

Lesson 4: 5 Keys to Godly Wisdom

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Understand 5 keys to Godly wisdom including fear of the Lord, looking to the Bible, looking to Godly examples, being humble, and asking God in prayer.
- 2) Learn from Godly examples by looking at Jesus as a young boy and realizing that He was wise.
- 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:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- 5 Keys to Godly Wisdom Activity Sheet – one per child
- Jesus as a Boy Activity Sheet – one per child
- Writing out Books of the Bible Activity Sheet – one per child
- Old Testament Books Display Sheet – one for class to see – from previous lesson

Optional:

Old Testament Word Search – one per child

Snack: Chocolate Cookies

one per child

- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child

Easel or Chalkboard for everyone to see and a marker or chalk

Lesson:

1) Introduction to lesson

15-20 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 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 5 keys to being wise!**

Let's start by getting our Bibles, raise your hand if you do not have one and I will bring one to you.

Wisdom, something that we can all possess, though not all of us do, is a God-given gift, and something that God wishes us to possess.

The definition of wisdom is: the understanding that comes from God.

And to help us this quarter we are going to learn 5 ways we can grow in wisdom.

To start let's turn to Psalm 111:10 – it is in the middle of the Bible. Once children are there, have someone or yourself read verse 10. According to this the first key to becoming wise is:

1.) Fear the Lord:

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His precepts have good understanding. To Him belongs eternal praise", Psalm 111:10.

The fear of the Lord is not the terrorizing fear, but a respectful awe of the Lord. It is seeing Him as the One who creates all things, and He who makes all things possible. It is like fire – we are not terrified of fire, but we have a healthy respect for it and are careful with it. Just like God, we should have a healthy respect for Him and be careful to do what He says. *We will look further into this at another lesson.

Now let's turn to Proverbs 4:5-7 and can I get someone to read what it says? Have someone or yourself read. According to this verse we need to:

2) Get Wisdom:

Proverbs 4:5-7

**5 Get wisdom, get understanding;
do not forget my words or turn away from them.
6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you;
love her, and she will watch over you.
7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom.
Though it cost all you have, get understanding.**

What are ways we can get wisdom? Let students answer.

So to get wisdom is to search the Bible, to spend time in prayer and reading the Bible so you can get the wisdom God has for each one of you.

Let's now turn to James 1:5 at the end of the Bible. Can I get someone to read that please? According to this verse the third key to wisdom is to:

3.) Ask the Lord for wisdom:

James 1:5 tells us, "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".

This is by far, the simplest of all five keys. Simply ask the Lord for wisdom. That is simplicity at its best. Just ask and you shall receive. Just remember to believe you will actually be given wisdom and to remember it will be added over time, you will gain wisdom as you continue to pray and study the Word of God.

Now let's look at the 4th key to gaining wisdom. Let's turn back to Proverbs in the middle of the Bible and look at Proverbs 1:5. Can I get a volunteer to read that? The fourth key it says is to do what? To be wise is to get guidance and to listen to others who are wise and to those in the Bible who were wise. So the key is to:

4.) Listen to God, through those who preach His Word.

In Proverbs 1:5, it says, **"Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance."** You can look at wise people in your church, your preacher, your Sunday School Teacher, your parents. Adding to your learning and getting guidance is wise, and will help you grow spiritually. Another way to listen and get guidance is to look at wise people in the Bible, like Jesus, Moses, David, Ruth, and others who were wise and followed the Words of God.

The final key is found in Proverbs 3:34-35 It says we should:

5.) Be humble before the Lord and with people.

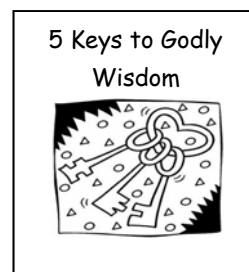
Let's turn there and read – Just so you know the “He” is God: “He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble. The wise inherit honor, but fools He holds up to shame”.

We need to be humble and not brag or mock other people who are not wise or who are not the way we would like them to be. We have to remember that our new found wisdom is only because God is willing to give it to us. So we should not brag or make others feel bad but be humble and recognize it is because of God that we can grow in wisdom! God gives grace and help to the humble but those who are not humble are brought to shame.

2) 5 Keys to Wisdom Activity

10-15 minutes

Hand out the 5 Keys to Wisdom Activity sheet to each child along with a pencil crayon. Read each key and then have children look up each verse at the bottom of the page to match with one of the keys listed on the page. You may want to read the verses aloud as you go through and then ask the children as a group which key matches the verses meaning. When done, ensure they got the answers correct and if time allow them to color each key as they solve that question.



Answer Key:

James 1:5 - 3

Psalm 111:10 - 1

Proverbs 1:5 - 4

Proverbs 3:34-35 - 5

Proverbs 4:5-7 - 2

Ask the children when you are done the sheet: **Raise your hand and tell me one of the ways to be wise.** Take turns until all the 5 ways are listed.

Take these keys home with you today and study them every day this week along with the books of the Bible to help you remember how to be wise and learn the Books of the Old Testament.

3) Looking at Jesus' Example of Wisdom Story and Activity

10 minutes

Ask children to get their Bibles and turn to Luke 2:40-52. Have someone volunteer to read a few verses each or read it aloud if you prefer. After reading the verses hand out the Jesus as a Boy Activity Sheet along with pencil crayons. Read together the information on the sheet and then do the first activity – with pencil crayons fill in the dots to see where Jesus was found –

Answer: TEMPLE.

Now read the next section and fill in the blanks to see what Jesus was doing in the temple verse 46

Answer: Listening; questions; amazed; answers.

Discussion Questions:

Was Jesus wise? Yes.

How do we know, let's look at verse 40 what does it say? Verse 40 says Jesus was wise

How did he display his wisdom in verse 46? He was learning from those who were wise and knew God's laws, which is one of the keys we talked about today – learning from others in the Lord.

How else did he display his wisdom in verse 47? He gave wise answers that amazed the teachers in verse 47

What was another way he displayed wisdom? He feared the Lord and knew it was important to be learning at his Father's house – **the temple of God for Jews in those days. Now today we**

worship together as a church but we don't have a temple. To learn from God we can go to the Bible and to other wise people in the church.

How else did Jesus show wisdom? He respected his parents and was obedient to them.

What was the result in verse 52? He continued to become wise and grew in favor with God and men.

Let's be wise like Jesus. Let's study the word, spend time with people in prayer and reading the Scriptures, doing the Lord's work and respecting our parents.

If time allow children to color the top part of the page and remind them to write their names on the paper as well, then clean up and move on to the next activity.

4) Writing out the Books of the Bible and Practice

10 minutes

Hand out the Writing Page of the books of the Old Testament Bible on it, and read through the first five descriptions and at the end of each description ask a child to raise their hand and say what book it is (they are in order) Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Help the children by having them open their Bibles to the front where the table of contents is which includes the name of each Old Testament Book. Have them write these first five books out one at a time as you go through.

*You can also display the books of the Old Testament Display Sheet so kids can refer to that as well.

Next is the History section. Again, using their Bibles, have the children write out each book in order of the books of History from Joshua to Esther. At the end sing the books of the Old Testament with them and then have them go through each answer and check to make sure it is correct and spelled correctly. Praise them for their hard work!

(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. *See song below.

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.)

Tell the children, **next week we are going to try practicing the books of Law and History out loud to see how much you can remember. So make sure you practice this week. Look at the Table of Contents in your Bible and practice singing the song so you can be prepared for next time.**

5) Optional – Old Testament Word Search

10-15 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child along with pencil or pencil crayon. Have the children write their name on the page and then tell them, **“Now we are going to do a word search, we are going to search for the books of the Old Testament. They can be up, down, backwards, forwards, diagonal, left or right. Before we start, let's sing the books of the Old Testament song and follow along at the bottom of the page as we sing so you can see what each word looks like as we say it. Remember that on this sheet, they don't say 1 and 2 Samuel but just Samuel, so when we sing we have to put a first and second in front of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles because there are actually two books of each! Ready? Let's sing!** Sing the song once or twice and then let the children search for words.

6) Optional – Snack : Smart Food – Chocolate Chip Cookie**5 minutes**

Hand out a cookie along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Explain that, “**earthly wisdom says that chocolate is a brain food – dark chocolate improves focus and concentration.**

We know that chocolate comes from the cocoa tree which God created. All foods that God made have special things that God has designed to make us healthy. But since we are 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 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 remember the five keys to wisdom that we learned today and we pray that we will remember to read them every day this week to help us remember how to be wise. 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.