



8

Wisdom from God

Key Theme

- God wants us to study His Word.

Key Passages

- Proverbs 1:7a, 2:1–5, 3:7, 9:10a

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe the source of all wisdom.
- Identify different things we can learn from the book of Proverbs.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. Then, they will recite the verse to each other and/or the entire class.



Activity 1: Wisdom from God Class Notes

Students will complete the Wisdom from God Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

The wisdom we need to seek—the only wisdom worth having—is wisdom we can receive from God and His Word. The book of Proverbs, mostly written by Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived, is full of answers to everyday problems we all face. If we study and apply the wisdom in this book, we will see our lives change.



Activity 2: Proverbs Dos and Don'ts Relay

Students will review several proverbs and the lessons taught in them. Then they'll play a relay game in teams where they have to sort instructions from the book of Proverbs into Proverbs Dos and Proverbs Don'ts.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student
- Pencils



WISDOM FROM GOD CLASS NOTES

- Print one Wisdom from God Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Wisdom from God Class Notes for each student
- Wisdom from God Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print one each of four Scripture Verse Mini-Posters.

- Scripture Verse Mini-Posters
- Student Take Home Sheets



PROVERBS DOS AND DON'TS RELAY

- Print two sets of Wisdom Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Print one Wisdom Cards Teacher Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.

- Two sets of Wisdom Cards—16 cards total
- Wisdom Cards Teacher Guide
- Tape



Memory Verse

1 Chronicles 29:11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along with this background.

God blessed Solomon with wisdom. In fact, God gave Solomon a wise and understanding heart such that he was the wisest man who ever lived (1 Kings 3:12). This wisdom came in response to Solomon's request as a young king for wisdom from God to judge the people properly and according to God's will. As a young king, he demonstrated his humble dependence on God. He knew that in order to properly discern between good and evil he would need godly wisdom (1 Kings 3:6–9).

Using the wisdom He gave to Solomon, God inspired the writing of the book of Proverbs, most of which was written by Solomon. The proverbs give us basic godly principles for life in simple, straightforward language. They deal with all aspects of life: money, time, friendships, lust, murder, laziness, theft, personal habits, faith, trusting God, etc. These statements are often not meant as absolutes, but general principles and instructions from God.

Care should be taken while studying the proverbs to compare Scripture with Scripture before conclusions are drawn. For example, Proverbs 22:4 says, "By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life." Is every humble Christian rich? Unfortunately, many teachers take passages like this and teach them as absolute promises of material wealth. We must be careful that our understanding of each of these nuggets of wisdom is applied alongside the whole counsel of God.

The opening lines from Solomon make it clear that it is the fear of the Lord that brings knowledge and understanding, which we need to interpret Scripture (Proverbs 1:7). Solomon repeatedly instructs his sons, the immediate audience of much of the book of Proverbs, to seek wisdom and understanding from God—the source of all wisdom. He tells them to "cry out," to "lift up your voice," to "search," and to "treasure" the words of wisdom. The truths contained in God's Word are there, but we must be diligent to search them out, to understand them, to meditate on them, and to apply them to our lives. None of this can happen apart from God's grace in our lives, which gives us the desire and ability to understand His truths.

As stated above, Proverbs teaches repeatedly that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. That same fear of the Lord—reverence for who God is and fear of His wrath and judgment—will lead us to Christ in whom we find all the treasures and fullness of under-

standing and wisdom (Colossians 2:2–3). As we set our minds on Christ and meditate on how He was the perfect example of wisdom, we begin to understand better how to behave in a way that will honor God. Ultimately, true godly wisdom will come in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. And this will happen only through searching the Scriptures in a way that will show ourselves approved to God (2 Timothy 2:15).

Apart from faith, nothing that we do pleases God (Hebrews 11:6). The proverbs offer wise and universal principles for living that people can put into practice, regardless of whether they have submitted their lives to Christ or not. And in many cases, according to God's goodness, living by these principles will provide benefits to Christians and non-Christians. However, these blessings rendered to non-Christians are temporary.

The proverbs instruct on moral and right behavior. We must be aware that our behavior is not what brings us favor in the eyes of God. Nothing we do can commend us to God. It is only through the perfect obedience of Christ on our behalf that we are considered righteous in His eyes.

As you teach this lesson, be careful not to promote a gospel of works. Obedience to God through works is pleasing to Him, but our salvation is founded solely on the grace of God through the gift of faith—not by works (Ephesians 2:8–10). Gratitude for our salvation based on what Christ has done, and the fact that we are new creatures in Christ with new desires that want to honor and please Him, will encourage (and enable) right behavior lived out according to the wisdom of Proverbs.

Much of the book of Proverbs was likely written early in Solomon's reign. Scripture tells us that Solomon often failed to heed his own advice, and later in life, his heart was disloyal to the Lord (1 Kings 11:4). You might think that, being the wisest man on the planet, he would never make a mistake. Well, that just wasn't the case. Have you ever done something that you knew wasn't what God intended for you? Did you ever offer someone advice and then did the opposite yourself? This seems to be the case with Solomon. He knew it was wrong to offer sacrifices to other gods, but he did it (1 Kings 3:3). He knew God forbade the king to have multiple wives, but he married many (1 Kings 11:1–13). He knew that God was the only true source of fulfillment, yet he sought it in God's creation (Ecclesiastes 2). We see in his later writing, the book of Ecclesiastes, that Solomon lamented the time and energy he squandered pursuing the things of the world—and neglecting the things of God. In fact, Solomon strongly

warned the generations to follow to avoid the sinful mistakes he had made.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

As you examine cultures around the world, you will find the wisdom of the ages preserved in various forms. Proverbs from around the world have been passed down through the generations in verbal and written form. You can find an example by visiting your local Chinese restaurant! While there may be some truth to many of these proverbs, they are born out of experience rather than wisdom from God. Because they are not grounded in a fear of the Lord (Proverbs 1:7, 2:5–6), those proverbs are worldly wisdom, not godly wisdom.

Another problem with many cultural proverbs is that they get equated with biblical proverbs. If you took a survey, many people would not be able to tell the difference. For example, the phrase “God helps those who help themselves,” is thought by many to be from the Bible when, in fact, it is the worldly wisdom found in Poor Richard’s Almanac. This is why we must constantly check everything that we hear against Scripture and help to equip our students to do the same. Only as

we look to Christ and the truths found in the Word of God can we truly exercise wisdom.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord, you alone offer wisdom that is more valuable than pure gold. Forgive me for the times I have sought after the wisdom of man. It is too easy to run to the computer or pick up the phone when I need advice. Instead, I should seek you and your Word when I need wisdom and counsel. Give me courage, Lord, to turn others to your Word when they come to me for answers. My students need this life-transforming truth! Grant them the ability to recognize the difference between perfect truth and wisdom that only comes from God and counterfeit wisdom that man offers. Holy Spirit, move through the words and the activities in this lesson. May they inspire us to begin a new habit of going to the Word for answers and trusting the Lord alone for true wisdom.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet.
- They will recite the memory verse to another student or the teacher.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Wisdom from God Class Notes

MATERIALS

- Wisdom from God Class Notes for each student
- Wisdom from God Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out the class notes to each student at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Try not to work ahead. You will fill in the blanks as we come to them.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we study today, we will see where real wisdom comes from and see that the Bible has wisdom to teach us for every part of our lives.

➤ Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.

► Use the History of Israel Poster included with your teacher kit to show your class where the biblical accounts you study chronologically fit into this timeline.

► Re-read the verses if necessary so students can answer from the text.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to Lesson Theme Poster 7. Solomon, David's Son, had built the Temple. The Temple was a special place where people worshipped God. Refer to Lesson Theme Poster 5. Remember, when Solomon was anointed king, the Lord asked him in a dream what he wanted. Solomon's answer was that he wanted an understanding heart, or wisdom, so he could be a good king. God was happy with Solomon's request and gave Solomon a lot of wisdom. King Solomon was a very wise man, so we can learn what God taught him.

? Do you know what I mean by wisdom? *Allow for answers.*

Wisdom is making the right choice based on what God says. It is more than just knowing things or being smart. Wisdom from God—from the Bible—helps us see things the way God wants us to see things.

Today we are going to look at the book of Proverbs. King Solomon was so wise that he wrote most of this book of the Bible. If you brought your Bible, turn to Proverbs. *Help students find the book of Proverbs.*

Solomon asked God for wisdom and we can too! Let's see what the book of Proverbs has to say about wisdom.

Listen as I read Proverbs 1:7a, 2:5, 3:7 and 9:10a. I'm going to show you these mini-posters as I read them. There is something the same in all these verses. I want you to tell me what it is after I'm finished reading them. *As you read the four verses from the mini-posters, emphasize "fear of the Lord." Show the mini-posters to the class and place them where the students can see them.*

Proverbs 1:7a, 2:5, 3:7,
9:10a

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? *Refer to the mini-posters. What is the same in all of these verses? What is the Bible talking about? The fear of the Lord.*

? *Re-read Proverbs 1:7a. Refer to the mini-poster. OK. So what does this say about the fear of the Lord? It is the beginning of knowledge.*

Re-read Proverbs 2:5. Refer to the mini-poster. This verse tells us when we fear the Lord we will find knowledge of God. Knowledge of God is wisdom!

Re-read Proverbs 3:7. Refer to the mini-poster. This verse tells us that we shouldn't be wise in our own eyes. We aren't very smart on our own.

? What does depart mean? *Go away from, leave.*

► The fear of the Lord is a concept that may be difficult for your students to grasp. The fear of the Lord is tied to God's ultimate authority over all created things, His holiness that cannot look at sin, and His justice that must punish sin.

That's right. This verse tells us to fear the Lord and turn away from evil. When we fear the Lord we want to turn to God and turn away from our sin.

? Re-read Proverbs 9:10a. Refer to the mini-poster. What is the beginning of wisdom? *The fear of the Lord.*

? So, where does wisdom come from? Where do we get wisdom? Look at the mini-posters here. It is in all of these verses. *The fear of the Lord.*

Find #1 on your class notes and let's fill in the blanks together. *Lord, wisdom.*

The fear of the Lord that the Bible talks about is different than what we think of when we are afraid. It's not like being scared of the dark or afraid of big bugs. The fear of the Lord that the Bible talks about means to have respect for God because we know that He is the Creator of all things and He holds all things together.

This special fear of the Lord comes when we learn how amazing and holy God is. Part of fearing the Lord is loving what God loves and hating what God hates. And we know that God hates sin because He is holy. *Review the meaning of holy from the Attributes of God Poster.*

HOLY

(Refer to Attributes Poster)

When we fear God we will honor, worship, respect, and obey Him.

? Look at #2 on your class notes. Which words will complete that sentence? *Allow discussion. God, sin.*

The Bible says that wisdom is a treasure. Treasures are usually hidden or kept in a special place and you have to search for them.

? Where would we search to find the treasure God wants us to have—the treasure of wisdom? *Hold up your Bible for a hint. The Bible.*

? Yes! We can find out how to fear the Lord and find wisdom in God's Word, the Bible. So, who can tell me how we should complete #3 on your class notes? Where does wisdom come from? Let's fill that in now. *Bible.*

Discover the Truth

Solomon knew that in order to be a great king, he would need wisdom from God. And, in order for us to live great lives, we have to understand that wisdom comes from God, too! Any wisdom we have comes from knowing God—knowing what He is like, having respect for Him, and being obedient to His commands. Remember, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. *Refer to the mini-posters.*

? Where can we go to know more about God and Jesus? *The Bible.*

That's right. The Bible shows us who God is and who Jesus is. The Bible promises that as we learn more about God and Jesus by studying the Bible, we will gain wisdom. All wisdom comes from God and the Bible.

WISE

(Refer to Attributes Poster)

That is where we can find answers to everything! God wants us to study His Word.

God is the source of all wisdom. He is all-wise in everything He does. Because He is all-wise, we know that He does everything perfectly and without mistakes. *Refer to the Attributes of God Poster.*

? So, how can we become wise? *Read the Bible. Ask God.*

That's right. We can ask God to give us wisdom through His Word. The Bible promises that if we fear the Lord by respecting and honoring Him, we will gain wisdom.



READ THE WORD

The hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in the Bible! We should all want wisdom and God tells us how to get it. I'll show you! Turn to Proverbs 2:1–5 in your Bible. *Help students find the verses.* As I read these verses, we will complete #4–8 on our class notes. I want you to listen very carefully so you can tell me what words go in each blank. OK?

Proverbs 2:1–5

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? *Read Proverbs 2:1. What should we receive? Receive His words.*

Yes, His Words are in the Bible! Look at #4. Which word goes there? *Words.*

? *Listen as I read the second part of verse 1 again. Read Proverbs 2:1b emphasizing commands. What should we treasure? His commands.*

? *Where do we find God's commands? Hold up the Bible as a hint. The Bible.*

Complete #5. We are to treasure His commands, keep them close to our hearts, and try to obey them at all times.

Read Proverbs 2:2. This says to incline our ears to wisdom. That means we should be listening—with our ear—to God's Word. That is where we will find wisdom.

? *How can we find wisdom? Listen for it. Fill in listen under #6.*

Read Proverbs 2:3. God wants us to cry out for discernment—lift our voice for understanding. If we do this, we will learn to know the difference between right and wrong.

➤ After each point ask the question and have the students fill in the blanks on the class notes.

? Based on what I just said, what goes in #7? Can someone read it for me?
Assign a reader if appropriate. Right and wrong.

Yes, God's Word will help us to know what is right and what is wrong.
Knowing God's Word will give us wisdom.

? *Read Proverbs 2:4.* Hmm. What does this mean? Seek "her" as silver. And search "for her" like searching for treasure. What should we be seeking and searching for? *Allow discussion. God, His Word, truth, wisdom.*

? Right. We should seek for wisdom like we would search for hidden treasure! Where would we find this hidden treasure—this wisdom God is telling us about? *Hold up your Bible as a hint. The Bible!*

? So what would you put on #8 of your class notes? *Treasure.* Fill that in now!

Let me read Proverbs 2:5. Listen carefully. This tells us what we will understand and find if we read the Bible. Listen and see if you can figure it out.
Read Proverbs 2:5 emphasizing understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

? What will we understand if we search God's Word? *Re-read the verse if necessary. We will understand the fear of the Lord.*

? What will we find if we search God's Word? *Re-read Proverbs 2:5 if necessary. We will find knowledge of God!*

Great! Look at #9 on your class notes. God's Word will help us to understand the fear of the Lord and find knowledge of God. Fill that in now. *Lord, find.*

Discover the Truth

God wants us to study His Word. We can get wisdom and truth in His Word. God's wisdom helps us understand right from wrong. He tells us in Proverbs what we must do to understand the fear of the Lord— we must believe, listen to, and obey His holy Word. God has given us all we need. It's in the Bible. And we have it to study and learn from!



➤ Review the class notes, asking different students to read each statement.



Proverbs Dos and Don'ts Relay

MATERIALS

- Two sets of Wisdom Cards—16 cards total
- Wisdom Cards Teacher Guide
- Tape to mark the starting line

INSTRUCTIONS

Show one set of the Wisdom Cards.

Read the proverbs listed on the Wisdom Cards Teacher Guide.

Ask students which Wisdom Card Picture illustrates the proverb. Then discuss the proverb and ask the questions on the Wisdom Cards Teacher Guide.

The book of Proverbs is full of good advice for us. Remember, Solomon was very wise! Take a look at each of these cards. I am going to read one of the proverbs from the Bible. I want you to tell me which picture shows the proverb I'm reading. You have to listen carefully! After we talk about each picture, we'll decide as a class if the card is something the proverb tells us to DO or something it says DON'T do—a "Proverbs Do" or a "Proverbs Don't." *Use the Wisdom Cards Teacher Guide.*

If time allows, run the relay as follows:

Divide class into two teams. See the diagram on the Teacher Guide to set up the play space. Place the two sets of cards in two separate areas, side by side. There will be one set of cards per team. One person from each team will run to his team's cards, pick one up, and bring it back to his team. One at a time students will get the cards and sort them into "Proverbs Do" and "Proverbs Don't" piles. Then review with the teams what the pictures show—what the Bible says to do and not to do.

Now let's do a relay using these pictures.

Everyone ready? Let's play! *Begin the game. See instructions above.*

Wow! You really remembered all of the things that these proverbs said to do and not to do. Let's finish our game by reviewing each of the "Dos" and "Don'ts" one more time. *Choose different students to hold up a card and tell the class what the Bible says based on the picture.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The book of Proverbs tells us how we should live our lives. It tells us many important "dos" like listening to our parents and saying nice things, and important "don'ts" like not to lie and yell. God's Word is always true and helps us get wisdom!





Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived. God led him to write these proverbs so we would know better how to live our lives and honor God. And we can learn from them. In fact, God's Word is the only place to find and read about true wisdom.

We talked about some of the things the book of Proverbs can help us with. Like making friends, listening to our parents, the way we should talk, obeying God's Word, doing the right thing, telling the truth, and many, many more. If you want to learn more about how to live in a way that will please God, go to the book of Proverbs. You'll find lots of good advice from God.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

We all like being smart and knowing things. But just knowing things will not always help us. God tells us to seek wisdom—the wisdom to know the right thing and to actually do it. God wants us to ask Him how to act and to study His Word. Then, we will have wisdom.

The book of Proverbs, written by the wisest man that ever lived, is full of answers to everyday problems we all face. It is our job to read God's Word and ask for His wisdom every day.

You might think that it is a lot of work to get wisdom. And it is. God says we should seek after wisdom like treasure. And just like we would want to dig for buried treasure like gold or diamonds, we should dig into God's Word for the treasures God has for us—looking for wisdom and knowledge about who He is, what Jesus did, and how we can become children of God!



► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

1 Chronicles 29:11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God for providing His Word and making true wisdom available to us.
- Thank God that we can find the answers to problems we experience today.
- Ask God to help us to seek His wisdom and live it out in our lives.

