

Lesson 7: Wisdom is Gaining Knowledge of What is Sin

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Understand the importance of what sin does to our lives and how wise people recognize sin
- 2) Learn from Biblical examples by looking at Ananias and Sapphira and their willingness to sin and the consequences
- 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: 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 Game – Old Enough to Know Sheets – one set per student *MUST BE IN COLOR
- Clock with seconds to time students – Large enough for all to see
- Ananias and Sapphira Sin – Color Page – one sheet per student
- Old Testament Books Display Sheet – one for class to see – from previous lesson
- Word Sort Sheet – one per class – print on cardstock and cut out before class
- Scissors to cut out word sort

Optional:

Easel or Chalkboard for everyone to see and a marker or chalk; or paper and pen

- Snack: Blueberries enough per child
 - Napkins for snack one per child
 - Juice or water and cup one per child
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Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

5-10 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied).

Say: **“Today we will learn that to be wise means that we recognize and understand sin so we can avoid it and pray to God for help against it! Let’s all get our Bibles and turn to Proverbs 1:8-19. Follow along and listen while I read** (or you can ask for volunteers to read verses 8-13 and 14-19):

Proverbs 1:8-19

8 Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching.

9 They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

10 My son, if sinful men entice you, do not give in to them.

11 If they say, “Come along with us; let’s lie in wait for innocent blood, let’s ambush some harmless soul;

12 let’s swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit;

13 we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder;

14 cast lots with us; we will all share the loot”—

15 my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths;
16 for their feet rush into evil, they are swift to shed blood.
17 How useless to spread a net where every bird can see it!
18 These men lie in wait for their own blood; they ambush only themselves!
19 Such are the paths of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the life of those who get it.

Discussion Questions:

Who should you listen to? Wise Parents and the sayings from the Bible

If someone wants you to do sinful things in verse 10 what should you do? Do not give in to them

Why in verse 16 should we not follow sinful people? Their feet rush into evil and they are quick to harm

What else happens to sinful people in verse 18 and 19? They will themselves get harmed and those who go after things that do not belong to them get their life taken away – they can die.

Let's now turn to Ecclesiastes which is the next book after Proverbs. Let's read Ecclesiastes 9:17-18

Ecclesiastes 9:17-18

17 The quiet words of the wise are more to be heeded than the shouts of a ruler of fools.
18 Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.

Discussion Questions:

What is better quiet wise words or shout of fools? Wise

What is better wisdom or weapons? Wisdom

But what can happen with one sinner? They can destroy a lot of good

So what is it better to do be wise and avoid sin or sin? Avoid sin so you avoid destroying good things.

Now finally let's turn to James in the New Testament near the end of the Bible.

James 3:17

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

Discussion Questions:

What is wisdom full of? Pureness, peacefulness, consideration, submissiveness, mercy, good fruits, fairness and sincerity.

Pureness means avoidance of impurities or sin, pure is clean and free from sin. So to be wise means we avoid sin!

2) Wisdom Game – Old Enough to Know Sin

10-15 minutes

*From kidssundayschool.com

Before class: Print a copy of the Wisdom Game and have a clock or watch with seconds – available to record time. Have also a pen and paper to record the time of each student. If you do not have an assistant, ask a student to time other's while you show the sheet so that you are not doing two things at once.

Pair up the children. Then give each child a copy of Step 1 and read the instructions at the top. Have one child of each pair use the clock to time how fast his or her partner can name all of the colors in order. Then switch and have the second child time the first. Be sure to tell the children to write their name at the top, and record the number of seconds at the bottom of the page. Of if you only have one watch, do each child individually.

Next, give each child a copy of Step 2, and read the instructions at the top. Have the student time each other as before on how fast they can say the color, not read the word.

Students will immediately see how much longer it took to complete the second page.

Ask the students,

How did the first activity compare with the second?

Which was easier? Second one.

This is just like sin in our lives; it can get in the way and slow us down in our relationship with God.

When we were young, we could not read, but we could name the different colors. It was easy to tell our mom or dad something was red, green, or yellow. We even had fun naming the different colors. When we were young, we also did not know too much about sin. We knew when we did something wrong. However, we did not know the full consequences of our sin.

It is sort of like learning to read. After we learn to read, words take on meaning. They become important. With the second page, it was more difficult to say the color because our ability to read the words interfered with our ability to focus only on the color.

That is the way sin is. Now that we are older, we can recognize that there are consequences to sin. There is a negative result that happens when we do bad things. We begin to see sin for what it really is: disobedience to God. We begin to see how sin affects our relationship with God. The Apostle Peter gave us a strong message: "As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance." (1 Peter 1: 14)

To be ignorant means you do not know any better. But as wise people we don't want to be ignorant, we want to know what is best and the best way to handle things. In order to be wise we need to understand what sin is and how it affects us, our families, friends, and most importantly our relationship with God. Wisdom is gaining knowledge of what is sin so we can pray to God and recognize the importance of avoiding and stopping sin in our lives!

3) Looking at the Bible – Ananias and Sapphira and Color Page 10-15 minutes

We are going to read an event from the Bible. Let's all get our Bibles and turn to Acts 5:1-11. We will read the story of Ananias and Sapphira, they were two people who thought they could get away with sin but didn't. They were not wise and did not think sin could have negative consequences – they were wrong. Follow along as I read. Read story aloud. Or, ask for two volunteers to take turns reading verses 1-5 and 6-11.

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

Discussion Questions:

Was selling the piece of land a sin? No, others did and gave all the money to the apostles to use for the church people

Was keeping back some of the sale of the land a sin? No, Ananias and Sapphira could decide to give all, some or none of the money from the sale of the land

When did they sin? In verse 2, when they decided to keep some of the money but said they brought it all.

What happened to Ananias? After hearing his sin from Peter, he fell down and died

What should Ananias have done? Told the apostles that he had brought some of the money from the sale of land to give to them and not lied about it.

What happened to Sapphira? Because she also lied, she too died.

What should she have done? Told the truth!

What should we do today? Not lie to people because God knows everything and knows when we lie. We should also be wise to sin and try to avoid it knowing there are bad consequences for not only us but other people we care about when we sin. Because Ananias wanted to lie and included his wife, she paid the price for her sin as well.

Let's learn from Ananias and Sapphira that it is important to be wise and recognize that sin is wrong, it is deceitful, it wrecks our relationship with God and to be wise means we recognize what is sin and avoid it with the help of God!

4) Word Sort - Books of the Bible Game

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 say, "Done!" Then you or other children "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!



5) Optional - Snack: Blueberries

5 minutes

Hand out a small handful of blueberries along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Explain that, **“earthly wisdom says that blueberries are possibly the best brain food on earth: they have been linked to reduced risk for Alzheimer’s, shown to improve learning ability and motor skills in rats, and they are one of the most powerful anti-stress foods you can eat.**

We know that blueberries come from God and all foods that come from God are good. It is wise to eat good foods that come from God like apples, blueberries, bananas, vegetables and things God gives us in nature.

Have a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions and examples of how we can be wise, while snacking!

6) 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!

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 not to lie and to know that we need to learn what sin is and stay away from it so that we can grow in wisdom. 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.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!