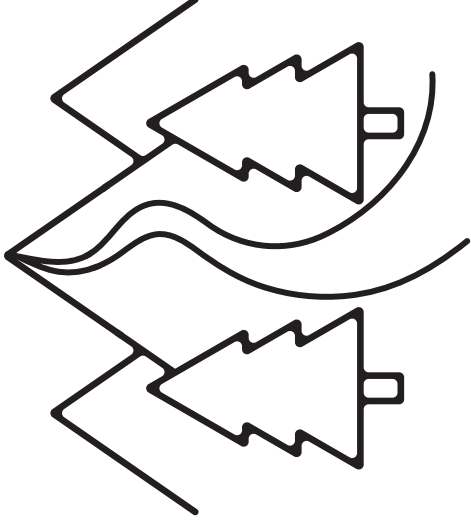
TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Items needed: Paper, markers, scissors, tape

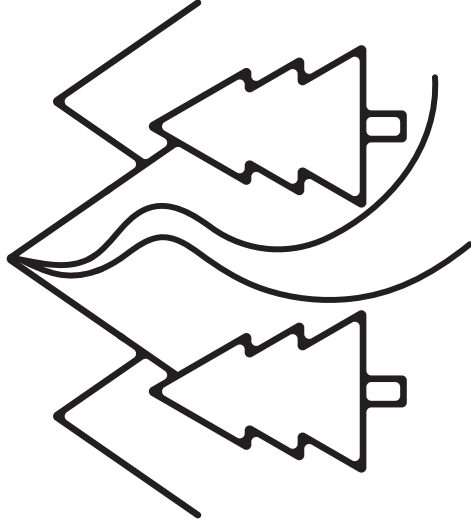
Have your child draw a large picture of an ear on a piece of paper. On the ear, write "The wise listen to advice. Proverbs 12:15." They can cut the ear out and tape it up someplace in the home where they will see it to remind them of the lesson.



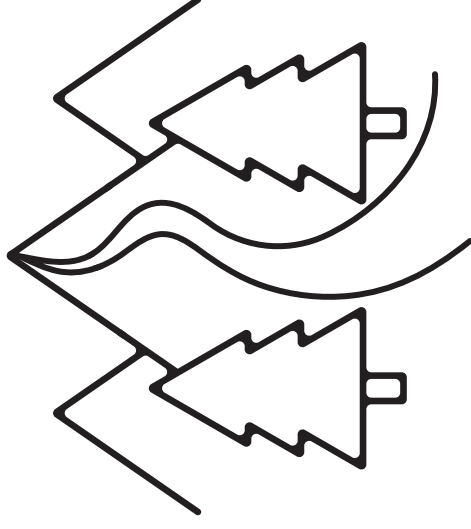
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