

# Lesson 13: The Benefits of Wisdom

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Learn from the Bible the benefits of wisdom
  - 2) Study the Parable of the Ten Virgins and the importance of being prepared for Jesus
  - 3) As part of learning about wisdom students will become wiser by learning the books of the Old Testament by singing songs and doing a test.
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**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
- Wisdom Quiz – one per student
- Books of the Old Testament Bookmarks with Checklist – one per student cut out before class
- Old Testament Books Display Sheet – one for class to see – from previous lesson

## **Optional:**

- Treats for those who tried learning the books of the Bible – one per child
  - Learning the Books of the Old Testament Activity Sheet - one for each student
  - Word Sort – Old Testament Books of the Bible (one set per child made from previous lesson)
  - Snack: Your Choice    enough per student
  - Napkins for snack    one per student
  - Juice or water and cup                                        one per student
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## **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). 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 is our last day we will spend learning the books of the Old Testament and studying wisdom. So far we have learned that fearing the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and that includes obeying His commands and studying His Word. We learned the keys to wisdom, the principles of wisdom and we studying different parables and stories of those who were wise and those who were foolish. Today we will wrap up by looking at the benefits of wisdom and see the need to be prepared by studying the Jesus' parable of the 10 virgins. Let's get started!**

### **2) The Parable of the Ten Virgins** **10 minutes**

Have students get their Bibles and turn to Matthew 25. Ask for students to take turns reading 3 verses each (for those who are comfortable reading aloud). Read verses 1-13

## **The Parable of the 10 Virgins** **Matthew 25:1-13**

25 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> The foolish ones took

their lamps but did not take any oil with them. <sup>4</sup>The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

<sup>6</sup>“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

<sup>7</sup>“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

<sup>9</sup>“‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

<sup>10</sup>“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

<sup>11</sup>“Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

<sup>12</sup>“But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

<sup>13</sup>“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

**How many of you have ever forgot something before leaving the house like keys, school books, jacket, money, etc?** Let students answer.

**Most if not everyone has forgotten something at some point. Did you know you should have brought it but still forgot? Did you put it by the door but just didn’t take it? Did you not even get it ready? Did it matter what you had done before if you still forgot it and didn’t have it when you needed it?** (Ask these questions but don’t require an answer, just let them think a few seconds while you ask them.)

**Jesus disciples had asked him what sign would come to let people know in advance about Jesus’ return and the time of judgement for all mankind. Jesus explains that during the time of the disciples there will be a terrible time – the time of the Romans who would come and destroy the temple and the city of Jerusalem. But Jesus says this is not the end, he goes on to explain that we do not know the day or hour when Jesus will return – there will be no sign. So our job is to be prepared while we wait.**

**Discussion Questions:**

**What will the kingdom of heaven be like in verse 1?** 10 young girls who took lamps for light to go meet the bridegroom (the man who is getting married). **Usually there is a celebration after a wedding and the guests should come before the bride and bridegroom and be ready to meet them. In most cases I am sure in those times those who were late would not be excluded but Jesus uses this as an example of the right the bridegroom has to exclude those who are late.**

**Who were the wise girls?** Those who took oil to light their lamps as well as take their lamps. **They were prepared!**

**Who were foolish?** Those who took their lamp but no oil – not prepared. **They did not run out of oil, but never brought any oil with them.**

**What happened to the foolish?** When they called to come into the party the bridegroom did not let them in because they were late.

**Were the girls that had oil mean for not sharing?** Let students answer. **We cannot “share” our salvation with others. Everyone has to figure out and do the steps for their own salvation. I cannot be baptized for you. I cannot ask Jesus to save you if you do not do what is needed. Everyone needs to get and have their own oil. So the wise girls were not mean- they just could not share because salvation is something we can preach about and encourage to do –**

but we can't do it for another person. The foolish girls had plenty of time to get oil, but chose to procrastinate or wait until it was too late.

Even though the foolish girls called "Lord, Lord", they knew His name, knew He is Lord – they still did not prepare themselves for Him and were not willing to put in the effort and wisdom needed to be ready for when He came. We all know Jesus is returning – what are YOU doing to be ready for that? How are you going to be wise?

This parable is important for those who want to be wise. We studied a few weeks ago that Jesus is the way to wisdom. Here, Jesus is explaining that those who try to come to Jesus on the day of Judgement who do not prepare themselves by studying the Word of God, coming to church and getting baptized and following God will not get to go to heaven! So Jesus warns, keep watch – be prepared – because you do not know the day or hour Jesus will return! Be wise and get ready now! There is no chance to get ready once Jesus returns.

– Be wise and fill your oil early! The benefit of wisdom here is that you will be prepared for Jesus return!

### 3) Wisdom Quiz

10 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child with pencils. Explain that **we are going to read through each question as a class. Without saying your answers out loud, circle the answer you think is best. At the end we will go through the questions and see how many we all got right. How wise are you?**

#### Answers:

1	a	Prov. 9:10	Prov. 15:33	Prov. 1:7	6	false	Pslm. 73:12	Job 21:7-15	Jer. 5:27,28
2	d	Proverbs 3:14,15			7	false	Prov. 15:8	Prov. 1:28	Mat. 15:7-9
3	c	Proverbs 28:26			8	true	Proverbs 16:3		
4	d	Ecclesiastes 12:13			9	true	Proverbs 22:6		
5	true	Proverbs 17:28							

Praise children for trying and doing their best. See if students have questions before moving on. The verses in the Bible are listed beside the answers so you can show them why a question was right or wrong if needed.

### 4) The Benefits of Wisdom – Scripture Search

10-15 minutes

Have students get their Bibles again and turn to Proverbs 2:1-11. Say, "We read this a few weeks ago, but today I want you to listen as I read the verses. Keep track of all the benefits there are when we choose wisdom, ok?"

Read **Proverbs 2:1-11** slowly, emphasizing the conditional elements and benefits of searching for wisdom. Here is a paraphrased reference for your convenience:

#### BENEFITS OF WISDOM:

- Victory
- Safety/Protection
- Understanding
- Knowledge
- Discretion: Understanding of right/wrong
- Guidance/Direction

**The Bible is our source for Wisdom. As you discovered a little while ago, the Proverbs are full of wise sayings. King Solomon asked for wisdom instead of riches or a long life, so God gave him wisdom unlike anyone else. Daniel was also very wise, because he walked in the ways of our Lord. The Bible is full of wise men, but they all had one thing in common. They knew the Will of God, and followed His Word. Let's see what the Bible says about wisdom.**

Let's turn to and read **2 Timothy 3:14-17**

**Discussion Questions:**

**In verse 15, what are the Holy Scriptures able to do?** Make you wise for salvation through faith.

**What does all scripture is "God-breathed" mean?** Because God Himself inspired the writers of the Bible, everything in it is exactly what God wants us to have.

**All of Scripture is useful for what?** Teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training.

**Will knowing the Word of God help you do good works? Why?** Allow for answers.

**So another benefit of wisdom is it will help you to do good works, prepare you for salvation and help you teach and train others!**

Now let's turn to **Proverbs 3:13 and 18** and read it aloud.

**The rich and "successful" people of this world struggle to be happy. What will happen when you grow in wisdom?** You will be blessed by God.

**What are other effects of wisdom?** Read **Proverbs 3:16-17; 4:8; 9:11.**

**There are many benefits of wisdom. Many seek materialistic riches and honor, yet you have the key to true and lasting honor and wealth—wisdom! You will live a long, honorable and happy life as you strive to grow in wisdom.**

**As a youth or teenager growing up in a rotten world, you often face many pressures in dealing with those who do evil. Will wisdom help you in this struggle?** Let's read **Proverbs 2:10-12; and 4:11-12.**

**Of course, you will still have trials, but they will not defeat you!**

**Many of your friends make wrong choices and do wrong things. There are times when you are tempted to do something that is incorrect, to follow the "way of the evil man." Yet, you will be delivered if wisdom abounds in you. How will this happen? Because you have the fear of God to love His Law and to not go the wrong way. You will be delivered from the temptations and struggles that you face.**

**There are a lot of benefits to wisdom – let's remember these!**

#### **5) Optional: Learn the Books of the Bible Activity Sheet 10-15 minutes**

Hand out the Learn the Books of the Bible Activity sheet to older students with pencils. Ask them to get their Bibles and write out as many of the books of the Old Testament as they can remember on their own without looking and then if they are having trouble, then they can look at their Bible. They should also look at their Bible index at the end to make sure they spelled all their books correctly. (Spelling isn't the main goal though, remember the names of the Books is.) Praise those who did well and tried hard.

Remind them to put their name somewhere on the page before moving on to the next activity.

### 6) Books of the Bible Checkmark Bookmark Quiz

10-15 minutes

Have one bookmark to hand out to each child, but don't hand out bookmarks or pencil crayons just yet. Tell the children, **"to help us see how much we have remembered of the books of the Old Testament I will ask each one of you to recite the books - you can say them or sing them. When you are finished I will hand you a bookmark and you can check off all the books you got correct! You can then write your name on the bookmark and color it while we go through the whole class. IF you haven't memorized all the books that is ok, this bookmark will help you remember to practice this week and beyond and give you a chance to put a checkmark on the books once you do remember them! Let's get started, can I get a volunteer?"** Go through class, if someone is shy, have them wait and then quietly say it to you at the end when the other kids are busy coloring, if a child is new or can't remember any, practice by saying the book first and then have them repeat it, praise them and then say the next book and have them repeat, do this a few times until they can say at least the first three books in a row correctly depending on where they are stuck. Praise them and as an option you can hand out a treat to everyone who tried their best - (that should be everyone 😊)  
Once a child has recited the books aloud to you, give them a bookmark and pencil crayons so they can checkmark and color their bookmark.

### 7) Optional: Word Sort Activity Game - Books of the Bible

10-15 minutes



Using the template provided, cut out the words of the Old Testament and mix them up in a bag, hand out to the students to sort out. If you want some competition put them in two teams and see who can sort the fastest, keeping in mind to put younger children with older children to ensure fairness. When children finish sorting they can yell, "Done!" And then after you finish "judge" who got the books in the right order by comparing it to the index in the Bible. This also shows that we should always look to the Bible to see if we are right not just for the order of the books but for everything!

### 8) Optional - Snack: Your Choice

5 minutes

Hand out a snack to each child with water and napkins as well. Discuss the benefits of wisdom and ask the children what ones is most meaningful to them and why. Review all the points this week by re-stating each benefit and why we need to study and pray and focus on gaining wisdom every day! 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!

**10) 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.**