

## Unit 12 • Session 2

# Wisdom for God's People

### 2nd-3rd Lesson

#### BIBLE PASSAGE:

Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

**STORY POINT:** Wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying His Word.

#### KEY PASSAGE:

James 1:5

#### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.



#### INTRODUCE THE STORY

##### Opening Activities

(20 MINUTES)



#### TEACH THE STORY

##### Large Group

(20 MINUTES)



#### APPLY THE STORY

##### Small Group

(20 MINUTES)



#### Opening Activities Supplies

"Poetry & Wisdom Books"  
Activity Page, 1 per kid,  
markers, pencils

#### Large Group Supplies

Bible marked at James 1:5  
Bookmark  
4 Bird Posters for 4 corners  
Lab coat w/ feathers  
Stage decor

#### Small Group Supplies

Key passage poster  
2-3 Bibles per group  
Proverbs & Phrases Sheet,  
1 per group  
"Christ Connection"  
activity page, 1 per kid

## 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*

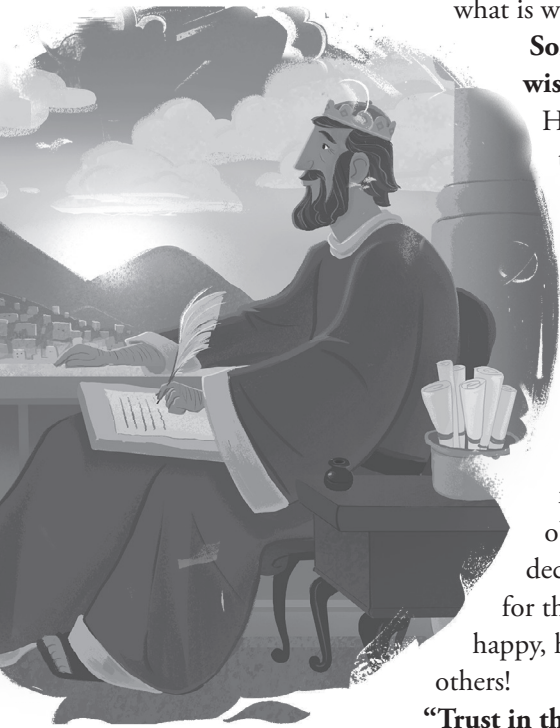
When Solomon became king, he asked God for help to lead the Israelites. **God gave King Solomon wisdom to lead His people. People came from far away to hear Solomon's wise words.** The Bible teaches that there are two ways to live: a wrong way, doing what is foolish and evil; and a right way, doing what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

**Solomon wrote thousands of wise sayings called proverbs.**

He also wrote more than a thousand songs. **In the Book of Proverbs, Solomon said to love and worship God. He told people how to make wise decisions.** If people listened to God's words and did what God told them to do, God would bless them and protect them. If they did not listen to God's words and obey them, they would make bad decisions and face consequences for their sins. They would not be happy, healthy, or get along well with others!

**"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 wrath," 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 wrote, "Fools hate wisdom and instruction."**

He also wrote, "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 good life.** Many people seek after these things, but these things do not truly satisfy. The most important thing, Solomon said, is to love and obey God.

Solomon 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 uproot; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to tear down and a time to build; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn 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: 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.*

# INTRODUCE the Story



## Opening Activities

**SESSION TITLE:** Wisdom for God's People

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

**STORY POINT:** Wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying His Word.

**KEY PASSAGE:** James 1:5

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

## Welcome time

### Intro music

[*Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives.*]

Prompt kids to talk about types of decisions they have to make each day. Invite them to share how they know if they made the best decision.

## Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Poetry and Wisdom Books” on the activity page. Guide kids to list words they can create from the letters of the Bible books given: Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; and Song of Songs. Suggest kids compare lists with friends.

**SAY** • You can find these three books in the middle of your Bible—right after the Book of Psalms. Do you know what these books are about? [*Allow kids to respond.*] These books are full of wisdom!

• “Poetry and  
Wisdom  
Books”  
activity  
page, 1 per  
kid  
• pencils or  
markers

## Transition to teach the story

*Kids Leader Guide*  
Unit 12 • Session 2

# TEACH the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Wisdom for God's People

**Large Group**

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

**STORY POINT:** Wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying His Word.

**KEY PASSAGE:** James 1:5

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

## Countdown

[Video: Countdown](#)

*[Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.]*

## Large Group Game

**4 Bird Posters  
for each corner**

Welcome to KidCity everyone! We are going to play 4 Corners Bird Edition! Everyone up on your feet. I need 1 volunteer that is a Small Group Leader.

*[Choose one Small Group Leader and have them join you on the stage.]*

Ok, [Small Group Leader's name] is going to turn their back on everyone and each of you will have 15-20 seconds to run to one of the four corners in here.

*[Take a moment to name each corner according to name so everyone understands each one.]*

Then [Small Group Leader's name] is going to call out one of the corners and if you are in that corner, you are OUT and have to sit down. Then we'll give the rest of you another 15 seconds to choose again and we will keep playing it until one of you wins! Everyone ready? Let's play 4 Corners Bird Edition!

*NOTE: that when you get down to 4 or less kids, instruct them that they have to choose separate corners. When you get down to 3 or less kids, consider closing off some corners altogether to save time.*

*Reverse Variant: If you have a very large number of kids, consider reversing the rules where the corner chosen is the "winning" corner and the other 3 corners have to sit down.*

## Sing

[Song: O Taste & See](#)

[Song: Let Revolution Start](#)

**LEADER** • Let's get up on our feet and sing to God. Singing praises to God is just one of the ways we can worship Him.

## Introduce the story

[Leader enters wearing a white lab coat with feathers stuck to it.]

· Lab coat  
· feathers

**LEADER** • Hello again, everyone! I am so glad you could join me today in my laboratory. My name, for those of you whom I did not meet, is Professor Peregrine. I'm what's called an *ornithologist*. It just means I study birds. In fact, I know just about everything there is to know about birds. Would you like to hear a fun bird fact? [Allow responses.] Wonderful!

Did you know that most songbirds learn what sounds to make by listening to a teacher? It is usually an older bird of the same kind. The younger bird will listen to that bird and begin to make the same kinds of sounds he makes. This is not true for lyrebirds! Lyrebirds each make their own unique song. They listen to the sounds of other creatures around them and memorize those sounds.

Lyrebirds have been known to imitate the sounds of other birds, koalas, and even at times chainsaws or car alarms! Let's watch this short video and you guys tell me what sound you think this Lyrebird is making? [Allow for responses] Yes, it's a laser gun! Isn't that crazy! You know, it kind of reminds me of our story. Many people would learn things from wise King Solomon. He wrote many of his own songs and teachings. I'll tell you all about it.

[Video: Lyrebird sound](#)

## Big picture question

**LEADER** • Remember that we are studying these stories to help us focus on one big idea. Our big picture question is this: ***What does God know?*** And the answer: ***God knows everything about the past, present, and future.*** That means that God never forgets anything, He is always aware of what is happening right now, and He is never surprised about things that will happen. Because God knows everything, all His plans are best. He is perfectly wise; we can trust Him.

[CG: Big picture question](#)

## Giant timeline

[CG Giant Timeline](#)

[Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.]

**LEADER** • Solomon became king after David died. Solomon had the chance to ask God for anything, but he asked for wisdom. **God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people.** Solomon became the wisest man of his time. He wrote hundreds of songs, poems, and wise sayings. He wrote books in the Bible, too! Most of Proverbs, and all of Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs were all written by Solomon through the Holy Spirit's inspiration.

[Video: "Wisdom for God's People"](#)

## Watch the Bible story

[Show the Bible story video "Wisdom for God's People."]

**LEADER** • Last week I offered a definition of wisdom. I said that wisdom is understanding the best way to use the information you know. But there's a more specific definition that we can find by studying Solomon's teachings: **Wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying His Word.** Think about that for a second.

[CG:Story Point](#)

What do you think it means to *fear* the Lord? Do you think it means we cower and avoid God because we think He might hurt us? No! God loves us. Fearing the Lord has to do with understanding that God is holy. He is perfect, complete, and totally separate from sin. Fearing the Lord also has to do with understanding that we are sinful and guilty before God.

[CG: Bible Story Picture](#)

Here's an example: When you disobey your parents, do you sometimes feel a sense of fear when you imagine what consequences you might face? I know I did! Even though I love my parents, and I know they love me, I knew they would discipline me when I did something wrong. It's similar with God.



We can trust that God disciplines us because He loves us and wants what is best for us. He doesn't want to hurt us; He wants to teach us. And what better teacher than God?

He wants to teach us. And what better teacher than God? **What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.**

## **Christ connection**

**LEADER** • Wisdom in the Bible shows us how to be like Jesus—in how we live, how we speak, and how we think. Wisdom from the Bible will help us understand who Jesus is and what He has done for us, but wisdom cannot save us. Only Jesus, who perfectly followed God's wise plan, can rescue us from sin. When we have faith that Jesus is God's Son who died for our sins and rose again to defeat death, God forgives our sin and gives us new life. The Holy Spirit comes to live in us and help us have more wisdom and obey God's Word.

## **Key passage**

*[Show the key passage slide. Open your Bible and read James 1:5 together.]*

**LEADER** • According to James's writing, some people may not have wisdom. But the amazing thing is this: God gives wisdom to anyone who asks for it! So if you don't feel like you know what to do, the solution is easy: ask God to help you and give you wisdom.

## **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 praise You because of who You are and what You have done. Help us to obey You. Give us wisdom to know what You want and courage to obey what You say. Amen.

## **Dismiss to apply the story**

# APPLY the Story



## Small Group

**SESSION TITLE:** Wisdom for God's People

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

**STORY POINT:** Wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying His Word.

**KEY PASSAGE:** James 1:5

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

### Key passage activity

Key Passage  
Poster

Instruct kids to stand in a circle. Display the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading James 1:5 aloud together.

Choose one player to begin by saying the first word of the key passage. The player to her right should say the second word, and so on around the circle. Explain that at any time, a player may clap as he says the next word. When a player claps, motion around the circle reverses—so the kid on his left should say the next word.

If a player says the wrong word, allow a volunteer to supply the correct word and then start again.

**SAY** • The best place to get wisdom is from God! *What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.*

### Discussion & Bible skills

2-3 Bibles,  
per group

Distribute Bibles. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Proverbs 3. Explain that Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs are all books in the Old Testament. Most of these books were written by King Solomon.

## Proverbs sort

Use the list of proverbs and phrases provided. The list includes a variety of Proverbs from the Bible and traditional cultural proverbs: *An apple a day keeps the doctor away; when it rains, it pours; better safe than sorry; a watched pot never boils; actions speak louder than words; haste makes waste.*

Read the proverbs one at a time. Instruct kids to stand if they think the proverb comes from the Bible or sit if they think it is not found in the Bible.

**SAY** • Proverbs are written to teach people to make wise choices. The Bible contains many proverbs for living a godly life.

## Journal and prayer

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, thanking God for His Word and asking Him for wisdom and understanding.

As time allows, lead kids to complete the “Christ Connection Scramble” on the activity page. Kids should unscramble the mixed-up words in the Christ connection. Make sure to send home the activity page for families.

Proverbs &  
Phrases Sheet

Pencils  
"Christ  
Connection  
Scramble"  
Activity  
Page, 1 per  
kid