

# Wisdom for God's People

**Bible Passage:** Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; Song of Songs

**Memory Verse:** <sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. **James 1:5**

**Bottom Line:** I obey God's Word to make wise decisions in what I do, how I speak and how I think.

**Big Picture Question:** What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

**Christ Connection:** *Solomon was a wise king who wanted to do God's plan. Solomon wasn't perfect, but God had a plan to give His people a greater and wiser king—His Son, Jesus. Jesus completely trusted God. Jesus surrendered His own life to die on the cross for our sins.*

## Leader Notes:

### CONTEXT

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.

### TEACHING FOCUS (Wisdom Books)

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.*

#### TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- *Because God knows everything, all His plans are best. He is perfectly wise; we can trust Him.*
- *Wisdom from the Bible shows us who Jesus is.*
- *Wisdom from the Bible shows us how to be like Jesus.*
- *Wisdom is more than just knowing a lot, it is understanding how to use what you know to make the best choices.*
- **BL:** I obey God's Word to make wise decisions in what I do, how I speak and how I think.

#### Worship and Story Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

**Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)**

**What You Say:** "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible Story today."

**What You Do: Introduce the Story**

"God made King Solomon very wise. People came from all over to learn from Solomon, and they knew God was with him. Solomon wrote down many wise sayings called proverbs. Solomon wrote that wisdom comes from God. He said, "Trust in the Lord. Do not try to do things your way." When people listen to God's wisdom, they make good choices. When people make wrong choices, God corrects them like a loving Father. Solomon looked at the world around him and wrote that life works best when people obey God's words. He said, "In the end, love God and obey Him."

#### PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Check diapers and serve snack.

### Activities

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead each activity two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in the activities. That's okay.

#### 1. Follow the Path

**What You Need:** painter's tape or yarn in primary colors, scissors

**What You Do:**

- Use painter's tape or yarn in primary colors to make 3 interwoven paths on the floor.
- Invite toddlers to walk on the path of their choice.
- When you call out a color, children must follow that path instead.
- Retell the Bible story as written above.

**What You 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.

#### 2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

**What You Need:** Memory Verse Poster

**What You Do:**

- Show the poster to the kids.
- As you say the words point to them on the poster.

- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. James 1:5

**What You Say** " Did you know you could ask God for wisdom just like Solomon did? It's true! You don't have to wait for God to speak to you in a dream. Our memory verse says that anyone can ask God for wisdom! Let's pray and ask God to show us where we need wisdom."

**Pray and Dismiss:**

**What You Need:** coloring page, crayons

**What You Do:**

- **Pray:** "Father, we believe that You are wise, powerful, and good., You know all there is to know, 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 Your commands. Amen.."
- Tell parents one thing you did today and encourage them to check out the Family Resources online, app and in paper copy on the slat wall. Send home the coloring page.