



Wisdom for God's People

Bible Passage: Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; Song of Songs

Memory Verse: ⁵ 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.*

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Would You Rather

What You Need: Would You Rather Activity Page (1 copy per kid), pencils, Uno Cards

What You Do:

- Groups kids into pairs. They will ask their partner a question and circle the answer.
- As kids are asking each other questions, they should ask them why after to encourage more conversation.
- After about 5 minutes, give kids a chance to introduce each other to the group, based on what they learned in the Would You Rather questions.
- Toward the end of the series, if everyone knows each other pretty well you can play Uno together until large group starts.

What You Say " We are so happy to have you in our group this year. We are going to spend the next few weeks playing this game, so that we can get to know each other better. I am so excited for our year together. Please know that if you need anything, I am here for you and would love the chance to grow together. Let's see what is going on in Large Group today."

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

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.

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

- *Why is it wise to obey God? Guide kids to discuss who God is and what God knows. Remind them that God knows everything about the past, present, and future. Because God knows everything; is perfectly good; and is sovereign over all; we can trust all His commands. It is wise to obey God because He knows how life works best. He wants what is good for us.*
- *Who should fear God and obey His commands? (all of humanity, Eccl. 12:13)*
- *Can we be wise without Jesus? Guide kids to see that although we can show some signs of wisdom, any person who rejects Jesus is making the most foolish decision possible. No matter what we might gain in our current lives, only Jesus can give us eternal life with God. Trusting in Jesus is the ultimate show of wisdom.*
- *Why can't wisdom save us? Guide kids to see that no amount of wisdom can make us*



perfect or righteous. Only Jesus is perfect and righteous. He died for our sin so that we could be made righteous through Him. Wisdom helps us make good choices and see that we need Jesus, but only Jesus can save us from our sin.

Activity: Wisdom Mural

What You Need: “Wisdom Bible Verse Cards” (1 set per group), large piece of butcher paper, colored pencils, markers, crayons, pencils, Bibles

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Wisdom Bible Verse Card. (every kid should have a different verse)
- Instruct kids to look up their verses in the Bibles.
- They can copy all the word from their verse in the Bible to their card.
- Then they are going to creatively write their verse on the butcher paper. Encourage kids to use their best skills to decorate the paper so that we can hang it up for others to see for the next few weeks.
- They can illustrate their verse or just make decorations to show us what wisdom looks like.
- We will hang up the mural for the next few weeks as kids continue learning about wise King Solomon.

What You Say King Solomon wrote much of the Books of Proverbs, and all of Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs. Proverbs gives us practical advice for living wisely. Ecclesiastes teaches us to think carefully about how we should live our lives. Song of Songs reveals God’s wisdom for relationships. Wisdom is fearing the lord and obeying His Word. 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.

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster (printed on 11x17 for this series), sticky notes (with one word from the memory verse on it)

What You Do:

- Display the memory verse poster.
- Lead kids in reading aloud together.
- Place all but one sticky note on the poster.
- Ask kids to read through the words to see what word is missing.
- Then have kids say the memory verse together again.

What You Say ” Our memory verse comes from the Book of James. James, the son of Mary and Joseph, was the half-brother of Jesus. The Book of James is a letter James wrote to Jewish Christians about how to live as followers of Jesus. At the beginning of the letter, James wrote about how to get wisdom. It seems pretty simple; ask God, and get wisdom! We’ll work on memorizing James 1:5 together over the next few weeks.”

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Say:

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

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents about our Big Picture Question. **What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present and future.** So God can help us make good decisions when we turn to Him for guidance.