

Lesson 1: What is Wisdom?

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Discuss and define wisdom and determine the difference between Godly wisdom and earthly wisdom.
- 2) Do activities that show the difference between earthly and Godly wisdom
- 3) As part of learning about wisdom students will become wiser by learning the books of the Old Testament.

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- Some students at this age will still have trouble writing/reading so during paper activities help ensure children understand by reading instructions aloud so they can follow along.
- Help students who have difficulty sitting for long periods by sitting beside them to help them stay focused.
- Some children may have a hard time writing, ensure you check on students and if you notice one has difficulty offer to help write part of a sentence or a word for them.

Supplies: Coordinator will ensure these supplies are already in your room.

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Define Godly Wisdom Drawing Sheet – one page per student
- Old Testament Bible Books Display Sheet – one for the whole class to see – print in color
- Color Page on First Five Books of the Bible – one per student
- Wisdom Definition Page – one page for class to share

Optional:

- Easel or Chalkboard for everyone to see and a marker or chalk
- Wise Sayings Activity Sheet – one per student
- Treats to hand out for learning the first five books of the Bible
- Snack: Blueberries – fresh preferably enough so every student gets some
- Napkins for snack one per student
- Juice or water and cup one per student

Lesson:

1) Introduction to lesson

5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). As it is the beginning of the quarter you will have to write the children's names on the attendance chart. Let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week. Once children are seated say, **"It is summer and this quarter we are going to learn about something important...wisdom! God says there is a way to be wise and we are going to study the Bible to discover how we can be wise and why it is important to want to be wise.**

First, can anyone raise their hand and tell me what you think wisdom means? Like how it is in the dictionary? (Encourage children to raise hands to answer and choose a child who is sitting quietly with their hand raised.) Allow for their response and if there are others, choose them as well to add to what was mentioned to see if the students can come up with a good idea of what is wisdom. Ideas may include: being smart, knowing a lot of stuff, etc.

I will now tell you what the dictionary says wisdom is:

- 1. The quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment and applying it; the quality of being wise.**
- 2. The ability to discern or judge what is true, right, or lasting; insight**

(Show students the page on Wisdom definition as you read the definition and the explanation below.)

So wisdom from the dictionary means that you have experience and knowledge and good judgment. To get experience you must be taught how to do something and then practice it, to have good judgment means you know what right things to do. To have knowledge means you have studied it.

God says we should desire wisdom, we should desire learning, practicing and using good judgment. Wisdom is not just knowing something; wisdom is doing something good with that knowledge. And God says there is good wisdom and bad wisdom. Let's read from the Bible to learn the difference.

2) Defining Wisdom from the Bible by Looking at James 3:13-18 10 minutes

Did everyone bring their Bibles today? Good job if you did, for those who didn't raise your hand and I will pass one to you. Let's now all turn to James - it is at the end of the Bible in the New Testament. Let's go to James Chapter 3 starting in verse 13. Can I get someone to read verse 13 to 18 please?

James 3:13-18

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Say to students, "**James 3:13 says: "Who is wise and understanding among you?" Understanding is the ability to understand, know or comprehension.**

Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. James sums up in this first verse (13) that wisdom is shown by the way we act in our lives. People can tell if someone is wise if that person is doing good deeds and living a good Godly life, knowing that it is because of God and not themselves that they are wise.

But where does James go from here?"

14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

What kind of wisdom is James talking about here? (Worldly or earthly wisdom that is not from God but from the devil)

So you see there are two kinds of wisdom, earthly wisdom and Godly wisdom. Earthly wisdom that comes from the devil is full of envy, selfishness and being unspiritual. Godly wisdom is much better it makes a good life full of good deeds.

According to the Bible what is earthly wisdom? (Knowing how to be selfish, unspiritual, and envious.)

So, James sums up in this first verse (13) that wisdom is shown by the way we act in our lives. But, he also says that so-called wisdom for selfish purposes is not wisdom at all - In fact it comes from the devil -

There are three kinds of wisdom we have talked about today, what are they? Raise your hand if you know. (Wisdom – the dictionary definition, Earthly or Worldly wisdom, and Godly wisdom.)

Let's read verses 17 and 18 now in James 3 to finish up this section. Can I get a volunteer to raise their hand and read those two verses please?

17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

What kind of wisdom is James talking about here? (Godly wisdom)

According to the verses, what is Godly wisdom? (Godly characteristics. Being wise in knowing your wisdom comes from God and makes you pure, peace-loving, and considerate, etc.)

Now let's do an activity to help us learn about these characteristics of Godly wisdom.

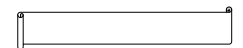
3) Godly Wisdom Activity Sheet

15 minutes

Hand out the sheet and some pencil crayons to each child and ask children to put their name on the front of the page.

What we just read in James 3:13-18 shows that there are characteristics that make someone wise. On your sheet I want you to draw or write all the ways and characteristics described in James that define Godly wisdom!

Define Godly Wisdom



Draw or Write all the ways you have learned today about wisdom that comes from God.

We will go through each one together so that at each point we can determine what the characteristic means and then you can draw a picture or write some words that describe that characteristic of a wise, Godly person! (Help children understand what the words mean and then help them come up with picture ideas to make the word concrete for them to understand. See definitions below to read aloud to the students. By the end there

should be a bunch of pictures and/or words the children have written down to help them better understand the wise characteristics of a Godly person.) (Once the majority of children are done a word, move on and tell the other children they can continue their pictures later on if time or take home to finish).

Let's look at the first one -

Pure means: clean, not mixed with other materials, holy. Like pure gold or pure water. Let's draw a picture or use words to describe the wise person who is pure. In the Godly sense pure means to be not mixed with the world but to be set apart and holy.

Peace Loving: opposed to war, loving peace

Peacemaker: a person who brings about peace

Considerate: careful not to cause inconvenience or hurt to others. Thoughtful.

Submissive: willing to submit, being humble and meek

Full of Mercy: forgiving someone for a wrong doing. Full of compassion.

Full of good fruit: full of good deeds.

Impartial: not showing favoritism. Being fair and just

Sincere: genuine, honest, straight forward.

Once children are done, have them help clean up crayons and move on to next activity. Say to the students, **"Your challenge this week is to pray for and to try to attain these attributes of true Godly wisdom!"**

4) Optional: Wise Sayings Activity

10 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child along with a pencil. Say, "We are going to read each saying aloud and then we are going to each put a checkmark in the box to indicate if you think that saying comes from the Bible, or from somewhere else. Can I get a volunteer to read the first question?" (Go through each question. At the end of each question, let the children put a checkmark in the box they think is correct. At the end, go through the answers and have them look to see what ones they got right.

Additional Questions:

- 1. Were you surprised that some very wise sayings were not really from the Bible?**
- 2. Were there any sayings that sounded wise, but were actually not?**
- 3. How can we tell if a wise saying is from the Bible? (By reading and studying God's Word)**

In the Bible, it says "Wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare to her." (Proverbs 8:11). The Bible also says "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5) We can pray for wisdom and study the Bible to gain wisdom.

ANSWERS: Tell the children what verse from the Bible the Bible sayings come from so they know it is truly from the Bible, if any child says “really?” Have them go to that verse and look it up!

1. Not
2. Bible (*1 Corinthians 15:33*)
3. Not
4. Not
5. Bible (*Acts 20: 35*)
6. Not
7. Not
8. Bible (*Acts 5: 29*)
9. Bible (*Proverbs 17: 17*)
10. Not
11. Bible (*Proverbs 22: 6*)
12. Not
13. Bible (*Proverbs 14: 12*)
14. Bible (*Proverbs 25: 11*)
15. Bible (*Proverbs 22: 24*)
16. Not

5) Learning the Books of the Bible and Color Page

10-15 minutes

Hand out the Coloring Page with the first five books of the Bible on it, have children color it and as you hand out crayons, have them write their names somewhere on the page. Tell the children **“We are going to learn all the books of the Old Testament this quarter this may be a review for some, but for some of you this is new. To be wise in part means to know where to look for the answers doesn’t it? To find the answers it is important to start discovering God’s Word the Bible and to start that, we need to know the books of the Bible and where to find them all so it is easier to look things up!**

On your page is the first five books of the Bible, they are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. As you color each book, remember to focus on the name of the book and to help us with that we are going to start learning a song to help us learn the books of the Bible.

Let’s all sing the first five books of the Bible to the tune(the Alphabet song) or fill in the word with another tune see below for ideas. You know this song, A-B-C-D-E-F-G. Only this time we will sing the first five books of the Bible. Let’s try it together, ready? Genesis – Exodus – Leviticus – Numbers – Deuteronomy....

The reason we are learning these five books first is they make up the books of the Law in the Old Testament. The books of the Law were the books that described Gods laws for the people of Israel and the commands He had for them, it also contains the beginning of creation and the fall of man – example the story of Adam and Eve, Noah, Moses, etc.

Let’s try to sing the song again, we will try it a few times today and your job is to practice it this week so that by next week each one of you can say the first five books of the Old Testament! Ready, let’s sing it again – you can look at your coloring page if you have to for now to help remember the books names. (Repeat song again.) Then if time, ask if anyone can say the first five books on their own – it is ok to look at their sheet today. Take turns reciting the first five books, then if time sing the song two more times before moving on to the next activity.

At the end, as an option, hand out a treat to everyone for trying to learn these books and say that next week, anyone that can say or sing the first five books without looking at their sheet or the Bible will also get a treat for doing it!

(The books of the Bible can be learned using many tunes; one tune is to use the A-B-C song. A-B-C-D-E-F-G – but instead of singing the alphabet you sing Genesis-Exodus-Leviticus –Numbers H-I goes with Deuteronomy. For today that is all the kids should focus on, the books of Law. For other tunes, you can also use One little, Two little, Three little ladybugs instead. Or, if you have another tune in mind and it works go for it! The idea is to help the children learn the books of the Bible.)

When students are done coloring and singing, ask them to clean up their crayons, etc. before moving onto the next activity.

6) Optional – Snack: Blueberries 5 minutes

Hand out a small handful of blueberries along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Explain that, **“earthly wisdom says that blueberries are possibly the best brain food on earth: they have been linked to reduced risk for Alzheimer’s, shown to improve learning ability and motor skills in rats, and they are one of the most powerful anti-stress foods you can eat.**

We know that blueberries come from God and all foods that come from God are good no matter what they are. They all have special things that God has designed to make us healthy. But since we were talking about wisdom, it makes sense to eat a snack known for its brain boosting powers!

Have a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions and examples of how we can be wise, while snacking!

7) Optional – Song 5 minutes **The Books of the Old Testament – Sung to the Alphabet Song Tune 2 times**

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers

Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges

Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2
Chronicles.

Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther and Job,

Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes.

Song of Songs, Isaiah, Jeremiah,

Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel.

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah,

Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk

Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi!

8) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray. Start below if you need help and then add the other prayer requests of the children.

Thank you God that you have given us the chance to be wise and to learn what wisdom is. Thank you that we can look to You and Your Son Jesus for examples and look to others in the Bible as well that were wise. Thank You for Your Bible that guides us and gives us the answers we need. And pray that You will help us all to be wise, to make wise decisions, to seek You and find You and to follow You all the days of our lives. Help us to be good examples to others and let them see Your love and kindness in our lives. Give us wisdom Father, and it is in Your Son’s precious name that we pray this, Amen.