

WISDOM OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PROVERBS 1; 3-4



KEY PASSAGE: Proverbs 3:7

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Solomon's proverbs encourage God's people to trust in the Lord. Jesus trusted in God His Father throughout His life on earth, all the way to His death on the cross for our sins. He rose again and continues to lead us to love and trust God the Father.

STORY POINT: We gain wisdom when we fear God and trust in Him.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

God's gift of wisdom to King Solomon did not end with Solomon; he shared this wisdom through his proverbs. Solomon wrote in Proverbs 1:2 that these words were for learning wisdom and discipline, understanding insightful sayings, receiving instruction, and teaching the inexperienced. Through all the insight he gained as the wisest man on earth, he came back to this truth: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7).

What does it mean to fear the Lord? How can we know that we have true wisdom?

Fearing the Lord means honoring Him as holy and revering Him as God alone. Solomon recognized the folly of a life lived in his own strength and wisdom. He knew that pursuing the Lord through genuine trust and obedience is the only way to live a life that matters. He beckoned readers to trust in the Lord with all their heart and not depend on their own understanding. The proverbs reveal to us that wisdom is not a mere intellectual exercise. Wisdom is a Person, Jesus, and by trusting in Him we find salvation.

Many proverbs offer practical guidance for interacting with the world: avoiding peer pressure, pursuing the path of peace, and treating others fairly. However, all of the practical guidance is grounded in following God's wisdom above any earthly knowledge. Solomon wrote of the favor God's people experience when they cling to His ways above all else.

Consider your relationship to godly wisdom. Reflect on the seasons of life that have led you closest to the Lord and in obedience to Him. Remember God's generosity and kindness toward His followers: "Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God—who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly—and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).

Invite kids to see the beauty of pursuing God's ways and trusting Him, both for the promise of His presence and the wisdom He provides in our everyday lives. Life everlasting begins when we come to faith in Him!



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** “Do you know a wise adult? What makes him or her wise?”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: SOLOMON SAYS



Lead kids to play a game similar to “Simon Says” using commands found in Proverbs. Write down each of the following commands on a dry erase board or poster paper: “Guard your heart” (place your hand on your heart); “Listen closely to my sayings” (place hand behind ear); “Don’t abandon my teaching” (make an X with your arms); “Turn away from evil” (spin around). Practice the motions several times. Remind kids to only follow the command if they hear the phrase “Solomon says.” Play until only one kid remains.

| **SAY** “As we hear our Bible story, we’ll learn about many proverbs or wise sayings Solomon wrote. Throughout the book of Proverbs we learn **WE GAIN WISDOM WHEN WE FEAR GOD AND TRUST IN HIM.**”

OPTION 2: TRUST IN THE LORD WIND CHIME

Provide each kid with enough air dry clay to form three hearts. Consider providing small heart-shaped cookie cutters for kids to shape the clay with. Then provide small clay letter stamps to spell out Trust in the Lord on their hearts. Kids may choose to put all the words on one heart or space out the words on all three hearts. Then use a pencil to poke a hole at the top of each heart. Tie string through each hole of the hearts. Then tie the strings to a small wooden dowel. Create a handle for the wind chime by tying a ribbon to each end of the wooden dowel.

Instruct kids to take their wind chimes home and let them air dry for 24 hours. Then tell kids they can paint their wind chimes once they are dry, if they’d like.

| **SAY** “As we hear some of the proverbs Solomon wrote, we’ll see how Solomon’s proverbs encourage God’s people to trust in the Lord. We’ll learn how Jesus trusted in God during His time on earth and how we can follow His example.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Weighty Wisdom” activity page.

SAY “ Today, we will learn about the book of Proverbs Solomon wrote and how these proverbs teach us to fear God and trust in Him. ”

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ God granted Solomon the incredible gift of wisdom, but he didn’t receive this wisdom to simply keep it all to himself. Solomon wrote down many proverbs, or words of wisdom, to help God’s people fear God and trust Him in every area of their lives. He taught about the importance of growing in wisdom. Solomon also wrote about the importance of loving God and others, as well as turning away from evil.

What did Solomon say was the purpose of the proverbs? Look at Proverbs 1:1-7. **[Ask a volunteer to read Proverbs 1:1-7 aloud.]** Solomon said the proverbs were meant to teach wisdom and discipline, to gain understanding, to receive instruction in righteousness, and to teach the young good judgment. Solomon said that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. We can’t have wisdom until we rightly understand who God is and exalt Him to His rightful place. When we recognize how great God is, we love Him and can receive the wisdom He has to give us.

How did Solomon say we should trust in God? Look at Proverbs 3:5-7. **[Ask a volunteer to read Proverbs 3:5-7 aloud.]** Solomon wrote how we must trust in God with all of our heart, recognize we don’t know everything, and turn away from evil. When we fail to seek God with all of our hearts, we show how we are depending on other things for wisdom or guidance. Only God can guide us on the right path. **WE GAIN WISDOM WHEN WE FEAR GOD AND TRUST IN HIM.**

Solomon said there are only two paths in life. What are they? Look at Proverbs 4:14,18. **[Ask a volunteer to read Proverbs 4:14,18 aloud.]** We can walk on the path of the wicked or the path of the righteous. Those who love God and fear Him walk on the path of the righteous by faith in Jesus. Only Jesus makes us right with God. This path leads us to life with God forever.

Only one Person perfectly lived out the wisdom of God on this earth—Jesus. Jesus trusted in God His Father throughout His life on earth, all the way to His death on the cross for our sins. He rose again and continues to lead us to love and trust God the Father. When we follow Jesus, we walk on the path of the righteous. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ Recognizing that our own understanding is sinful helps us see our need for Jesus. God calls us to trust in Jesus with all of our hearts. Jesus died on the cross to save us from walking on the path of the wicked, which leads to death. When we trust in Jesus, we have forgiveness of sins and life with Him forever. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why does God tell us to fear Him?
2. How does fearing God help us see our need for Jesus?



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles, and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Proverbs 3. Tell kids that the book of Proverbs is in the poetry and wisdom division of the Old Testament, like Ecclesiastes, Psalms, Job, and Song of Songs.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Kingdoms Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where Solomon reigned as king. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Jerusalem [H5]). Choose a volunteer to read aloud Proverbs 3:1-2 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY “ While obeying God’s commands does not save us, believers have hearts that delight in following God’s commands. Christians don’t forget God’s Word but make it a treasure they seek after daily.

Loving fathers want their children to live full, happy lives. God is the ultimate loving Father, and He has made the way for us to have a full, happy life forever. When we trust in Jesus, we receive the gift of eternal life. The heart of a Christian loves God, obeys Him, and wants to please Him. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** “ Why is it important to not depend on our own understanding? ”

Tell kids that our hearts are sinful and deceitful. We don’t always know what is best or right because we follow sinful desires. Discuss how God is always good and right. He has all wisdom, and we can depend on Him in everything.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 3:5-6.)

| **SAY** “ Does it matter who we follow or the friends we choose? Why? ”

Discuss how who we follow or who we surround ourselves with impacts the choices we make. We become like what we continuously look to. If we look to those who don’t love God and follow Him, we will be led away from God. If we surround ourselves with godly influences, we will be encouraged to seek after God. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 4:10-19.)

| **SAY** “ What are some practical ways Christians can grow in wisdom? ”

Remind kids that our key passage teaches us that wisdom comes from fearing the Lord and turning away from evil. Some other ways that Christ followers can grow in wisdom are by reading God’s Word, spending time in prayer, going to church, spending time with other followers of Jesus, and obeying God’s commands. The more we seek Wisdom (Jesus), the wiser we become. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 9:9-11.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

You may also choose to do Option 2 from Welcome

☐ OPTION 1: A MONTH OF PROVERBS



Print copies of the “A Month of Proverbs” printable for each kid. Distribute Bibles and pens to each kid. Share how the book of Proverbs has 31 chapters. Invite kids to label their calendar with the name of the upcoming month and number the days on the calendar. Then direct kids to go to Proverbs chapter 1 and choose a proverb from that chapter to write on day 1. Repeat, until kids have chosen a proverb from each chapter for each day of the month. Challenge kids to read a proverb a day during the next month.

SAY “ Solomon’s proverbs encourage God’s people to trust in the Lord. **WE GAIN WISDOM WHEN WE FEAR GOD AND TRUST IN HIM.**

One way we can fear God and trust in Him is through reading the Bible. As we seek God through His Word and trust in Him with our hearts, we grow in wisdom. ”

☐ OPTION 2: GLOWING WITH WISDOM

Dim the lights of the room and distribute a glow stick to each kid. Invite kids to work together to connect their glow sticks to spell words such as “wisdom,” “shine,” “trust,” “Jesus,” and “faith.” Then, challenge kids to create a path throughout the room using their glow sticks. For smaller classes, consider giving each kid multiple glow sticks. As an additional challenge, blindfold a volunteer and direct the other kids to guide him on the path using only vocal directions. Repeat as time allows, choosing a new volunteer each time.

SAY “ Proverbs 4:18 says, ‘The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, shining brighter and brighter until midday.’ We only become righteous when we trust in Jesus. And those who trust in Jesus desire to follow Him. Jesus leads us to eternal life and helps us grow in wisdom here on earth. When we follow Jesus and obey His words, we shine like light in a dark world and help others see how Jesus is true wisdom. ”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel, and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for sending Jesus to make us righteous and guide us on the path to life. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Walk Wisely” on the activity page.