

Lesson 5: The Wise and the Foolish

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Discuss and determine the difference between someone who is wise and someone whom the Bible considers a fool.
- 2) Do activities that reinforce how to be wise
- 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?

- See Lesson 1 for Ideas
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Supplies:

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Books of History Bookmark and Checklist – one per student five on page – print on cardstock
- Old Testament Bible Books Display Sheet – one for the whole class to see – print in color
- Hand Print Template – one for class to see
- Color Page on Wisdom – one per student
- Construction Paper – light colored – one per student
- Scissors to share

Optional:

- Finding the Books of the Bible Activity Sheet – one per child
 - Treats to hand out for learning the first seventeen books of the Bible
 - Snack: Broccoli – fresh preferably enough so every student gets some
 - Napkins for snack one per student
 - Juice or water and cup one per student
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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). Once children are seated say, **“We are going to look at the Bible to see what it says about people who are wise and those who choose to be foolish. So today we will see, according to the Bible you can be either a wise person or a fool.**

First can anyone raise their hand and tell me if you can remember the two different types of wisdom from the Bible? (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 two types of wisdom – earthly and Godly. Ideas may include: Godly wisdom, wisdom from the world, evil wisdom, knowledge, being smart, etc. Goal is to have the children realize there are two types –

earthly and Godly, with the goal to have the wisdom from God as it is better for life and righteousness.

God says we should desire Godly 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.

2) Finding examples in the Bible of People Who Are Wise or Foolish 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 Proverbs – it is at the middle of the Bible in the Old Testament. Proverbs says a lot about wisdom and how and why to be wise. Let's go to Proverbs 11 in verses 28- 30.

Can I get someone to read verses 28-30 please?

Proverbs 11:28-30

28 Those who trust in their riches will fall,
but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

29 Whoever brings ruin on their family will inherit only wind,
and the fool will be servant to the wise.

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
and the one who is wise saves lives.

Questions:

What will people who ruin their families get in the end? Only wind - nothing

Who is the servant – the fool or the wise? The fool

Who saves lives? The wise

Can you think of how the wise save lives? By teaching the word of God to others, being wise and making wise decisions that prevent accidents, problems, and bad health.

Let's now turn to Proverbs 13 – two Proverbs over, and can I get someone to read verse 20?

Proverbs 13:20

Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

According to this verse, who should you spend time with? The wise

Why? Because those that hang out with fools with suffer harm

What kind of harm do you think you can suffer when hanging out with someone who is not wise? Ideas might be: They get in trouble with their parents, school, and the law and so you get caught up in that too and get in trouble even if you didn't do anything wrong. The foolish person is mean to you and so you might get yelled at or hurt. The foolish person doesn't care about their friends so will get you in trouble, cause you problems and make you sad and upset.

We are going to look at one more verse before going on to the next activity. Let's turn to the next Proverb, Proverb 14:16-17, can I get a volunteer to read that please?

Proverbs 14:16-17

The wise fear the LORD and shun evil, but a fool is hotheaded and yet feels secure. A quick-tempered person does foolish things, and the one who devises evil schemes is hated.

Let's look at a few of the words we just read and see what they mean.

Shun: means to avoid or stay away from.

Hotheaded: means quick to anger, impulsive, irresponsible.

Devise: means to plan.

What do the wise do? Fear the LORD and stay away from evil

What does a fool do? Acts rashly and gets angry quickly and yet thinks nothing bad is going to happen to him.

What does it mean to shun evil? Avoid, flee, ignore, and stay away from evil or evil people.

So if there is something evil or wrong we are to flee from it, stay away and avoid it at all costs and that is wise.

What does hotheaded mean? Quickly angered

Do you know someone who gets angry really quick in school or in your family? We won't share the people's names but think, how does that affect people around them, do other people like to be around someone who is angry and gets angry for no reason? Let's not be the person who gets angry quickly and upsets others for no reason.

So far we have learned that the wise save lives, hang out with other people who are wise, fear or respect the LORD and stay away from evil and evil people.

Let's go on to the next activity, but before we do are there any questions?

If you can answer the question by referring to the Bible, go for it. If you are having trouble, tell the student you will look into it and get back to them next class. Then after class ask someone to help with the question, or study the Bible for the answer and make sure you get back to the child the next Sunday 😊

3) Five Steps to Become Wise in God's Word

10-15 minutes

Hand out one construction sheet to each child along with a pencil crayons or markers. Say, "**We are going to make a hand print of our hands on the page, just like this....**" (Show students Pair of Hands Template)

Remember to leave your fingers spread apart a little. If you need help raise your hand. (Go around the room ensuring every child traces their hand on the paper.)

Please write your name somewhere on the page, but not in the part you traced your hand. Great job! Now I need everyone to get their Bibles and turn to Romans 10:17 to see what the first word we are going to write where our pinky is. Can I get a volunteer to read?



Romans 10:17 (Hear)

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.

What does this verse say we need to do? Hear the message by listening to the Word of Christ found in the Bible. Let's all take our pencil crayons and write the word "HEAR" on our pinky finger on the print of our left hand- the last finger on our hand print. (Show them where if necessary and help them spell the word correctly - H-E-A-R. **On the right hand print where our pinky is we are going to write the verse - Romans 10:17 so we can remember where the**

Bible says we should be wise and hear the word. Show Hand Template as the children go along to help them visualize the sequence.

Great job! Now let's turn to Revelation 1:3a and can I get a volunteer to read that please? It is the last book of the Bible.

Revelation 1:3a (Read)

Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy.

What does this verse say we need do? Read the words and you will be blessed.

So let's write the word "READ" on the next finger – the ring finger – on our left hand print. We spell the word read – R-E-A-D. And on our right hand print next to our pinky finger that had the Bible verse Romans 10:17 we are going to write Revelation 1:3a on the finger next to the pinky, ok? Raise your hand if you need help.

Great job! Now let's turn to Acts 17:11 and can I get a volunteer to read that please?

Acts 17:11 (Study)

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

What does this verse say we need do? Examine the Scriptures or study!

So let's write the word "STUDY" on the next finger – the middle finger – on our left hand print. We spell the word study – S-T-U-D-Y. And on our right hand print next to our ring finger that had the Bible verse Revelation 1:3a we are going to write Acts 17:11 on the finger next to the ring finger, ok? Raise your hand if you need help.

Great job! Now let's turn to Psalm 119:11 and 13. Can I get a volunteer to read that please?

Psalm 119:11,13 (Memorize)

I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth.

What does this verse say we need do? Hide the word of God in our heart and recount all the laws. **That means to memorize. So let's write the word "MEMORIZE" on the next finger – the index finger – on our left hand print. We spell the word memorize – M-E-M-O-R-I-Z-E. And on our right hand print next to our middle finger that had the Bible verse Acts 17:11 we are going to write Psalm 119:11 and 13 on the index finger, ok? Raise your hand if you need help.**

Great job! Now the last spot we need to fill is the thumb; let's read Psalm 119:15 just the next verse down. Can I get a volunteer to read that please?

Psalm 119:15 (Meditate)

I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.

What does this verse say we need do? Meditate **So let's write the word "MEDITATE" on the thumb of our left hand print. We spell the word meditate – M-E-D-I-T-A-T-E. And on our right hand print of our thumb let's write the Bible verse Psalm 119:15. Raise your hand if you need help.**

So we have discovered that to be wise we need to do five things – what are they? Raise your hand if you want to answer. Hear, Read, Study, Memorize, and Meditate on the Word of God!

Let's go on to the part of our lesson where we are learning to memorize the books of the Bible!

4) Books of the Bible Circle Game

5-10 minutes

Have the children sit in a circle or sit at their table, and select one child to start the game. That child must say the first book of the Bible, and going clockwise, the next child says the next book and so on. Instruct the children that if they do not know the book on their turn they can say pass, and the next child to the right can try. You can also time the kids to see how fast they can name all the books in this fashion, and even set a quicker goal to see if they can reach it. The child that finishes can start the next round. Since the children have only learned the books of Law and History, have them practice those. (So from Genesis to Esther) If you need help look at the display page of the books of the Bible or if that is not available the index of your Bible has the list of books in order.

5) First Seventeen 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 seventeen books of the Bible I will ask each one of you to recite the first seventeen 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 give you a chance to put a checkmark on the books once you do remember them! Remember this bookmark has the books of History but not the first five books of Law, that's ok, say all the books you know from the beginning and then check off the ones you got right for the books of History. 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 to 17 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.

6) Wise People Do What is Right and Fair 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. Hand out crayons and have them color the page. After coloring, 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, who is a wise person?"** Someone who is right and fair or just.

When done have them move on to the next activity.



Discuss what right, fair and just means with them by asking them to

Explain and then move on to the next activity.

Examples might be taking turns, following the Bible, being nice to everyone, not cheating, etc.

7) Optional: Finding the Books of the Bible Activity**15 minutes**

Hand out the sheet and some pencil crayons to each student. Read the instructions aloud and have the children look for Bible books in the paragraph. Show them the first one as an example of what it will look like, the words may be in the middle, end or between two words. For a list of books of the Bible they can refer to the top of the page for ideas and how to spell words.

ANSWER:

I once made a **remark** about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a **fluke**). It kept people **looking** so hard for the **facts** and for others it was a **revelation**. Some were in a **jam**, especially since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the **truth** finally struck home to **numbers** of readers. To others it was a real **job**. We want it to be a **most** fascinating few moments for you. **Yes, there** will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require **judges** to help them. I will quickly admit **it usually** takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud **lamentations** when it is found. A little lady says **she brews** a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can **compete**. **Relax** now. There really are sixteen names of books in this story.

Once children are done, have them help clean up and move on to next activity.

8) Optional - Snack : Broccoli**5 minutes**

Hand out a small handful of broccoli along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Explain that, **“earthly wisdom says that broccoli is a brain food. It can make you smart because it contains vitamin K which helps with proper brain function.**

We know that broccoli comes from God and all foods that come from God are good. 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 napkins available. Discuss questions and examples of how we can be wise, while snacking!

9) 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!

10) Close in prayer

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 to follow You all the days of our lives. Help us to remember the books of the Old Testament and to remember that there are many steps to becoming wise. And some of them you have said include staying away from evil and evil people, studying Your word - the Bible and coming to church to hear the word preached and taught each Sunday. Help us to be fair, just and right. 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.