

## Wisdom of God's People

Proverbs 1; 3-4

## What does God know?

God knows everything about the past, present and future.

"...So that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God and that there is no other."  
1 Kings 8:60

### Story Point:

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



### PREPARE HEARTS

- ☐ Welcome and Yarn Toss Truth
- ☐ 11:00 - Kids Worship



### ACTIVATE HEARTS

- ☐ Lesson Review - Wisdom of God's People
- ☐ Discussion Questions
- ☐ Group Demonstration: Road Signs



### ENGAGE HEARTS

- ☐ Group Game - Wise or Not Wise Relay
- ☐ Share and Care Prayer Time
- ☐ Group Activity - Write Your Own Proverbs
- ☐ Group Activity - A Proverb a Day

## SHEPHERD GUIDE

Solomon asked God for wisdom, and God provided. The book of Proverbs is a collection of Solomon's wise sayings about life. In this incredible book, he extols the virtue of wisdom and knowledge, and how we should chase after understanding like our lives depend on it. Wisdom and discernment guide us to live for God in ways that honor Him and put His love on display for the people around us. Read Proverbs 1; 3-4 and consider the following teaching points to guide your preparation this week.

**God gives us knowledge and wisdom to guide us.** In the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve had the opportunity to fully submit to God's ways, but they chose to trust in themselves. Their attempt at self-sufficiency has infected every human heart since then, and we often find ourselves trying to forge our own paths. But God's ways are better, and He desires to lead us into places of blessing if we turn to Him in humble submission.

**We can look to God for everything we need.** Though we may try to find meaning and purpose in the things of this world, nothing else will satisfy us beside a life of connection with our Creator. All good things come from Him, and like a loving Father, He wants to give us what we need, and often much more! In nothing else can we find what our hearts so desperately long for: the love of God and the safety we find in Jesus.

**Honoring God leads to blessing.** The writer of Hebrews calls us to fix our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2). He is the Author of all life and guides us to live in ways that honor Him. It may seem counterintuitive to give up living for ourselves in order to find true joy and peace, but this is the way of the gospel. Jesus came to show us what it means to lay down our lives if we want to fully live.

Guide kids to see that all knowledge and wisdom comes from God, because He is the Creator of all things. God is the One who determines right from wrong, and it is good for us to learn how to discern good from evil in our daily lives. Help kids know that the Holy Spirit helps us learn discernment, and it is a skill they will cultivate as they grow.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 10:20 - 10:30 in C1.  
Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

## MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- \*KNOW that God is the ultimate wise one. He determines right from wrong.
- \*LOOK to God in everything they do.
- \*RELY on the Holy Spirit to help them learn right from wrong.



*As you arrive and children come and go - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the others. Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.*

*Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc.*

*When most kids have arrived for 2nd service (by 10:50ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.*



## PREPARE HEARTS

### WELCOME and Yarn Truth Toss

Yarn

Lead the group to stand in a circle. If your group is large, split into two groups.

Give one kid the ball of yarn and invite her to say her name and something true about her.

While holding onto the end of the yarn, she'll toss the rest of the yarn ball to someone else in the circle.

He'll say his name and something true about himself, hold onto the yarn and toss the ball. Continue around the circle until everyone has shared.

**SAY:** It's so fun learning about you as we start our year together. And look at the cool web we've made with the yarn. You each said something unique about you. All of us are very different, but we're all connected. Everyone is made by God in His image, and His purpose for each of us is to know and love Him. God designed us to be in relationship with Him and one another. Even though we're all different and have lots of things that make us individuals, we are all part of God's family and we are all part of this class. I'm so glad you are here!



## KIDS WORSHIP

11:00

Take children to LG2 for combined Pre-K -4th grade worship time.



## ACTIVE MINDS

You can use the REVIEW VIDEO on your TV and / or use this lesson as a review of what was taught 1st service.

### Wisdom of God's People

Bibles,  
Review Video –  
Bible story on TV

Open your Bible to Proverbs 1; 3-4 . You can use the Kids Sermon Outline as you go through the story.

#### KIDS SERMON OUTLINE

**God gives us knowledge and wisdom to guide us (Prov. 1):** King Solomon recognized that all wisdom comes from the Lord.

**We can look to God for everything we need (Prov. 3):** We can trust in the Lord and look to God in everything we do.

**Honoring God leads to blessing (Prov. 4):** Following God's commands leads to light and life.

**King Solomon wrote many proverbs. Proverbs are short sayings that give wisdom and help people live in ways that are right and good. By following these proverbs, people can gain knowledge and wisdom and receive guidance for life.**

**The book of Proverbs is filled with many of King Solomon's wise sayings. King Solomon taught people to fear the Lord and trust in Him.** He said fearing God was the beginning of knowledge. He also wrote that it is foolish to hate wisdom and discipline.

*Solomon said it is wise to keep God's commandments, for they will bring a long, full life. He taught about the importance of being loyal and faithful, and how this will give you a good reputation with God and people.*

*Another proverb Solomon wrote was, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not depend on your own understanding." Solomon said you should look to God in everything you do, and He will guide you. "Don't think of yourself as wise," Solomon wrote. "Instead fear the Lord and turn away from evil."*

*Solomon also said, "Honor the Lord with everything you own and with the first produce of your entire harvest; then you will experience great blessing."*

**Some of Solomon's proverbs were warnings, such as "Do not hate the Lord's instruction, and do not hate His discipline. The Lord disciplines the one He loves, just as a father disciplines the son he loves."**

**Solomon's proverbs show there are two ways to live: with God's wisdom or without God's wisdom. He wrote, "I am teaching you the way of wisdom; hold on to God's commands and don't let go for they are your life. Don't walk in the path of the wicked. Turn away from it for the wicked love violence, and their path is dark. But stay on the path of the righteous where light always shines brighter and brighter."**

## 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.

Samuel called the people to turn away from false gods and to worship God. They had to recognize their own sin if they were to follow God faithfully. The people committed themselves to God by putting away their idols and false gods. The people fasted and confessed that they had sinned. Solomon's proverbs encourage God's people to trust in the Lord. **How did Solomon say we gain knowledge and wisdom?** [Allow responses. Read Proverbs 1:7.] We gain wisdom when we fear God and trust in Him. Fearing God means having a strong respect and sense of awe. God doesn't want us to be scared of Him, but it is good for us to understand how great and powerful He is. God guides us to know His ways and what He has declared to be right and wrong. Listen to this. [Read Proverbs 4:23.] Solomon encouraged his readers to guard their hearts. We do this by thinking about the way we live, act, speak, and think, and making sure that our lives match up with how God wants us to live. When we begin to get off track, we can ask God to help us move back toward obedience.

We can't live perfectly, but that's why the gospel of Jesus is such good news for us. Jesus trusted in God, His Father, throughout His life on earth, all the way to His death on the cross for our sins. Jesus rose again and continues to lead us to love and trust God the Father.



### Discussion

Discussion questions listed here

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**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.)

**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.)

**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.)



## Road Signs

"Road Signs"  
printables

All these road signs are important for people to be safe while driving. They show drivers information like which lanes to stay in, when to stop, when to yield, and when to watch out for pedestrians. If everyone ignored the signs, there would be chaos on the roads and more than a few accidents. The rules of the road are there for everyone's good, and it's right when people obey the signs.

We didn't read about stop signs in our Bible story, but we can certainly see how obeying God's Word helps life for everyone go better.

[Read Proverbs 4:24.] What did Solomon say we should do in this verse? [Allow responses.] We are to pay attention to the kinds of words we use. We shouldn't say things that aren't true or that hurt others. Imagine if everyone in the world followed this piece of wisdom. Wow! What a great place our world would be if people spoke kindly and respectfully to one another.

[Read Proverbs 3:27.] Solomon encouraged everyone to treat others well and to do good things for one another. While it's not possible for people to be perfect all the time, when we follow God, He helps us grow in discernment and learn to live in ways that honor Him and bless others.



## Wise or Not Wise Relay

Situation Cards,  
"Wise" and "Not  
Wise" posters,  
tape

Form two teams. Give each team posters that say Wise and Not Wise. Hang these signs on one wall opposite where the team lines up. Give each team a set of situation cards. Teams will run relay-style with a slip of paper, attach it with tape to the correct sign, and then run back for the next player to do the same. The first team to finish wins. Once the teams are done, discuss why they put the situation cards where they did.

**SAY:** Having wisdom isn't just about knowing a lot of facts. It means being able to make the right choices in life. Each of the situations on these cards are things you may experience at some point in your own life. In these moments you'll have a choice to make: the wise path or the foolish path. Wisdom comes from God, so if we want to do things His way, we need to be connected to Him through faith in Jesus. Will we make wise choices 100% of the time? Of course not. We're still human, and we still experience temptation and sin. Following Jesus doesn't mean we suddenly become perfect. From the moment we step into God's kingdom as followers of Jesus, God begins a process in us called sanctification. This is a big word that means He helps us become more like Jesus. When Jesus was here on earth He demonstrated a new way of living. He loved God and loved people perfectly. As we get to know God through prayer, studying the Bible, and fellowshiping with other Christians, we learn the skill of discernment. We won't do this perfectly, but over time we grow in our faith and grow in our ability to obey God and live for Him.

April knew from the beginning of the school year that she had to write an essay about what she wanted to do when she grew up. The weeks passed and April put off doing her essay. The due date was just one day away when she began to think about what she would write. Was April wise or unwise in this situation? Why? What could April have done differently?

Adam had few friends at school, but to his surprise one day a gang of kids who had a bad reputation for getting into trouble asked him to join them and do something bad. Adam decided to join the group. Did Adam make a wise or not wise decision? Why? What could Adam have done differently?

Joey pretended to be sick one day because he didn't want to go to school. There was a kid named Nick that was always picking on him. The other day Nick pushed him down and made him cry. He decided that it was better for him to lie to his mom than to face Nick again. Did Joey make a wise or not wise decision? What could Joey have done instead of lying to his mother?

Alice didn't study for your spelling test, even though she had all week to practice and be ready for it. Instead she decided to cheat off your friend who did study. Did Alice make a wise or not wise decision? Why? What should she have done instead?

Sam was throwing a ball in the family room and broke a picture frame. His mom asked about it and he told the truth. Did Sam make a wise or not wise decision? Why?

A friend at school said something bad about a classmate. Even though Abby knew it was a mean thing to say, she decided to chime in and say some other unkind things about the classmate as well. Did Abby make a wise or not wise decision? Why?

Jake spent all morning playing video games even though he knew there were some chores he needed to finish by lunchtime. Did Jake make a wise or not wise decision? Why?

Penny's sister is driving her crazy. Instead of yelling at her, she decides to go to another room so she won't react meanly to her. Did Penny make a wise or not wise decision? Why?

Riley's parents asked him to clean his room this weekend. He decided to do it on Friday afternoon so he could enjoy the rest of the weekend. Did Riley make a wise or not wise decision? Why?



## Share and Care Prayer

### Prayer Chains

Slips of colored paper, markers, stapler

Have the class sit in a circle as you share and care for one another's needs. Ask for and share requests with one another. As they share, write each request on a slip of paper. After sharing together, have them pick a slip of paper and pray as a group for those topics. Afterward, take the slips of paper and make a paper chain. Tape the chain to the corner of the white board for them to reference in the weeks to come.

Spend some time as a class sharing about:

- Our Global Partner Family of the Month (**The Smith Family**)
- Ask for specific prayer requests that any of the kids have to share about something going on in their own lives.

\*Consider writing their requests on the board.

Close in prayer together.



## Write Your Own Proverbs

"Write your Own Proverbs" worksheet, pencils

Provide each kid with a "Write your Own Proverbs" worksheet.

Remind the children that Proverbs are short, clever sayings that help teach us how to live and act wisely.

Have the children work together with a partner or as a table group to come up with their own proverbs by filling in the rest of the sayings.

After they are done, have them share as a class.

Write your Own Proverbs	
Example: Happy is the child who keeps his word. His friends will trust him.	
Happy is the child ....	Blessed are those that ....
Be ....	Keep....
and turn from ....	and guard....
Choose....	
and live....	

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## A Proverb a Day

"A Month of Proverbs" printable, Bibles, pens/pencils

Ass out a "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 "September" 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 through Sunday the 7th. Challenge kids to read a proverb a day during the rest of the month and continue to fill in their calendar!

**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.

