

Use Week of: August 10-11, 2019

Unit 12 • Session 2

Wisdom for God's People

K-1 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)



Opening Activities Supplies

"Where is Wisdom" Activity Page, 1 per kid, markers, pencils

TEACH THE STORY

Large Group

(20 MINUTES)



Large Group Supplies

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

APPLY THE STORY

Small Group

(20 MINUTES)



Small Group Supplies

Key passage poster
Large sheet of paper per group, pencils, markers
2-3 Bibles per group
Dry Erase board & marker per group
Bible story coloring 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

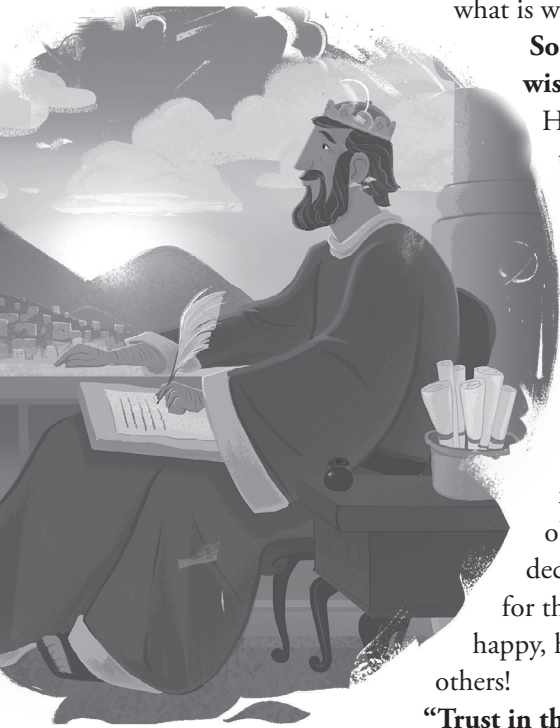
When Solomon became king, he asked God for help to lead the Israelites. **God gave King Solomon wisdom to lead His people. People came from far away to hear Solomon's wise words.** The Bible teaches that there are two ways to live: a wrong way, doing what is foolish and evil; and a right way, doing what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

Greet each kid as he or she arrives and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to list the names of people they obey. Why do they obey those people? Do they always obey those people joyfully?

SAY • When we think about people whom we obey, often our parents or teachers are the first people we imagine. We also obey the laws of our country. Obeying the right people is important. Today we will learn about things Solomon wrote to help people obey God.

Activity page

Invite kids to complete the “Where Is Wisdom?” activity page. Guide kids to complete the maze to find places where we can gain wisdom. Remind the kids that there might be more than one correct path in this maze.

SAY • We get wisdom from multiple places. We can gain wisdom by listening to trusted leaders in the church, by praying to God, and by reading God's Word. Ultimately, all wisdom comes from God.

“Where Is Wisdom?” activity page, 1 per kid
pencils or markers

Transition to teach the story

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

CG: Bible Story Picture

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.

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 you 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
- Large sheet of paper
- markers, crayons

Provide the kids with a large sheet of paper and markers. Help the kids create a banner by writing the key passage in large letters on the sheet of paper. Then invite the group to decorate the banner using markers and crayons. Encourage the kids to be creative. They can draw pictures of wise behavior or people they know who show wisdom. They could also draw pictures of themselves asking God for more wisdom.

SAY • The Bible teaches us that wisdom comes from God. God gives us wisdom through His Word, through the Holy Spirit, and through other Christians. Our key passage reminds us that God enjoys giving wisdom and will give it generously to anyone who asks Him for it.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- 2-3 Bibles, per group

Distribute 2-3 Bible per group. Help them find some of the passages referenced in the Bible story, such as Proverbs 15:1; 18:2; and Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.

Listen closely

Invite the kids to sit in a line. Whisper a short statement to the first kid in line. He must turn and whisper the same statement to the kid behind him, and so on until the last kid in line hears the statement. Ask that kid to say out loud what she heard. Play a second round where you write the statement down, and the kids can all read it together.

SAY • In the second round, there was almost no chance that you would say the wrong statement because it was written down, not just whispered. Today we will learn about some things Solomon wrote down so that many people, including us today, could learn about wisdom and God.

· Dry erase board, 1 per group
· Dry erase markers

Reflection and prayer

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

· pencils and crayons
· paper
· Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid