

Unit 12, Session 2 – Wisdom for God’s People

BIBLE PASSAGE

Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; Song of Songs – Use your Kids Adventure Bible or family Bible to read the Bible story.

STORY POINT:

Wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying His Word.

KEY PASSAGE

James 1:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How are a gentle answer and a harsh word different? (*The first stops anger, the second causes anger; Prov. 15:1*)
- What do fools like to show off? (*their own opinions, Prov. 18:2*)
- Who should fear God and obey His commands? (*all of humanity, Eccl. 12:13*)
- 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.*
- 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.*
- 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: read Prov. 16:9.)*
- 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: read Eph. 5:15-17.)*
- How can you seek to grow in wisdom? *Lead boys and girls 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 for themselves. (Option: read Prov. 2:6.)*

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

“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

Write out the verse on a large piece of poster board or on a few sheets of paper to create a banner you can then decorate together.

The Bible teaches us that wisdom comes from God. God gives us wisdom through His Word, through the Holy Spirit, and through other Christians. Our key passage reminds us that God enjoys giving wisdom and will give it generously to anyone who asks Him for it.

OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Better Than Gold:** Provide each kid with a sheet of paper and markers or crayons. Instruct them to draw a large treasure chest filled with gold. You may provide gold-colored plastic coins and glue for them to use as decoration or you can color foil and cut out coins to glue. Help the kids write on their sheet *Wisdom is better than gold!* or *Proverbs 16:16*.

The Bible teaches us that wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver or any treasures.

Wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying His commands. *Even though wisdom is very valuable, it is not enough to save us. A wise person will know that Jesus' death and resurrection made the only way to live with God forever. When we trust Jesus, God forgives us and gives us new life.*

- **Wisdom Rank:** Write scenarios on sheets of paper. Challenge your kids to place the sheets in order based on how wise the actions seem to them. Allow them to discuss their reasonings.
 - Suggested scenarios:
 - Your parents tell you to clean up and you obey.
 - You read your Bible each morning when you wake.
 - You watch TV instead of working on a project due next week.
 - Your toy is low on batteries, so you take some from another device without telling your parents.

Ranking wise behavior can be difficult but telling wise from unwise behavior doesn't have to be. The Bible tells us what wisdom is and where it comes from.

- **Wisdom Mural:** Provide a length of paper from a paper roll long enough for kids to gather around. Using your Bible, choose and look up a few of these Bible verses and write the words of the verse on the paper. Encourage kids to illustrate the verses as well.
 - *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.*

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.*