

Lesson 2: Why Should I Desire Wisdom?

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Understand the importance of wisdom and why we should desire it.
- 2) Do activities that show the importance of desiring wisdom including writing, coloring and looking up Scriptures
- 3) As part of learning about wisdom students will become wiser by learning the books of the Old Testament including activities and singing songs.

Accommodations: See Lesson 1 for ideas

Supplies:

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart
- Stickers for Attendance
- The Value of Wisdom Activity Sheet – one per student
- Old Testament Books Display Sheet – one for class to see – from previous lesson
- First 5 Books Bookmark and Checklist – one per student six on a page – print on cardstock
- Writing out Books of the Bible Activity Sheet – one per student printed in color if available

Optional:

- Wise Animals - 4 Wise Things Activity Sheet - one per student
- Desire Wisdom for Hope Color Page – one per student
- Treats to hand out for learning the first five books of the Bible
- Easel or Chalkboard for everyone to see and a marker or chalk

Snack: Oatmeal Cookies one 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, **“This quarter we are going to continue 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. Today we will learn why we should desire wisdom.**

2) Desiring Wisdom Activity

15 minutes

To look at why we should desire wisdom, we will start by looking at what value wisdom has. Is it really valuable? When we look up these verses just understand that in the Bible the writer of Proverbs was Solomon, known as the wisest person to ever live. He called wisdom “she” or “me”. So when we see “she” or “me” in these verses it means wisdom. I am going to hand out a sheet to everyone and as we go through the verses, if something is mentioned that wisdom is more valuable than on the sheet, cross the picture of that item off the list.

Here are some pencils as well to use. So let's see what the Bible says, can being really rich and having riches compare to the value of wisdom?

Let's look at the first verse – Can someone read Proverbs 3:14-15?

Proverbs 3:14-15

14 for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.

15 She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.

Hand out sheet with pencils to each child. **What three things is wisdom more valuable than?**
Silver, Gold, and Rubies.

So we can cross them off the page.

Now let's read Proverbs 8:18-19. Can I get a volunteer to read that? Remember me or my is referring to wisdom.

Proverbs 8:18-19

18 With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity.

19 My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver.

What else is wisdom more valuable than? Gold and Silver or riches and money
With wisdom we receive riches and honor, so wisdom is more valuable than any money we can have! So we can cross off money or riches.

Let's go on to the next question, what happens when you find and gain wisdom? Let's read Proverbs 3:13 to find out, can I get someone to volunteer to read that once we all find the verse? Raise your hand if you want to read. (Get a reader or read yourself if no one volunteers)

Proverbs 3:13

13 Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding,

Now let's fill in the blank letters to spell out what you gain from wisdom after having read Proverbs 3:13.

What do you get when you find wisdom? Blessings.

Now let's turn to Proverbs 3:18-19 and see what wisdom is called. Can I get a volunteer to read?

Proverbs 3:18-19

18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her; those who hold her fast will be blessed.

19 By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place;

In this verse, what is wisdom called? Tree of life. **Let's write that down.**

Let's look at the next line, why else should we desire wisdom, what is another benefit of having wisdom? Let's turn to Ecclesiastes 8:1 to see. Can I get a volunteer to read?

Ecclesiastes 8:1

Who is like the wise? Who knows the explanation of things?

A person's wisdom brightens their face and changes its hard appearance.

So what is the benefit? It brightens your face!

Now let's read the last section turn to Proverbs 3:16-17. Can I get a volunteer to read please?

Proverbs 3:16-17

16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.

17 Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace.

What three things does wisdom give us here? Long life, riches, honor and peace. **Let's fill those in.**

So as you can see there are many reasons why we should desire wisdom. It is worth more than any physical thing on earth, it gives us blessings, riches, honor, long life and peace. It brings us closer to God as we understand His ways and His laws better. It helps us make wise decisions and it is pleasant and helpful! And we can get all this by praying to God for wisdom and studying His Word - The Bible!

3) Optional: Learning of Four Wise Insects and Animals

10 minutes

Have children open Bibles to Proverbs 30:24-28. Say to them, **"We are going to read about what Solomon said was the wisest animals and why. Can I get a volunteer to read verses 24-28 and then we will go through some questions?"** Have child read verses.

Then, hand out one page to each child with pencil crayons.

What was the first wise animal mentioned? (Ant.)

Why are ants wise? (They prepare in advance for things even though they are not strong.)(They use wisdom over strength - that is important in the church today to be prepared by studying the Bible, praying and being ready in advance for problems that may come up.)

Ok, great. Have someone read verses 24-28 again.

What is the next animal mentioned? (Rock badger or a hyrax or coney)

Why is it wise? (Even though it is not strong it can make a home in a rock, so it is hardworking. In the church today, we need to all work hard to help the church run smoothly, to encourage each other, to study and understand the Bible. Even if we are small or young, we are useful and wise if we use your talents through hard work like the rock badger.)

What is the next animals mentioned? (Locusts - a large group of grasshoppers)

Why are these mentioned as being wise? (They have no king yet are unified to fly together - the importance of unity in the church today is very important and wise people try to work through problems to keep unity so that everyone can work together and work for the same cause - following Christ!)

What is the last animal mentioned? (Lizard or Spider - depending on Bible version)

Why are these mentioned as being wise? (They go in king's palaces. Even though they can be caught, they are bold enough to hang out even in a king's palace! We need to be bold when speaking about God and His Son Jesus to others, we need to be bold just like the spider and lizard.)

At the bottom of the page, it asks for questions. Go through each question and read them aloud and ask the students to determine ways they can be bolder, prepared, unified, and hard working for God!

One of the greatest keys in developing yourself is to grow in wisdom. While most of your friends focus on other things such as earthly knowledge or riches, you now have the root that produces those qualities and many more.

Each day, determine to grow in wisdom. You will not become wise overnight. Rather, this is something that you will be able to increase for the rest of your life. Take the principles you have learned and apply them in your life. Be sure to study all those in the Bible who have walked before us—their experiences are recorded for our learning.

While those around you focus on knowledge, most do not understand that there is something that is far more important – Wisdom!

So what are some examples of wisdom we learned about from Proverbs 30? Being prepared, unified, hardworking, and being bold and tenacious or persistent in good things is wise!

4) Writing out the Books of the Bible and Practice

10 minutes

Hand out the Writing Page with the books of the Old Testament Bible on it, and read through the books in the picture going down the shelf, have children repeat the book you say and at each break – example Law, History, tell them why they are broken up this way – **Law is the first five books of the Old Testament that make up the beginning of the world and the laws God gave Israel. The next is History – these include the history of Israel including the time of the judges and kings and the Hebrews exile and captivity to the Assyrians and the Babylonians. Next is the books of Poetry – there are 5 books of Poetry and include the book of Proverbs that we are looking at this quarter that explain wisdom and its importance. They consist of songs, proverbs, psalms and other poetry.** Stop there as that is enough to explain for this week. You can encourage them to study the other books this week to familiarize themselves but for this activity the children are just learning the books of the Law and starting to learn the books of History.

“Your job today is to write out the first five books of the Bible – you can use the books on the shelf to look at how to spell them, then underneath those at the bottom of the page there are the next 12 books of the Old Testament in the History section– write out those books as well. Again, use the books from the shelf to help you spell them correctly. Before we start writing though let's practice singing the songs of the Old Testament to help us prepare for this activity.

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 on the top shelf, they are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The next books we are going to start learning today are the books of History – they are Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.

We are going to sing the Books of the Bible song to help us learn the books of the Bible.

Let's all sing the first five books of the Bible and then continue with the next twelve books of history 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 seventeen books of the Bible. Let's try it together, ready? Genesis – Exodus – Leviticus – Numbers – Deuteronomy – Joshua – Judges; Ruth – 1 and 2 Samuel; 1 and 2 Kings - 1 and 2 Chronicles; Ezra – Nehemiah – Esther

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 and add the next twelve books as well! Ready, let's sing it again – you can look at your page if you have to for now to help remember the books names. (Repeat song again.) .

At the end, as an option, hand out a treat to everyone for trying to learn these books.

“Now it is time to write in the correct books on the correct line – go ahead and start, if you need help raise your hand.” Go around the room making sure the books are being written in order and correctly, offer help if necessary.

*Note:(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 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.)

5) First Five Books of the Bible Check list and Bookmark

5-10 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 first five books of the Bible I will ask each one of you to recite the first five books. 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 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 all 5 books in a row correctly. 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.

6) Optional: Desire Wisdom Color Page**10 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. Have them look up the verse on the page in the Bible.

And, ask someone to read the verse. Ask them **“According to this verse, why should we desire wisdom?”** It gives us hope! **Great, wisdom also gives us hope. Hope helps us persevere when we go through troubles and trials.**

Wisdom helps give us hope because we will know and see that God helps us and that gives us hope and that helps us continue on even when times get difficult. So wisdom = hope! So now, let’s color the page. Hand out

crayons and remind students to write their name somewhere on the page. When done have them move on to the next activity.

**7) Optional - Snack : Smart Food - Oatmeal Cookie****5 minutes**

Hand out a cookie along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Explain that, **“earthly wisdom says that oatmeal is a brain food – it provides good cardiovascular health – meaning good for your heart and circulation, which is also good for your brain!**

We know that oats come from God. He made them. And all food has special things that God has designed in them 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 napkins available. Discuss questions and examples of wisdom, while snacking!

8) 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!

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 pray that You will help us all to be wise, to make wise decisions, to seek, find, and 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.