

Use Week of: August 10-11

## Unit 12 • Session 2

# Wisdom for God's People

### 4-5'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

"Follow the Wise Path"  
Activity Page (1 per child)  
Crayons  
Bibles, Bible Storybooks,  
Bookmarks (2-3 per class)

#### Large Group Supplies

Bible  
Bookmark  
3 Rolled Paper Scrolls  
Key passage marker

#### Small Group Supplies

Construction paper (8 per  
group), masking tape  
Bible story picture  
Big picture question poster  
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.

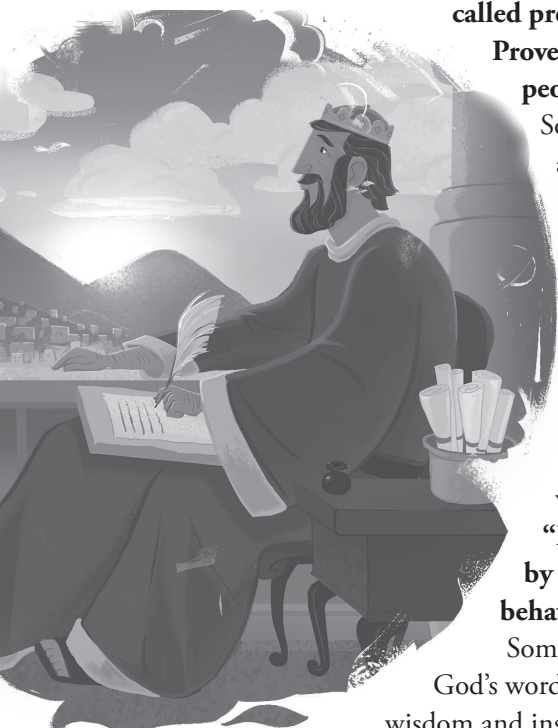
**Solomon wrote down wise thoughts called proverbs. In the Book of Proverbs, Solomon told God's people how to make wise choices.**

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.

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## Welcome time

- "Follow the Wise Path" activity page, 1 per child
- Crayons

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers.

## Activity page

Help preschoolers trace each path and decide which path leads to the Bible.

**SAY** • Only two paths are on this page: one leads straight to the Bible, and the other twists all over and ends nowhere. The Bible teaches that there are two ways to live: a right way and a wrong way. Trusting Jesus is the only right way to live. He will guide us straight to God's wisdom! Let's learn about God's wisdom in our Bible story.

## LOW PREP

Tip: Be sensitive to children with vision or hearing impairments.

## Pay attention

Tell children to watch you and copy your action, and then ask them to close their eyes. Silently perform a motion while the children have their eyes closed. Invite children to open their eyes and ask if they know what to do. Invite them to keep their eyes open while you perform the

motion again and let the children mimic you. Repeat, or invite children to cover their ears while you whisper the big picture question, then uncover their ears to hear and respond to the question.

**SAY** • Was it easier to know what to do when your eyes were open or closed? Open, of course! We can learn a lot when we are watching and listening. But some people do not want to listen and learn! It is like they are living with their eyes and ears closed. God has so much He wants to teach us today in our Bible story. I hope you will listen closely!

## Look at Bibles

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.

- [Bibles](#)
- [Bible storybooks](#)
- [Bookmarks](#)

**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.

## Transition to tell the story

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

- [CG countdown video](#)

## Sing

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

- ["Ask God" song](#)
- ["You are Great" song](#)

# 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.

## 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**

CG: Bible story picture

**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.*]

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.

CG: Giant timeline

## Watch or tell the Bible story

[*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.

· "Wisdom for God's People" video

· 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.

**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!

·Key  
passage  
marker  
·Bible  
·CG: Key  
Passage

## Learn the 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.

·CG: Big  
picture  
question

### 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.

## LOW PREP

Example behaviors:

- sharing your toys
- ignoring the teacher
- telling the truth
- disobeying your mom
- being a good friend
- using kind manners
- speaking harshly

## Choose wisely

Call out several behaviors from the Bible story or a preschooler's experience. If children think the action is wise, they should jump up and place their hands on their hearts. If children think the action is foolish, they should squat down and cover their ears.

**SAY** • The Bible teaches that there is a wise way and a foolish way to live. **Wisdom is loving God and obeying His Word.** Foolish people do not want to listen to God's wisdom. 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.

## LOW PREP

- construction paper
- tape

## Stay on the wise path

Create a path using construction paper taped to the floor. Warn preschoolers to stay on the path as they follow you around the room. Pretend there are dangers lurking around, such as hot lava or cliff edges. As an added challenge for older preschoolers, advise them to step only on certain colors in your path.

**SAY** • Good job listening to advice and staying on the wise path! **Wisdom is loving God and obeying His Word.** God warns us of danger because He loves us, so obeying God can keep us safe. But wisdom cannot save us. Only Jesus, who perfectly followed God's wise plan, can rescue us from sin.

## Review

**Wisdom is loving God and obeying His Word.** 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.

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Which books of the Bible did we learn from today? (*Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; Song of Songs*)
2. What is wisdom? **Wisdom is loving God and obeying His Word.**
3. Can wisdom save us from sin? (*No! Only Jesus can save us from sin.*)
4. *What does God know? God knows everything.*

- Bible story picture poster
- Big picture question poster

## Transition

Preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, practice the key passage or big picture question.

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 activity page to take home.

- Bible story coloring page
- Crayons
- Key passage poster
- Big picture question poster