

DEVOTIONAL

for parents



A SERIES ON PSALMS & PROVERBS

Did you know that every day is full of adventures that we get to choose? Some adventures are small, like choosing which book to read. Others are bigger, like deciding how to react when a family member makes us upset. It's not always easy to know what is best but there is hidden treasure you can take into every choice: wisdom. Wisdom is a valuable gift that helps people choose what's best. Together we can choose wisdom, by **not choosing sides, choosing our words carefully, choosing to do good, and choosing God!**

Want to learn and grow alongside your kid as we go through this teaching series? You can! Spend a few minutes each week **studying** the passages of Scripture we'll be teaching, **praying** about what God wants to do in you and in your family, and **growing** by putting God's words into practice in your own life.

WEEK 1

I can be wise by not choosing sides.
Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23; James 2:1–10



STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week.
What stands out to you in this passage and why?



PRAY

Ask God to help you treat everyone with kindness and fairness.



GROW

So what's your next step? Are there places in your life where you've been tempted to take sides or show favoritism? How can you respond with wisdom, fairness, and love instead? Is there someone you've overlooked who might need encouragement or support this week? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.

WEEK 2

I can be wise by choosing my words carefully.
Psalm 19; James 3:4–10



STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week.
What stands out to you in this passage and why?



PRAY

Pray for wisdom to use your words in helpful and healing ways.



GROW

So what's your next step? Is there a conversation you've had recently that you wish you could rewind? What would it look like to pause before you speak, especially when you're frustrated, tired, or trying to prove a point? Could choosing your words more carefully help restore a relationship, calm a tense moment, or show love in a difficult situation? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.

WEEK 3

I can be wise by choosing to do good.

Psalm 1; James 3:13–18



STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week.

What stands out to you in this passage and why?



PRAY

Ask God to help you recognize what's truly wise, and pray for the courage to do what's right even when it's difficult.



GROW

So what's your next step? What decisions are in front of you this week where you'll need to choose between what's easy and what's good? How can you slow down and ask for wisdom before reacting or speaking? Who in your life models godly wisdom, and how can you learn from them? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.

WEEK 4

I can be wise by choosing God.

Proverbs 3:1–8; James 5:13–16



STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week.

What stands out to you in this passage and why?



PRAY

Thank God for offering guidance that brings peace, and pray for the courage to turn to God first in every situation.



GROW

So what's your next step? What choices are you facing right now that could use a little more wisdom? Is there someone you trust who could help you see things more clearly? How can you remind yourself that real wisdom begins with choosing God, again and again? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.

K-5TH GRADE AT HOME

SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2026



BIG IDEA

I can be wise by
not choosing sides.

BIBLE

Wisdom and Favoritism

Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23; James 2:1–10

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Sometimes picking sides feels like choosing between treasure or walking the plank. This week, we'll sail into the book of Proverbs to learn how favoritism causes others to feel left out. When we choose to love everyone like God does, we're sailing the right course, because **I can be wise by not choosing sides.**

QUESTIONS

- **What is better to have than riches?** A good name.
- **What were the two types of people that the Bible story from Proverbs 22 talked about?** Rich and poor.
- **Whether we are rich or poor, what do all of us have in common?** God made us all.
- **Read James 2:9. What does this verse say about favoritism?** That favoritism is a sin and goes against what God wants us to do.
- **What are some ways you might be tempted to show favoritism?**
- **What can you do to remind yourself to choose wisely and not choose sides?**
- **What do you show when you don't show favoritism?**

ACTIVITY

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a game of "Would You Rather?" with your kids.
- Aye, making choices can be tricky—especially when both sides have their pros and cons!
- When we are wise in our choices, we make the choice that honors God. We choose to show love and mercy to someone. We choose to let our anger go. We don't choose sides, we choose God!

MEMORY VERSE: "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise."—Ephesians 5:15 (NIV)

K-5TH GRADE AT HOME

SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2026



BIG IDEA

I can be wise by choosing my words carefully.

BIBLE

Wisdom and Speech
Psalm 19; James 3:4–10

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Even the tiniest parrot squawk can echo across the sea—just like our words. This week, we'll explore how what we say can help or hurt as we read from the book of Psalms. Like a ship's rudder, our words steer us and others, which is why **I can be wise by choosing my words carefully.**

QUESTIONS

- What does Psalm 19 say that the heavens, skies, and all of nature do even though they have no voice? Show and tell about God's glory.
- The writer of Psalm 19 said that God's law is more precious than ____ and sweeter than _____. Gold, honey.
- What did the writer of Psalm 19 want to be pleasing to God? The words of his mouth and the thoughts of his heart.
- Read James 3:9. What are the two things we can use our tongues for? To praise God or hurt people with our words.
- Why is it important to speak wisely to others?
- In what situation this week will you need to make sure that you speak wisely?
- How do you think speaking wisely will help your relationships with other people?

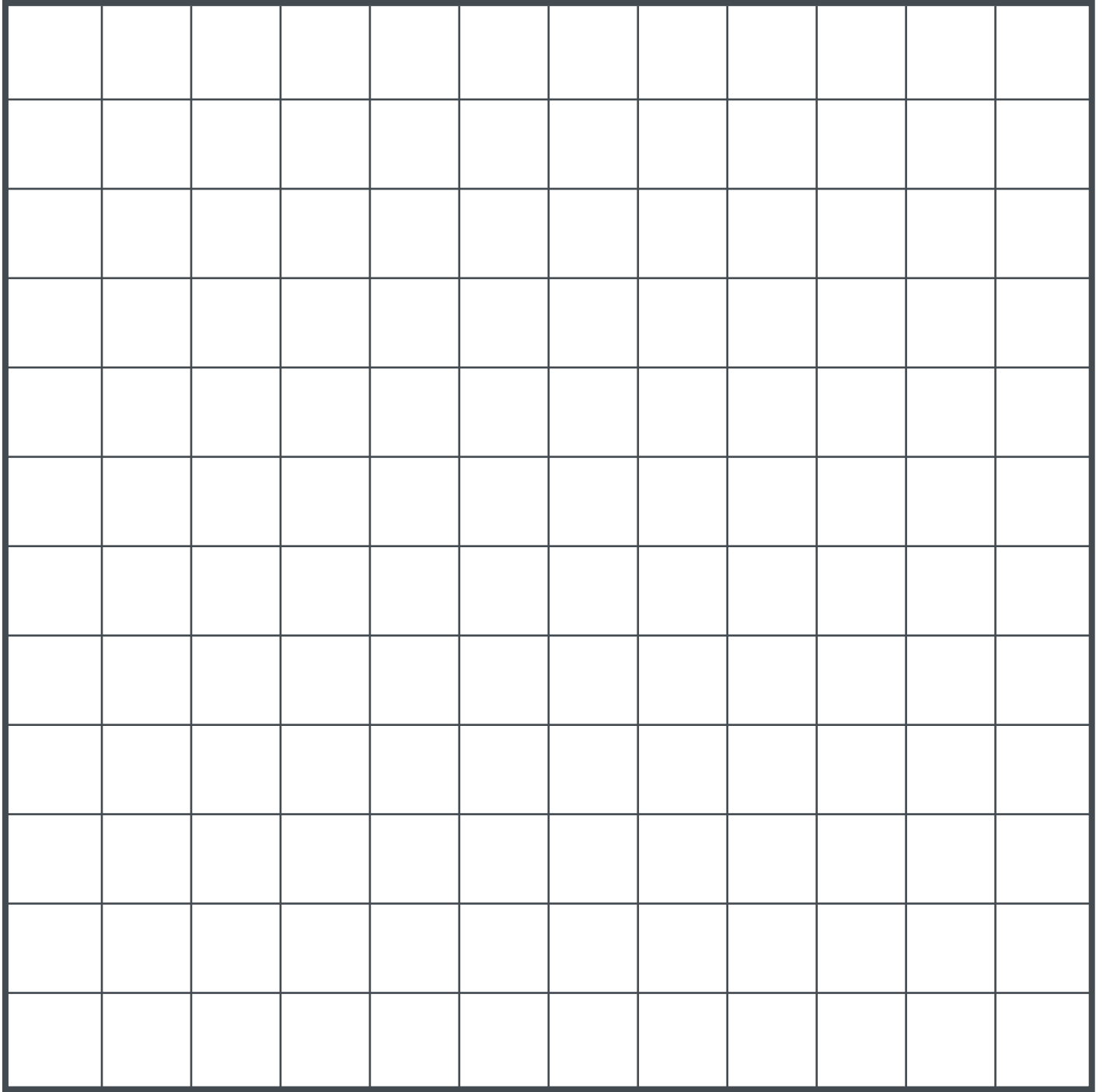
ACTIVITY

Ask your kids to think of five **wise** words or phrases they can use toward others and write them on the blank lines of the handout. Then, have them place the words or phrases on the grid in whatever direction they want. Once they are finished, they can fill in the rest of the grid with random letters. Then, try to solve their word search. Make one too so they can solve yours!

Sometimes, it can be hard to find the right words to say. That's why we should take our time before we say something that might be unwise. Just like we looked for the right words in this wise word search, remind yourself: **I can be wise by choosing my words carefully.**

MEMORY VERSE: "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise."—Ephesians 5:15 (NIV)

WISE WORDSEARCH



K-5TH GRADE AT HOME

SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2026



BIG IDEA

I can be wise by choosing to do good.

BIBLE

Wisdom and Actions
Psalm 1; James 3:13–18

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Helping someone swab the deck or sharing your last gold coin may seem small, but it's treasure in God's eyes. This week, we'll dive into a Psalm from the Bible to discover how actions speak louder than treasure maps. When we choose to do what's right, we're showing true wisdom, because **I can be wise by choosing to do good.**

QUESTIONS

- **What does "blessed" mean?** "Happy." Living the way God wants us to is how we can be truly happy.
- **What does a blessed person delight in?** God's laws (God's words and instructions).
- **What does Psalm 1 compare a "righteous" person to? How about a "wicked" person?** A "righteous" person is like a tree planted by water and produces fruit. A "wicked" person is like chaff the wind blows away.
- **Read James 3:17. What are some words to describe the wisdom that comes from God?** Pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.
- **Why do we need God's wisdom to do good?**
- **What might be an example of the wrong kind of wisdom?**
- **What is something good you can do this week?**

ACTIVITY

Write one of the characteristics of godly wisdom from James 3—pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, merciful, impartial, and sincere—on large plastic cups or on a piece of paper in front of a cup (one word per cup). Fill each cup half full with water, then arrange them on a table in any configuration you'd like. Give each kid a ping-pong ball that they will try to bounce into one of the cups. When they land a ball into a cup, ask them one of the following questions.

- What does it mean to be _____ when you're making a choice?
- What does it look like to be _____ towards others?
- Do you think it's easy or hard to show _____?
- How can you bring _____ to our family?

MEMORY VERSE: "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise."—Ephesians 5:15 (NIV)

K-5TH GRADE AT HOME

SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2026



BIG IDEA

I can be wise by choosing God.

BIBLE

Wisdom and Faith
Proverbs 3:1–8; James 5:13–16

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Every pirate chooses a captain to follow—but the wisest pirates know to follow the one who made the seas. This week, we'll learn from Proverbs that trusting God is the wisest adventure of all. When we let God guide our choices, we stay on the best course, because **I can be wise by choosing God.**

QUESTIONS

- According to Proverbs 3, what are some things that will happen when we follow what God says? We'll have a long life, peace, favor with God and people, and a straight path.
- What does it mean to write something on the "tablet of your heart?" Remember it deeply and live by it every day.
- What does the Bible say we should do instead of leaning on our own understanding? Trust in God with all our heart and follow God's ways.
- Read James 5:16. What type of person's prayer is effective? A righteous person.
- What is one thing you can pray to God for help about?
- What is one thing you can praise God for?
- What might choosing God look like for you this week?

ACTIVITY

INSTRUCTIONS: Think of a time you have faced a scary challenge or had to make a difficult decision. Remember what it felt like to be unsure of what you should do and how you had to exercise faith and trust God in a situation. Choose a story that's simple and relatable—like a decision you had to make as a kid or a time when you felt nervous but chose to pray and listen for God's guidance. After sharing, invite your kids to think and talk about a time they've had to make a hard choice, too.

Sometimes life throws us a decision that feels way too big. We don't always know what's right, and we definitely don't know what's going to happen next. Being wise doesn't mean knowing everything. It means knowing *who* to go to when you're unsure. Choosing God means we stop and pray. We ask for help. We look for wisdom in the Bible and from trusted people who follow God.

- So, when you're stuck or scared, pause and remind yourself: **"I can be wise by choosing God!"**

MEMORY VERSE: "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise."—Ephesians 5:15 (NIV)