

Unit 12 • Session 2

Wisdom for God’s People

Bible Passage: Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; Song of Songs

Story Point: Wisdom is loving God and obeying His Word.

Key Passage: James 1:5a

Big Picture Question: What does God know? God knows everything.

The BIBLE Story

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 down wise thoughts called proverbs. In the Book of Proverbs, Solomon told God’s people how to make wise choices. Solomon wrote about getting along with others, telling the truth, being a good friend, and many other things.

“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 anger,” 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 said, “Fools hate wisdom and instruction.” He also said, “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 life that matters. The most important thing, Solomon said, is to love and obey God.

Solomon even wrote a poem. He 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 dig up; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to tear down and a time to build; a time to cry and a time to laugh; a time to be sad 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: God gives us wisdom in the Bible. Wisdom helps us be like Jesus—in how we live, how we talk, and how we think. However, wisdom cannot save us. Only Jesus, who perfectly followed God’s wise plan, can rescue us from sin.

Learn the big picture question

Say • Only God can give true wisdom because only God knows everything. *What does God know? God knows everything.* We cannot know everything, but we can remember that **wisdom is loving God and obeying His Word.** Only Jesus perfectly followed God’s wise plan.

Practice the key passage

Write out the key passage onto a piece of paper and then cut it into pieces. Hide the pieces around the room. Place the bookmark at James 1:5. Invite your child to open your Bible to the key passage. Invite your child to go on a “wisdom treasure hunt” to find all the pieces and assemble the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. **“If any of you (point to those around you) lacks wisdom (point to forehead), you should ask God (make praying hands and look up to sky).” James 1:5 (open palms like a book).**

Say • Good job hunting! Finding God’s wisdom is like a treasure hunt, except we do not have to hunt to find God’s wisdom. All we have to do is ask God, and He will give us wisdom! God gives us treasures of His wisdom right here in the Bible!

Coloring page

What you need: coloring sheet, 1 per child, markers or crayons

Print out the coloring/activity page for your child. Invite your child to color the one side. On the other side, help him/her trace each path and decide which path leads to the Bible.

Say • We learned about God’s wisdom in our Bible story today. Only two paths are on this page: one leads straight to the Bible, and the other twists all over and ends nowhere. The Bible teaches that there are two ways to live: a right way and a wrong way. Trusting Jesus is the only right way to live. He will guide us straight to God’s wisdom!

Decide between wise and unwise actions

Actions:

- *pushing a friend*
- *being kind to a new child in class*
- *hitting a sibling*
- *helping a neighbor pick up sticks*
- *not cleaning up room when mom says to*
- *sharing a toy*
- *saying mean words*
- *saying thank you*

Say a certain action from the list above. Your child must answer if the action is wise or unwise. Continue saying actions and encourage your child to answer. Use the actions listed above or create your own.

Say • The Bible teaches there is a wrong, or foolish, way and a right, or wise, way to live. **Wisdom is loving God and obeying His Word.** God gives us wisdom in the Bible. Wisdom helps us be like Jesus—in how we live, how we talk, and how we think, but wisdom cannot save us. Only Jesus, who perfectly followed God’s wise plan, can rescue us from sin.

Rub over coins

What you need: "Trust God" printable, unwrapped crayons and various United States minted coins

Tip: Monitor children closely to make sure they do not put coins in their mouths.

Print out the craft page, “Trust God”. Show your child the inscription ***In God We Trust*** on a coin. Guide him/her to place a coin under the sheet of paper and rub over it with the side of an unwrapped crayon. Encourage him/her to rub over several coins.

Say • In Proverbs, Solomon wrote, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart.” We trust God because ***God knows everything***. God had a wise plan to rescue us from sin. Jesus perfectly followed God’s plan.

Story review

Wisdom is loving God and obeying His Word. God gives us wisdom in the Bible. Wisdom helps us be like Jesus—in how we live, how we talk, and how we think. However, wisdom cannot save us. Only Jesus, who perfectly followed God’s wise plan, can rescue us from sin.

Ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

- Which books of the Bible did we learn from today? (*Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; Song of Songs*)
- What is wisdom? **Wisdom is loving God and obeying His Word.**
- Can wisdom save us from sin? (*No! Only Jesus can save us from sin.*)
- How does wisdom help us? (*helps us be like Jesus*)
- ***What does God know? God knows everything.***