

Unit 12 • Session 2

Wisdom for God's People

2-3's Lesson

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

STORY POINT: Wisdom is loving God and obeying His Word.

KEY PASSAGE:

James 1:5a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What does God know? God knows everything.



INTRODUCE THE STORY

Opening Activities (30 MINUTES)



TEACH THE STORY

Large Group (15 MINUTES)



EXPERIENCE THE STORY

Small Group (15 MINUTES)



Opening Activity Supplies

Masking tape
3 Yards of yarn in different colors (1 per class)
Bibles, Bible storybook, bookmarks

Large Group Supplies

Bible
Bookmark
3 Rolled Paper Scrolls
Key passage marker

Small Group Supplies

Smart phone/timer (1 per group) Large sheet of dark paper (1 per group)
Chalk (1 per child)
Key passage poster
Bible story coloring page (1 per child), crayons

LEADER Bible Study

Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs are three books spanning more than 50 chapters of the Bible. This week's study follows the story of Solomon, the primary writer of these books. While three books of the Bible are certainly a lot to cover in one session, this brief overview will reveal the wisdom of God for His people as He works out His wise plan for our salvation.

True wisdom comes from God. (See Prov. 2:6.) God made Solomon the wisest man who had ever lived, and people came from all over to listen to his wisdom. (See 1 Kings 4:29-34; 10:1-9.) He wrote most of the Book of Proverbs, which offers practical advice for living wisely. Solomon ruled Israel with great wisdom, but he still turned away from God and pursued His own desires.

Israel needed someone greater than Solomon. God's plan included that: "Something greater than Solomon is here!" (Matt. 12:42; Luke 11:31). Jesus not only taught God's wisdom, He displayed it perfectly.

The Book of Ecclesiastes teaches us to think carefully about how we should live our lives. Solomon was searching for something to give meaning to his life. In the end Solomon discovered that following God was—and is—the only way to find real happiness.

Finally, King Solomon wrote Song of Songs, which reveals God's wisdom for relationships—specifically, between a husband and a wife. In the New Testament, the Book of Ephesians says that Jesus loves the church as a husband loves his wife. (Eph. 5:22-28)

These books are the inspired words of God. The wisdom offered is not merely suggestions for living; it is part of God's plan for our sanctification. Wisdom in the Bible shows us how to be like Jesus—in how we live, how we speak, and how we think. But wisdom cannot save us. Only Jesus, who perfectly followed God's wise plan, can rescue us from sin.

The BIBLE Story

Wisdom for God's People

Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

God gave King Solomon wisdom to lead His people. People came from far away to hear Solomon's wise words. The Bible teaches that there are two ways to live: a wrong way, doing what is foolish and evil; and a right way, doing what is wise and good.

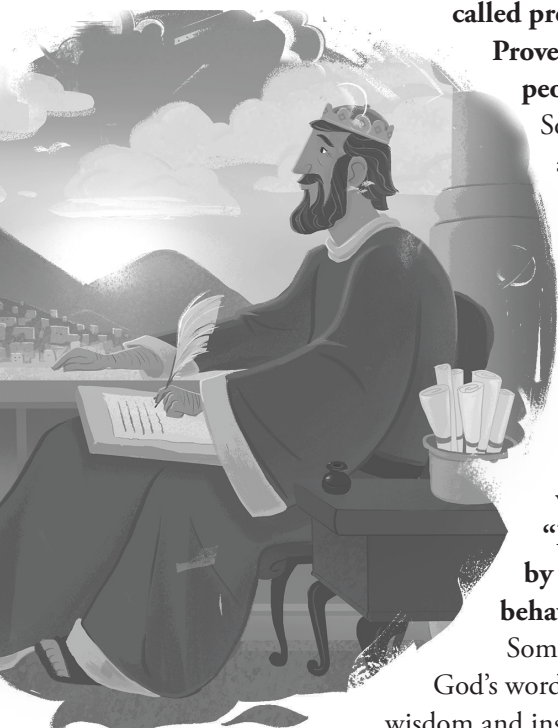
Solomon wrote down wise thoughts called proverbs. In the Book of Proverbs, Solomon told God's people how to make wise choices.

Solomon wrote about getting along with others, telling the truth, being a good friend, and many other things.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart," Solomon wrote in Proverbs 3:5. He also wrote other wise sayings like, "A gentle answer turns away anger, but a harsh word stirs up anger," and "Even a young man is known by his actions—by whether his behavior is pure and upright."

Some people do not always listen to God's words. Solomon said, "Fools hate wisdom and instruction." He also said, "A fool does not want to learn but only wants to say what he thinks," and **"A fool does whatever he thinks is right, but a wise person listens to advice."**

Solomon wrote another book in the Bible called Ecclesiastes. The



Book of Ecclesiastes has wisdom for people too. Solomon wrote about money and work and how to live a life that matters. The most important thing, Solomon said, is to love and obey God.

Solomon even wrote a poem. He taught that there is a time for everything: “a time to give birth and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to dig up; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to tear down and a time to build; a time to cry and a time to laugh; a time to be sad and a time to dance” (Ecclesiastes 3:2-4).

Solomon also wrote a poem about love. This poem is called Song of Songs. Solomon wrote this poem to celebrate God’s wise plan for love and marriage.

Christ Connection: God gives us wisdom in the Bible. Wisdom helps us be like Jesus—in how we live, how we talk, and how we think. But wisdom cannot save us. Only Jesus, who perfectly followed God’s wise plan, can rescue us from sin.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use scrolls:** Roll up three separate sheets of paper to serve as scrolls. Use a different scroll to represent each Bible book represented in the Bible story.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Wisdom for God's People

Opening Activities

BIBLE PASSAGE: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

STORY POINT: Wisdom is loving God and obeying His Word.

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything.

Welcome time

Intro Music

[Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers.]

Masking
tape
3 Yards of
yarn in
different
primary
colors

Follow the path

Use masking tape to secure yarn and make three interwoven paths on the floor. Invite preschoolers to walk on a path of their choice. When you call out a color, children must follow that path instead. **SAY** • Solomon wrote that wisdom comes from loving God. **GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING.** When we trust God, the Bible says He will help us choose to take the right path.

Look at Bibles

• Bibles
• Bible
storybooks
• Bookmarks

Set out a variety of Bibles and Bible storybooks for preschoolers to browse. Mark Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs in several of the Bibles. Read a Bible as a child shows interest.

SAY • Last week, we learned how Solomon asked God for wisdom. This week, we will learn about three books of the Bible Solomon wrote called Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. Solomon wrote ways we can obey God in these books. The Bible, God's Word, is where we can find wisdom.

TEACH the Story



Large Group

SESSION TITLE: Wisdom for God's People

BIBLE PASSAGE: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

STORY POINT: Wisdom is loving God and obeying His Word.

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything.

Transition to tell the story

·Video: countdown

Show the countdown video while preschoolers move to Large Group. Invite preschoolers to cup their hands around their ears while traveling to Bible study.

·"Ask God" song
"You are Great"
song

Sing

Sing the key passage song, "Ask God", and the theme song, "You are Great."

Introduce the Bible story

·Bible
·Bookmark
·Rolled paper
scrolls

[Place a bookmark at Proverbs in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.]

SAY • God gives us His words in the Bible, and all His words are true! Last week, we learned that **God gave Solomon wisdom**. Wisdom means to obey God. Today's Bible story includes three books full of God's wisdom written by Solomon: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. *[Hold up each scroll as you say the book names]* *[Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline.]*

CG: Bible story
picture

CG: Giant timeline

Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God saves people through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

·Video: "Wisdom
for God's People"

[Show the Bible story video. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.]

SAY • God made King Solomon wise. Solomon wrote

down many wise words. Solomon's books became a part of our Bible, so now we can learn God's wisdom, too! All those proverbs and poems show us that **wisdom is loving God and obeying His Word**. But wisdom cannot save us. Only Jesus, who perfectly followed God's wise plan, can rescue us from sin.

CG: Story Point

Practice the key passage

[Place the key passage marker at James 1:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud.]

·Key
passage
marker
·Bible
·CG: Key
Passage

SAY • Finding God's wisdom is like a treasure hunt except we don't have to hunt to find God's wisdom. All we have to do is ask God, and He will give us wisdom! God gives us treasures of His wisdom right here in the Bible!

Learn the big picture question

·CG: Big
picture
question

SAY • Only God can give true wisdom because only God knows everything. ***What does God know? God knows everything.*** We cannot know everything, but we can remember that **wisdom is loving God and obeying His Word**. Only Jesus perfectly followed God's wise plan.

Pray

[Pray before dismissing to small group.]

LEADER • Father, we believe that You are wise, powerful, and good. You know everything, and You always do what is best. We thank You because of who You are and what You have done. Help us to obey You. Amen.

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Wisdom for God's People

Small Group

BIBLE PASSAGE: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

STORY POINT: Wisdom is loving God and obeying His Word.

KEY PASSAGE: James 1:5a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything.

A time for everything

Use a smart phone to give preschoolers 10 seconds to be loud and silly, and then 10 seconds to be quiet and still. Play again as time allows, and then read Ecclesiastes 3:1,7.

**Smart phone
Bible**

SAY • GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING. God made Solomon very wise. Solomon wrote that wisdom comes from loving God.

Draw with chalk

Use a large sheet of dark paper. As preschoolers draw, talk about the Bible story and show the Bible story picture.

**Large sheet of
dark paper
(1 per group)
Chalk
(1 per child)
Bible story
picture**

SAY • GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING. God made Solomon very wise. Wisdom is knowing what is right and wrong. Solomon wrote that wisdom comes from loving God. Jesus spoke with wisdom that came from God.

Time to move

Ask the children to show you different movements such as jump, march, clap, stomp, and twist. [*Show them examples*]

SAY • Let's get moving! It's time to move! First, let's do our best jump! [*Jump with the children.*] Nice work! Show me your best march!" [*Continue and finish activity*]

Guide the children to stand in front of you and ask them the big picture question ***What does God know? God knows everything.*** Help them with the answer until they can repeat it without help.

Transition

Preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, practice the key passage.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture card to take home.

- Bible story coloring page
- Crayons
- Key passage poster