

August 10-11, 2019

4th-5th Lesson

Unit 12, Session 2

Wisdom for God's People

Proverbs; Ecclesiastes;
Song of Songs

Story Point: Wisdom is
fearing the Lord and obeying
His Word.



Tell the story from the following Bible story script.

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.

"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.

Supplies: "Proverb or Not" wall signs, 2-3 Bibles per group, pencils, markers, crayons, 1 large piece of paper per group, index cards (1 per kid), Key passage poster, 4th-5th Take Home (1 per kid)

Opening Activities



INTRODUCE the Story

WELCOME TIME

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Help new kids connect to your group. 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.

[Play the countdown video as you transition to Large Group.]

[Intro Music](#)

[Video: Countdown](#)

Large Group

Proverb or Not?

Supplies: "Proverb or Not" wall signs

Hey guys! It's game time again! So we've been talking about Solomon and if you remember, God made him the wisest man to have ever lived. He even wrote an entire book in the Bible full of wisdom and it's called the book of Proverbs. Well today, we're going to play a fun game about that and the good news is this is an ALL play. That means all of you are playing it. The game is called Proverbs or NOT.

[CG: Proverb or Not Slide](#)

OK, everyone stand up and come to the middle! Here's how this game will work. I am going to put up on a screen a "wise" saying. You guys will have to decide if it is an actual Proverb - as in written by Solomon and in the Bible - or NOT. If you think it IS a Proverb, run to the Proverb wall. If you think it's NOT, then you run over to this NOT wall. Then I will reveal the true answer and if you're right, you stay in the game. If you're wrong, you're out. Now, you may think this is going to be easy, but there are some pretty crazy Proverbs out there! Let's see who can survive the longest. Let's play Proverbs or NOT!

Proverb or NOT order on the screen:

1. "A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down." (**NOT**)
2. "If you find honey, eat just enough—too much of it, and you will vomit." (**Proverb**) Proverbs 25:16
3. "You lazy fool, look at an ant. Watch it closely; let it teach you a thing or two." (**Proverb**) Proverbs 6:6
4. "Even a fish wouldn't get into trouble if it kept its mouth shut." (**NOT**)
5. "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me." (**NOT**)
6. "Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful face on an empty head." (**Proverb**) Proverbs 11:22
7. "What's good for the goose is good for the gander." (**NOT**)
8. "Nobody robs a bank with everyone watching," (**Proverb**) Proverbs 1:17
9. "Anyone who loves correction loves knowledge. Anyone who hates to be corrected is stupid." (**Proverb**) Proverbs 12:1
10. "One man's trash is another man's treasure." (**NOT**)
11. "Lions roar and bears charge—and the wicked lord it over the poor." (**Proverb**) Proverbs 28:15
12. "Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats his folly." (**Proverb**) Proverbs 26:11
13. "Birds of a feather flock together." (**NOT**)

• Why do you think God gives us proverbs in the Bible?



Worship

[Song: O Taste & See](#)

[Song: Let Revolution Start](#)

Let's get ready to praise God by singing to Him and thanking Him for all He has done! No matter what kind of week you have had, God loves you and wants a relationship with you.

TEACH the Story

Hey guys! Welcome to KidCity. I know you are back in school and settling into a new year. This month we are talking about wisdom. Wisdom is something all of us need, especially when we are making new friends and starting something new. Wisdom helps us love God, love others, and love life. The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus. [*Show the giant timeline and point to today's Bible story.*]

Did you know that Solomon wrote down many wise words in the Bible? Today we're going to look at some of that wisdom from the Books of Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; and Song of Songs. There is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Tell the Bible story from the script on page 1.

- What does this story teach us about God?

[CG: Question 1](#)

Wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying His Word. God created everything, so **He knows how life works best**. The Bible tells us about God's plan for money, friends, school, and so much more.

- What are the two ways to live?

[CG: Question 2](#)

There is a wise way and a foolish way. Doing what is foolish and disobedient to God is the wrong way to live. Doing what is wise and good is the right way to live. We look to God and His Word to know what is wise and good.

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.



TEACH the Story

CG: Big Picture Question

Before we pray let's review our Big Picture Question: What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

PRAY

Lord God, You tell us in the Bible that if we lack wisdom, we can ask You for it and You will give it to us! Father, please give us wisdom! Help us to understand Your Word. Help us to obey Your instructions and to trust in You. We love You! Amen.

THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



GOD PROVIDED. Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



Small Group

APPLY the Story

Big Picture Question

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

We see through the books of Wisdom in the Bible that there are two ways to live—a wise way and a foolish way. God can make foolish people wise. His instruction is perfect and trustworthy.

- Does God really care how we live?
- How can you obey your parents and others this week to show true wisdom?

Distribute Bibles. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Proverbs 3. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Proverbs 3:5-6. God made King Solomon the wisest man who had ever lived, and people came from all over to listen to his wisdom.

Wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying His Word. Choose another volunteer to read aloud Proverbs 3:5-6 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. Who has the best plan for your life?

Lead kids to discuss what types of plans people might make for their own lives. Guide them to recognize that God is in control of all things. Emphasize that God knows how life works best, and He gives us instruction in His Word to show us how to be like Jesus—in how we live, how we speak, and how we think. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 16:9.)

2. Why is it foolish to try to live without God?

Prompt kids recall that wisdom comes from God. God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. God knows how life works best. God has all wisdom and knowledge. He knows everything about the past, present, and future. Fools trust in themselves; the wise person trusts in God. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 5:15-17.)

3. How can you seek to grow in wisdom?

Lead kids to recall that if we ask God for wisdom, He gives us wisdom. Emphasize that kids can pray for understanding as they learn about the Bible and read the Bible on their own. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 2:6.)



APPLY the Story

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Instruct kids to stand in a circle and open their Bibles to James 1:5. Lead the kids to read the key passage 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. Emphasize that the best place to get wisdom is from God!

PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for His Word and asking Him for wisdom and understanding.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Wisdom mural

Supplies: Bibles, large piece of paper, crayons or markers, index cards

Before the session, write the following Bible references on separate index cards. Prepare additional cards if needed so each kid has one: *Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 3:5-6; Proverbs 9:10; Proverbs 10:1; Proverbs 11:13; Proverbs 11:27; Proverbs 12:15; Proverbs 19:15; Proverbs 26:11; Ecclesiastes 3:1-4; Ecclesiastes 7:5; Ecclesiastes 7:9.*

Provide a length of paper from a paper roll long enough for kids to gather around. Give each kid an index card and a Bible. Instruct kids to look up the Bible verses and write the words of the verse on the paper. Encourage kids to illustrate the verses as well. Announce that you will hang up the mural in the room for the next few weeks as kids continue learning about wise King Solomon.

Point out that wisdom in the Bible shows us how to be like Jesus—in how we live, how we speak, and how we think. A wise person will see his or her need for Jesus, but wisdom cannot save us. Only Jesus, who perfectly followed God's wise plan, can rescue us from sin.