

Lesson 11: Hidden Treasure of Wisdom

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Learn from the Bible that wisdom is a hidden treasure we need to work hard to find and keep
- 2) Learn that Jesus is the way to wisdom
- 3) Understand that integrity is part of being wise.

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students? See Lesson 1 for ideas

Supplies:

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Find the Treasures Bible Verse Activity Sheet – one per student
- Magnifying Glasses – one per student

- What Are You Seeking Activity – one per class to share and discuss
- Old Testament Books Display Sheet – one for class to see – from previous lesson

Optional:

- Picture of Treasure Map – two for the class to see
- Scissors – for teacher to use during class to cut up treasure map
- Candy or Treat to hand out – one per student
- Snack: Chocolate Gold Coins or Bananas cut in coin shapes some per each student
- Napkins for snack one per student
- Juice or water and cup one per student

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson **2-5 minutes**

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week, if a new child arrives put their name on the chart for them. Once children are seated say: **Today we will talk about the fact that wisdom is a treasure – and just like treasure we should be prepared to work hard to find it!**

2) Hidden Treasure Bible Verse Discussion **10-15 minutes**

Have students get their Bibles – hand out Bibles or have students share if they don't have one of their own or if they are too young to read. Ask students to turn to Colossians 2:1-3 and ask for a volunteer to read

Colossians 2:1-3

1 I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. 2 My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Paul is speaking to the Colossian church and mentions that there is a mystery of God that he wants everyone to know of. According to this verse what is the mystery of God? Christ!

And what is Paul saying is hidden in Christ? All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. **So as a Christian or someone studying to become a Christian who do we need to find the treasures of wisdom?** Jesus!

So to be wise – we need Christ Jesus. Now, let’s turn to Proverbs in the Old Testament and see what Solomon says about wisdom as well. Turn to Proverbs 2:1-11. Can I get volunteers to read 4 verses each?

Proverbs 2:1-11

My son,

if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,² turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding—³ indeed,

if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,⁴ and

if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,

then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

⁷ He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,

⁸ for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path.

¹⁰ For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

¹¹ Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.

Wisdom comes from God and is given to those who seek it. It is for those who desire to know His instruction and are willing to receive His knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2:6-7 says that He is our source for all instruction and provides us with His knowledge and understanding of truth, which is found in the Word of God. Anyone can have intellectual knowledge, but without God’s knowledge we cannot acquire understanding in order to live successfully.

Are there conditions for obtaining wisdom? Are there certain things you need to do? Let’s read Proverbs 2:1-4 again and see if we need to do anything and what those things might be.

What are the conditions? We need to accept the Word of God, keep His commands in us, learn His ways which is wisdom, pray for insight and look for God’s Word and wisdom like we would a chest full of riches and treasure!

Much is involved in obtaining wisdom. Not only must you read the words of the Bible, but you must also receive them and apply them to yourself. People seek to secure things that they value as treasure, and you must do the same with the wisdom from God’s Word. Stop and think of all the hard work involved with mining silver, for example. You are supposed to apply the same—and greater—effort to gain wisdom.

I am going to read the verses again. Listen for “If/Then” statements. Meaning if you hear the phrase starting with, “if this……” focus on that and then see what the then is, “Then this……”

Let’s go through them together and find the three “if” statements and the two “then” statements.

So if we do …… then we get…… ok?

Answers:

IF/THEN

If... we accept God's word and obey

If... we listen for wisdom and search for it

If... we understand that wisdom is like a great treasure

Then...we will understand the fear of the Lord or respect God and know Him and His ways well.

Then...we will understand every good path that is right and fair!

God's Words are wisdom and a hidden treasure – make sure you are willing to spend your life finding them!

3) Wise Guys Questions

10-15 minutes

Read the following statements. Have the students make a W (by slanting both arms in the air) if the statement shows someone exercising wisdom. Have them cross their arms and shake their heads if the statement shows someone lacking wisdom (LW).

1. Even though Damien had been coming to church for a while, he realized that he had never been baptized into Christ and for Jesus to become his Lord and Savior. He decided to make a decision to follow God and got baptized after studying that afternoon with someone. (W)
2. Cara could never understand her Bible, so she quit trying to read it. (LW)
3. Ivette knew she was wrong when she stole her friend's money, so she returned it and asked for forgiveness. She never stole anything after that. (W)
4. Trent didn't understand his Bible either, but he kept trying. He read it in small parts and he asked questions when he didn't get it. He couldn't believe some of the stories that were in there! (W)
5. Derek wasn't prepared for the test, so he cheated. He knew it was wrong, but it got him good grades without having to work hard, so he kept doing it. (LW)
6. While Grace was at a friend's house, the friend started playing a video game that Grace's mom would not have liked. Since she knew it was wrong, she ended up leaving right away. (W)
7. Samantha loved being popular, wearing name brand clothes, and getting everyone's attention. The Bible, in her opinion, was old and didn't have anything good to say. Besides, her favorite TV shows told her how to act anyway. (LW)
8. Tracy had a lot of friends. Sometimes they didn't always do what was right. When she was around them, she made bad decisions too. She decided to hang out more with the friends that helped her follow God. (W)
9. Micah hated getting up for church in the mornings. His parents always made him get dressed up and go anyway. Whenever his teacher started talking about God's word, he always tuned her out and thought about playing hockey instead. (LW)
10. After a Vacation Bible School talk, Melody felt like she should study the Bible more so she could become baptized. But she was afraid about what other people would think, so she decided against it. She still doesn't know Jesus today. (LW)

As you can see – every day we need to make decisions that will require us to be wise. They might be hard decisions or quite easy – but every decision requires the need to be wise. Let's remember that even if it is hard – we should be wise and make decisions God would be happy with.

4) Hidden Treasure Detectives

10-15 minutes

Have magnifying glasses ready for every student, along with the Find the Verse sheet and pencils. Tell the students that: **now we will discover the Bible verses that are written on this sheet use magnifying glasses to read them. Once you can read the Scripture go to it and fill in the blanks on the sheet that complete the verse.**

Remember – these verses will help you to be wise!

Help students find and fill in verses as needed.

As students finish and clean us say:

We need to seek wisdom like we sought for these verses – you found one, worked hard to decipher it, read it and if needed asked questions to understand it – Seeking hidden treasure! Have each student read one verse from the search page and make sure they got it correct and that everyone understands the words that were used.

Answers: Deuteronomy 1:13

Psalm 19:7

Psalm 119:98

Proverbs 3:7

Proverbs 9:12

Proverbs 12:18

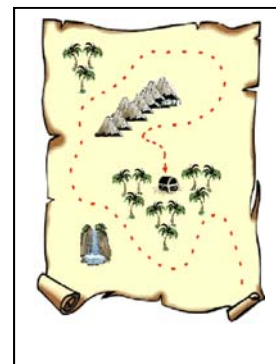
Proverbs 14:1

***Optional:** Hand out one treat or candy to each child who did the activity in a respectful, obedient way and say, **“Thank you for being wise in your actions today.”**

5) Optional: Cutting Corners Moral Message

10-15 minutes

Before class have two treasure maps printed out. Fold each map in half-length wise, and then fold the maps in half again. Fold the maps in such a way, so as the treasure chest is located in one of the corners. During class when you do the activity make sure that you cut off enough of the corners so that the treasure chest is no longer on the map. Have a pair of scissors ready. At class tell the students: **Today we have been talking about God’s wise Words being like hidden treasure. We looked at verses that talk about the importance of searching the Bible for wisdom like treasure. We studied that Jesus is the way to the hidden mysteries of God and through Jesus we find wisdom. We did a detective Bible verse activity and now we are going to listen to a story about cutting corners and the importance of sticking to the truth and following God’s words.**



As you tell the story below, you slowly clip off the four corners of one of the maps that will represent the dishonest salesman's product. You will have the other map to show the students the difference between a complete map and a ruined one that is useless – just like our reputations if we don't take care of them.

Everyone listen quietly while I read a story:

Let's suppose two new salesmen were just hired by a company called Old World Treasure Maps. The salesmen's names were Bob and Fred. Initially both salesmen worked very hard. Both of them would arrive at work early and work late into the night. They were so dedicated that they ate lunch at their desks while they continued to work. Soon both Bob and Fred had many customers.

One night after getting home from work, Fred thought to himself, "Why am I knocking myself out at work? I have plenty of customers. I think I'll start taking it easy." The next day Fred was late for work. Fred starting taking more and more coffee breaks during the day and did not answer all his phone calls. Fred was getting lazy. (Clip one corner off the folded

map.)

Soon Fred was taking long lunches and charging them to the company, stating that he was taking customers to lunch, when in fact this was true only half of the time. Fred was becoming dishonest. *(Clip another corner off the folded map.)*

The boss noticed that Fred's sales were steadily decreasing and mentioned that he was falling way behind the company's star salesperson, Bob. Fred began to sell his customer's cheaper products at a higher price to try to make it look like he was making a lot of money for the company. Fred began to cheat his customers. *(Clip another corner off the folded map.)*

Fred's evil plan did not work and he was still losing customers. The boss called Fred into his office and asked Fred why he was losing so many customers. Fred thought for a moment and then lied, "It's Bob's fault, and he's stealing all my customers." The boss soon found out that Fred had lied to him and fired him on the spot. Fred had also become a liar. *(Clip off the last corner of the map. Then unfold both the treasure maps and hold them up, so all the kids can see them.)*

Which map would you rather buy, the map that is complete or the map that has many missing pieces? *(Allow for answers.)*

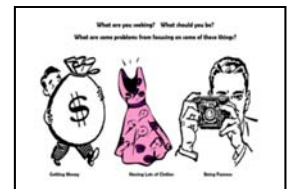
In our story today, we saw how easy it is to lose our integrity or good character. In other words, lose or ruin our reputation. When we defile ourselves, we defile ourselves before men and God. As Christians, we should continually strive to follow God's laws and commandments. When we follow God we can rest assured that our reputations are safe and we won't fall into the temptations that Fred did.

6) What Are You Seeking Activity Sheet

10-15 minutes

Show activity sheet of pictures of things people seek in today's world. Go around the room asking each student to name the next picture and say what it is and why people seek it. Then ask them to come up with problems that arise from focusing on that rather than on God's word.

Talk about the importance of seeking wisdom first and problems that arise from seeking the wrong things. Remind students that we studied earlier that if we focus on wisdom from God first – we will get other things from God like talents, blessings, gifts, family, friends, etc.



7) Optional – Snack: Chocolate Gold Coins or Banana slices in coin shapes 5 minutes

Hand out snack along with a glass of water or juice, and spoon to each child. Explain that, **“today we have learned that we need to seek wisdom like treasure. What do we find in some treasure boxes? Gold coins. These snacks are to remind us of the hidden treasure in God's Bible – wisdom. For wisdom is like gold coins in a treasure chest.**

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

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!

9) 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 we 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, as you did Solomon, and it is in Your Son's precious name that we pray this, Amen.