

# SESSION TITLE: Wisdom for God's People

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

**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.

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## SCHEDULE

Introduce the Story	
(1) Activity Page & Intro Question	5 minutes
(2) Session Starter Activity	5 minutes
Teach the Story	
(3) Big Picture & Timeline	2 minutes
(4) Watch Bible Story Video	4 minutes
(5) Bible Story Discussion	4 minutes
(6) Sing & Key Passage	4 minutes
(7) Prayer	1 minute
Apply the Story	
(8) Coloring Page & Reflection	10 minutes

## PREPARE the Home Session

Set aside some time to prepare for your session. This is a special and unique opportunity and is likely different from what kids are used to, which may cause some challenges. Pray over your time and prepare the best you can.

1. Print this packet, activity pages and coloring sheets. \*
2. Gather necessary materials\*
  - a. Crayons, markers or colored pencils
  - b. Internet-capable device (with Bible video cued)
  - c. Bible
  - d. Snack
3. Verbally prep children for the Sunday School lesson. Let them know your expectations for participating.

**\* If you do not have a printer or the materials needed,** Anthem Kids Lead Nicole Raden has packets of supplies you can pick up at her home. Let Nicole know if you'd like to come pick up a packet via email at [nicole.raden@anthemchurch.org](mailto:nicole.raden@anthemchurch.org) or text at (360) 383-6411.

# INTRODUCE the Story

## **(1) INTRO & ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)**

To introduce the lesson, print out the appropriate activity page for kids to complete. As they fill them out, ask the intro question to get them thinking about the lesson you will be covering.

### **MATERIALS**

- Preschool Activity Page – “Follow the Wise Path”
- Younger Activity Page – “Where is Wisdom?”
- Older Activity Page – “Poetry and Wisdom Books”
- Crayons, markers or colored pencils

**QUESTION** - Prompt kids to list the names of people they obey. Why do they obey those people? Do they always obey those people joyfully?

**SAY** - When we think about people whom we obey, often our parents or teachers are the first people we imagine. We also obey the laws of our country. Obeying the right people is important. Today we will learn about things Solomon wrote to help people obey God.

## **(2) SESSION STARTER ACTIVITY (5 minutes)**

### **Choose Wisely**

### **MATERIALS**

- Optional – Red, yellow, and green paper (or items) to indicate unwise, unsure, and wise

Share a few scenarios one by one with kids. Challenge kids to assess whether the choices are unwise or wise, or if they are unsure/need more information to know. If you are using colored paper, you can have kids hold up the color of their assessment. Ask them to share their reasonings.

Suggested Scenarios:

1. Your parents tell you to clean up and you obey.

2. You watch TV instead of working on your chores.
3. When playing with your friends, one friend is refusing to share so you tell him you don't want to play with him anymore.
4. You read your Bible each morning when you wake up.
5. Your toy is low on batteries, so you take some from another device without telling your parents.
6. You find a piece of candy on the ground, so you pick it up and eat it.

**SAY** - Sometimes knowing the wise choice from the unwise choice is easy, but sometimes it is a little trickier. God has given us the Bible, which helps guide and teaches us what wisdom is and where it comes from. We'll learn more soon!

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## **/// TRANSITION TO TEACH THE STORY ///**

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### **TEACH the Story**

#### **MATERIALS**

- Internet-capable device (Computer, laptop, tablet)
- Bible
- Key Passage Printable

#### **\*\*Note\*\***

*If your children are young, you may want to summarize some of the intro and story explanation. It does not need to be read in its entirety.*

#### **(3) Big Picture Question & Timeline (2 minutes)**

**SAY** - Remember that we are studying these stories to help us focus on one big idea. Our big picture question is this: ***What does God know?*** And the answer: ***God knows everything***

***about the past, present, and future.*** That means that God never forgets anything, He is always aware of what is happening right now, and He is never surprised about things that will happen. Because God knows everything, all His plans are best. He is perfectly wise; we can trust Him.

Solomon became king after David died. Solomon had the chance to ask God for anything, but he asked for wisdom. **God gave Solomon wisdom to lead His people.** Solomon became the wisest man of his time. He wrote hundreds of songs, poems, and wise sayings. He wrote books in the Bible, too! Most of Proverbs, and all of Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs were all written by Solomon through the Holy Spirit's inspiration.

#### **(4) Bible Story Video (3 minutes)**

**VIDEO TITLE** - "Wisdom for God's People"

#### **(5) Bible Story Discussion & Review (4 minutes)**

**SAY** - Last week I offered a definition of wisdom. I said that wisdom is understanding the best way to use the information you know. But there's a more specific definition that we can find by studying Solomon's teachings: **Wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying His Word.** Think about that for a second.

What do you think it means to *fear* the Lord? Do you think it means we cower and avoid God because we think He might hurt us? No! God loves us. Fearing the Lord has to do with understanding that God is holy. He is perfect, complete, and totally separate from sin. Fearing the Lord also has to do with understanding that we are sinful and guilty before God.

Here's an example: When you disobey your parents, do you sometimes feel a sense of fear when you imagine what consequences you might face? I know I did! Even though I love my parents, and I know they love me, I knew they would discipline me when I did something wrong. It's similar with God. We can trust that God disciplines us because He loves us and wants what is best for us. He doesn't want to hurt us; He wants to teach us. And what better teacher than God? ***What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.***

**[Christ Connection]**

Wisdom in the Bible shows us how to be like Jesus—in how we live, how we speak, and how we think. Wisdom from the Bible will help us understand who Jesus is and what He has done for us, but wisdom cannot save us. Only Jesus, who perfectly followed God’s wise plan, can rescue us from sin. When we have faith that Jesus is God’s Son who died for our sins and rose again to defeat death, God forgives our sin and gives us new life. The Holy Spirit comes to live in us and help us have more wisdom to fear God and obey His Word.

**(6) Key Passage and Songs (4 minutes)**

*Note – The Key Passage is James 1:5a for Toddlers/Preschool and James 1:5 for Elementary.*

Show the key passage printable or find it in the Bible. Lead the kids to repeat it. Then sing the Key Passage songs to help commit these to memory.

**MUSIC VIDEO TITLES (OPTIONS) -**

1. Ask God (Preschool)
2. If Any of You (Elementary)
3. Crown Him with Many Crowns (Preschool)

**(7) Prayer (1 minute)**

**SAY** - Father, we believe that You are wise, powerful, and good. You know all there is to know, and You always do what is best. We praise You because of who You are and what You have done. Help us to obey You. Give us wisdom to know what You want and courage to obey Your commands. Amen.

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# APPLY the Story

## **(8) Coloring Page & Reflection (10 minutes)**

### **MATERIALS**

- Printed coloring page (1 per child)
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils

As they color, guide kids to think about and answer questions reviewing and reflecting on the story. Rewatch the Bible Story video if needed.

### **PRESCHOOL REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

- **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.*

### **ELEMENTARY REFLECTION 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.*