

Lesson 6: Fear the Lord

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Understand the importance of what it means to fear the Lord, why should we fear Him and what are the benefits to fearing God.
- 2) Learn from Godly examples by looking at King Hezekiah and Isaiah the prophet and how they feared the Lord compared to King Sennacherib who did not
- 3) As part of learning about wisdom students will become wiser by learning the books of the Old Testament including activities and songs.

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
- Benefits of Fearing the Lord Activity Sheets- one set per student
- Hezekiah Fears the Lord Color Page – one per student
- Writing out Books of the Old Testament Activity Sheet – one per student
- Old Testament Books Display Sheet – one for class to see – from Lesson One

Optional:

- Easel or Chalkboard for everyone to see and a marker or chalk
- Snack: Chocolate Cookies one per student
- Napkins for snack one per student
- Juice or water and cup one per student

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

10-15 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: **“Today we will learn what is “fearing the Lord” and why does that lead to wisdom. 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 implies using knowledge, good judgment and practice to become wise.

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 verse what is the first step to getting wisdom? To fear the Lord.

If we continue in the verse – how are we to fear the Lord? – follow His precepts or commands and laws, and give him praise forever as He rightly deserves!

Psalm 111:10

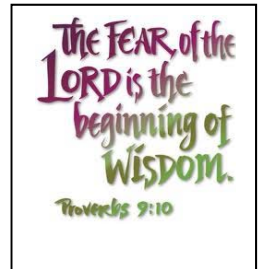
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His precepts have good understanding. To Him belongs eternal praise.

Like I said in lesson one, 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.

2) Benefits of Fearing the Lord Activity Sheet

10-15 minutes

Hand out one set of sheets to each child. Ask them to get their Bibles and turn to the first verse mentioned. Read the instructions and then read the verse aloud. Ask the kids at each part where there is a word or picture missing to help fill it in by calling out the answer. Then ask the question that comes after the verse. Answers are below.



Answers:

**You – walk – love – heart – good – appear – hearing – children – hear – live –
God – earth – hand – waters – jars – fear – judge – right – eyes – all – walk**

Questions answered from sheets:

*Fearing the Lord means to be obedient to Him, to love Him, and to serve God with all our heart and soul.

*preferably as children

*We fear the Lord because He has the ability to do miraculous, powerful things.

*We should fear Him because He is the Creator of all

*The fear of the Lord helps us to be impartial, fair and just and helps us to avoid His anger because of our wrong doing.

*You are blessed with success

*You are blessed

3) Looking at Those Who Feared the Lord –Hezekiah and Isaiah

10-15 minutes

We are going to read a story from Isaiah. Isaiah is the first book of the Major Prophets. Isaiah was a prophet during a rough time in Israel's history and he helped one of the kings that reigned in Israel at the time - King Hezekiah, he was a good king that tried to restore Israel to worship God properly. This is the story of King Hezekiah, Isaiah the Prophet, and King Sennacherib the king of Assyria. King Hezekiah and Isaiah the Prophet feared the Lord and were wise, Sennacherib did not fear the Lord – in fact he mocked and criticized the Lord and because of that God punished him. Let's learn why we should fear the Lord as we read the story of Hezekiah and Sennacherib. Listen as I read because we will have questions at the end. Ready?

***Note:** Don't worry about pronouncing all the names correctly, just do the best you can and move on 😊

Isaiah 36: 1-5,7, 14-15, 21-22; 37:1-7, 14-22, 33-38 (All these verses are combined below)

Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem

36 In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. **2** Then the king of Assyria sent his field commander with a large army from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. When the

commander stopped at the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Launderer's Field, 3 Eliakim son of Hilkiyah the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph the recorder went out to him.

4 The field commander said to them, "Tell Hezekiah:

"This is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says: On what are you basing this confidence of yours? 5 You say you have counsel and might for war—but you speak only empty words. On whom are you depending, that you rebel against me? 7 But if you say to me, "We are depending on the Lord our God"—isn't he the one whose high places and altars Hezekiah removed, saying to Judah and Jerusalem, "You must worship before this altar"?

14 This is what the king says: Do not let Hezekiah deceive you. He cannot deliver you! 15 Do not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the Lord when he says, "The Lord will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria."

21 But the people remained silent and said nothing in reply, because the king had commanded, "Do not answer him."

22 Then Eliakim son of Hilkiyah the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary and Joah son of Asaph the recorder went to Hezekiah, with their clothes torn, and told him what the field commander had said.

Chapter 37

When King Hezekiah heard this, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and went into the temple of the Lord. 2 He sent Eliakim the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary, and the leading priests, all wearing sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz. 3 They told him, "This is what Hezekiah says: This day is a day of distress and rebuke and disgrace, as when children come to the moment of birth and there is no strength to deliver them. 4 It may be that the Lord your God will hear the words of the field commander, whom his master, the king of Assyria, has sent to ridicule the living God, and that he will rebuke him for the words the Lord your God has heard. Therefore pray for the remnant that still survives."

5 When King Hezekiah's officials came to Isaiah, 6 Isaiah said to them, "Tell your master, 'This is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid of what you have heard—those words with which the underlings of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me. 7 Listen! When he hears a certain report, I will make him want to return to his own country, and there I will have him cut down with the sword.'"

Hezekiah's Prayer

14 Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. Then he went up to the temple of the Lord and spread it out before the Lord. 15 And Hezekiah prayed to the Lord: 16 "Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. 17 Give ear, Lord, and hear; open your eyes, Lord, and see; listen to all the words Sennacherib has sent to ridicule the living God.

18 "It is true, Lord, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste all these peoples and their lands. 19 They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they were not gods but only wood and stone, fashioned by human hands. 20 Now, Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, Lord, are the only God.[b] "

Sennacherib's Fall

21 Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah: "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Because you have prayed to me concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria, 22 this is the word the Lord has spoken against him:

33 "Therefore this is what the Lord says concerning the king of Assyria:

**“He will not enter this city
or shoot an arrow here.
He will not come before it with shield
or build a siege ramp against it.
34 By the way that he came he will return;
he will not enter this city,”
declares the Lord.**

**35 “I will defend this city and save it,
for my sake and for the sake of David my servant!”**

**36 Then the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand
in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead
bodies! 37 So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to
Nineveh and stayed there.**

**38 One day, while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisrok, his sons Adrammelek
and Sharezer killed him with the sword, and they escaped to the land of Ararat. And
Esarhaddon his son succeeded him as king.**

Hand out one color page and crayons to each child, as they color discuss questions.

Discussion Questions:

Who feared the Lord in this story? King Hezekiah and Isaiah the Prophet

Who did not fear the Lord in this story? King Sennacherib

What happened to King Hezekiah and Isaiah? They were saved by God from Sennacherib
entering the city.

What happened to King Sennacherib? His camp that was going to attack the city where Isaiah
and Hezekiah were was destroyed by an angel of the Lord, and those who remained, go up and left
and went back to Nineveh where Sennacherib was from. Then while Sennacherib was worshipping
a false god, his two sons killed him.

Why should we fear the Lord? We are kept safe and if we don't fear God then bad things can
happen to us like King Sennacherib!

**Let's be like King Hezekiah and Isaiah, when we face difficulties in our lives that seem
insurmountable, let's pray and rely on God the One and Only True God to save us and never
let us mock or criticize God like Sennacherib did!**

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. The next 5 books are the Major Prophets; they are not
called the Major Prophets because they are more important, but because are the 5 biggest or
largest books of prophets so they are considered major. The last is the 12 Minor Prophets,
the smaller books written by or about other prophets. 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 reviewing the books of the Law, History, and
Poetry and learning the Major and Minor Prophets.**

“Your job today is to write out the books of the Bible up until the Minor Prophets – you can use the books on the shelf to look at how to spell them.

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!**

Let’s all sing the Old Testament Books 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.

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 all the books of the Old Testament up to the Major Prophets! (Sing Song)

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, for little ones who are too small to do this activity – let them color the page or color the books of the Old Testament that they have studied already and write out the first five books for them so they can at least see what is being done.

*(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.)

When students are done writing and singing, ask them to clean up their crayons, etc. before moving onto the next activity.

5) 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 and that all foods that come from God are good. Since we are talking about wisdom, it makes sense to eat a snack known for its brain boosting powers!

Have napkins for students. 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!

7) 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. Help us to be like Isaiah and King Hezekiah who prayed and trusted in you. Give us wisdom Father, and it is in Your Son's precious name that we pray this, Amen.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!