

BASKETBALL LEAGUE DEVOTIONS

Parent Companion Guide

UPWARD
SPORTS

PRACTICE 5

WISDOM

is finding out what you should do and doing it.

KEY VERSE

**IF YOU NEED WISDOM, ASK OUR GENEROUS GOD,
AND HE WILL GIVE IT TO YOU.**

JAMES 1:5a (NLT)

Bottom Line: If you want to be wise, hang out with wise people.

What qualities make for a good friend? Friends are really important! When you're having a bad day, they can crack a joke to make you feel better. When things are awesome, they're with you to celebrate. When you're struggling, they can be there to help and comfort you.

How do you choose your friends? Choosing friends requires some wisdom. Over the last few weeks, we talked about knowledge. It's important to learn and gain knowledge, but wisdom is about putting that knowledge into practice. Wisdom is finding out what you should do and doing it!

Let's talk for a few minutes about how we can apply wisdom when it comes to choosing the right kind of friends. Proverbs 13:20 (NLT) says, "Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble."

According to this verse, hanging out with wise people will help us become wiser! That's a pretty cool benefit.

But the reverse is also true. Do you remember what the second part of that verse said? "Associate with fools and get in trouble." A fool is someone who lacks judgment or sense. This means that if you hang out with friends who don't make smart choices, you'll be much more likely to find yourself in trouble, too.

This isn't about leaving someone out or being unkind. When it comes to close friends you spend time with, it's wise to choose friends who lead you in the right direction. Choosing your friends is a big deal. Let's make sure that the people we spend the most time with are people who will make us wiser. So remember, if you want to be wise, hang out with wise people.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

(K-2nd Grade)

- Name a few of your friends. Why do you like spending time with them?
- What can you do if your friends aren't making wise choices?

(3rd-6th Grade)

- Name a few of your friends. Why do you like spending time with each of them?
- How can you tell if someone is wise?

(7th Grade and up)

- What do you like most about each of your friends? What kind of influence would you say they have on you?
- How can you make sure you are being a wise friend and positively influencing the people around you?

GOING DEEPER

This week, read Proverbs 13:20, 12:26, and 22:24-25 with your child. Looking at these verses, make two lists: one list of what happens when you spend time with wise friends and one list of what happens when you spend time with foolish friends. With your child, consider what other items could be added to each list. Take some time to pray out loud for your child and their friends.