



8

Wisdom from God



Key Passages

- Proverbs 1:7, 2:5–6, 3:7, 9:10

Lesson Focus

- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will assemble the Temple Puzzle as a review of the previous lesson and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God’s Word—Students will hear that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”

Song—Students will praise God by marching, clapping, and singing the Memory Verse Song and the song “The Fear of the Lord.” Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: Fear of the Lord

Students will repeat the phrase, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” as they play this version of “Duck, Duck, Goose.”



Activity 2: Wisdom Bookmarks

Students will color and decorate bookmarks to use at home.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will practice the memory verse by “freezing” in place and reciting the verse together.



Applying God’s Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



COME ON IN

- Print and cut one Temple Puzzle from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Put puzzles into envelopes or plastic bags.

- Temple Puzzle in envelopes or plastic bags for each student
- Play dough



CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.
- Print and cut one set of Lesson Verse References. Put in a bag or envelope. Children will pick the verses during the lesson.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Lesson Verse References in a bag or envelope



FEAR OF THE LORD

- No preparation necessary.

- No materials necessary



WISDOM BOOKMARKS

- Print and cut one Wisdom Bookmark from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student, preferably on cardstock.
- Gather materials for decorations.

- Wisdom Bookmark for each student
- Crayons
- Decorations such as ribbons, yarn, stickers, etc.
- Glue
- Single hole punch



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- No preparation necessary.

- Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review



APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for review
- Snacks



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.

➤ As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children engaged.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will complete the Temple Puzzle as a review and/or
- Play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons 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 Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, Lesson Verse References in a grab bag, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. *Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Confession is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of confession—and tell God we're sorry for the sinful things we've done.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

I'll start. Dear God, you will forgive all our sins. Please forgive me for . . .
(insert personal prayer).

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of confession.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? **Is there more than one true God?** *No. There is only one living and true God.*
- ? **Where can we learn about the one true God?** *Hold up your Bible. The Bible.*
- ? **What does the one true God know?** *The one true God knows everything!*
- ? **Who should we trust and obey?** *The one true God!*
- ? **Who alone should we worship?** *The one true God!*

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark the passage before you begin.

► Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Bible Pass Around

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. *Hold up Bible.* God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number *choose a number. You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.* **We'll start right here.** *Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin.* *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.*

Refer to Lesson 7 Flip Chart. **King Solomon, David's son, built a beautiful Temple for God. And God was pleased with it. Now the people could all come and worship the Lord in the new Temple.**

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

? Remember when God asked Solomon what he wanted? God would give Solomon anything. What did Solomon ask for? Do you remember? *Refer to Lesson 5 Flip Chart. An understanding heart—wisdom.*

That's right. Solomon asked God for wisdom. He knew that ruling as king of Israel would be a hard job. So he would need God's wisdom to be a good king.

? But what is true wisdom? Do you have any idea? *Allow for answers.*

Let's see if we can figure this out.

? Does true wisdom help you know right from wrong? *Yes!*

? Does true wisdom help you make good choices? *Yes.*

? Does true wisdom help you understand what pleases God? *Yes.*

? Is true wisdom a good thing to have? *Yes!*

Yes. True wisdom is ALL of those things. It helps us know right from wrong and make good choices. It helps us to make those choices so that we do what God wants us to do. That is a very good thing.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. King Solomon's wisdom came from God. God gave Solomon true wisdom of mind and heart. And Solomon led the people in Israel very well. People from all over heard how wise he was and came to hear him speak. We can find some of Solomon's wise words in the book of Proverbs, in the Bible. That's what we are going to read from today. Let's open the Bible now . . . to the book of Proverbs! Remember, Solomon wrote a lot of this book. *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the students where Proverbs is. Have the student sit back down.*

The book of Proverbs tells us where Solomon got his wisdom. His wisdom came from God, because he asked God for it. But let's see if the Bible tells us anything else about wisdom. We are going to read from the book of Proverbs today! *Hold up your Bible.*

We are going to do it in a different way. I have this bag here with some verses from Proverbs in it. I will call on one of you to come and pull one piece of paper out of this bag. Then I want you all to tell me, "Ready. Set. Go!" And we'll see how fast I can find the verse in the Bible! Then I'll read it to you. And you have to listen very carefully so you can answer the question. *Call on a student to choose one verse from the bag. Have all the children say, "Ready. Set. Go!" together. Look up the verse and read it. After each verse . . . ask the question.*

? *Proverbs 1:7. What is the beginning of knowledge? The fear of the Lord.*

? *Proverbs 2:5. How will we find knowledge of God? We should fear the Lord.*

? *Proverbs 3:7. Who are we supposed to fear? The Lord.*

**Proverbs 1:7, 2:5, 2:6,
3:7, 9:10**

➤ As each verse is drawn from the grab bag, read the verse, emphasize the answer, and then ask the appropriate questions. The children should hear God's Word and know that they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them!

► 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.

? *Proverbs 9:10. What is the beginning of wisdom? The fear of the Lord.*

? *Proverbs 2:6. Who gives wisdom? The Lord.*

King Solomon talked a lot about fear. He knew that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of 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 storms 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. This special fear of the Lord comes when we get to know how amazing and holy God is.

Solomon knew that his wisdom needed to come from God. And he knew that the fear of the Lord was the beginning of wisdom. We have to understand that, too! Our wisdom will come from God and knowing Him.

? *Refer to Lesson Flip Chart. How can we know God? Hold up your Bible as a hint. Read the Bible.*

That's right. The Bible shows us who God is and tells us about Jesus Christ. The Bible promises that as we learn more about God, Jesus, and the things in the Bible, we will gain wisdom.

? *So, what does the fear of the Lord give us? Wisdom!*

? *And where can we find out about the Lord and begin to get wisdom? From the Bible.*

SONG

► Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Knowing God's Word is important. That's where we can get wisdom. That's why we memorize things from the Bible. Let's sing our Memory Verse Song together. Everyone stand up and stretch. Here we go! Sing together while stretching up and down. Repeat, adding marching and/or instruments.

King Solomon wrote in Proverbs that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." We have a song to sing about that. I'm going to teach it to you. This is going to be fun. Ready? Let's try it. *Sing through the song slowly, line by line. Point to the students to shout, "What?!" at the end of each line, while scrunching up shoulders. Then on the last line everyone shouts, "Wisdom!" while raising hands up in the air. Repeat, having everyone sing it all together, shouting at the end of each line with motions.*

Lyrics to the songs can be found on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

Great job!

Now stay where you are in the circle and sit down. We're going to play a game in our circle.



Fear of the Lord

MATERIALS

- No materials needed

INSTRUCTIONS

This game is similar to "Duck, Duck, Goose!" Have students sit in a circle facing the center. The teacher will go around and gently tap the head of each student while they all say, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom!" At the word, "wisdom" the student who is tapped will jump up and run around the circle back to his place. Continue tapping and running until each student has had a turn to run. This version allows the teacher to be "it" and have more control over who is tapped. But it may also be played

like the original game with students tapping and racing for the vacant space, if appropriate.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

? **What is the beginning of wisdom?** *The fear of the Lord.*

? **Remember what the fear of the Lord means?** *Allow for discussion from the lesson.*

Fear of the Lord is reverence and respect for God because He is holy, and He is the Creator of everything—even you and me!



Wisdom Bookmarks

MATERIALS

- Wisdom Bookmark on cardstock for each student
- Crayons
- Decorations such as ribbons, yarn, stickers, etc.
- Glue
- Single hole punch

INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut out one bookmark for each student. Punch a hole on the black dot and attach ribbon or yarn. Have students color and decorate. You may want to complete a bookmark for yourself and use it during the Bible Pass Around time at the beginning of each lesson.

We're going to make some special bookmarks today. *Hold up bookmark and read*

it. This says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning wisdom." Color the picture, then I will help you add some ribbon or yarn, and then you can decorate it.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Wisdom comes from God and from His Word. When we read God's Word, we can learn more about Him and how to be wise. Ask your family to read the Bible with you and use this bookmark to mark where you are as you read! What does your bookmark say? Say it with me, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." *Repeat the phrase with students once or twice.*



Memory Verse Review and Activity

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.

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try and say it on their own.

MATERIALS

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page

INSTRUCTIONS

Students will move around the room in a specified action you give, such as crawling, skipping, turning in circles, galloping, walking in giant steps, etc. Then when you say, "Freeze!" the students will stop and freeze in position. Say or sing the memory verse, then begin again with a different action.

We're going to play a game now called "Freeze!" I'm going to tell you what you need to do like crawl or take baby steps. Everyone does the same thing, but when I say, "Freeze," you have to stop and freeze like a statue. Like this: *Show an example so the students understand how to freeze in position.* Then we're all going to say (or sing) the memory verse together before we can move again. Are you ready? Everyone stand up and start moving around taking giant steps. *Repeat with various actions.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

That was fun! God's Word has true wisdom in it. That's why it's important for us to read the Bible and remember it. Memorizing verses together is fun, and it's a great way to get wisdom from God.



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review the lesson with the children while enjoying the snack for the day.

Refer to the Flip Chart. King Solomon asked God for wisdom. He knew that only God could give him true wisdom. Solomon knew that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. He feared and worshipped God. Solomon wrote about wisdom in the book of Proverbs.

Remember the fear the Bible talks about is different from being scared of the dark or bad storms or 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—even us!

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart. Solomon's wisdom came from God. We can get godly wisdom from God, too! But we need to know who God is.

? How do we find out about God and who He is? *Hold up your Bible as a hint. Read the Bible.*

That's right. The Bible shows us who God is and tells us about Jesus Christ. The Bible promises that as we learn more about God, Jesus, and the things in the Bible, we will gain wisdom.



Group Prayer Time

- Ask God to help us learn true wisdom.
- Thank God for His Word and the truth.
- Pray that God will give us hearts that truly love Him.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

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

Song Sheet

1 CHRONICLES 29:11

(To the tune of "Jesus Loves Me")

1 Chronicles 29:11 *Shout!*

Yours, O Lord is gre-eatness,

(Jesus loves me, this I know.)

The power and the glo-ory,

(For the Bible tells me so.)

The vic-tor-y and majesty,

(Little ones to Him belong,)

For all that's in heaven and earth is Yours.

(They are weak, but He is strong.)

Yours is the kingdom—O Lord! *Shout!*

(Yes, Jesus loves me!)

Yours is the kingdom—O Lord! *Shout!*

(Yes, Jesus loves me!)

Yours is the kingdom,

(Yes, Jesus loves me!)

You're exalted as head over all.

(The Bible tells me so.)

1 Chronicles 29:11 *Shout!*

FEAR OF THE LORD

(To the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus")

Sing through the song slowly line by line. Point to the students to shout, "What?!" at the end of each line, while scrunching up shoulders. Then on the last line everyone shouts, "Wisdom!" while raising hands up in the air. Repeat, having everyone sing it all together, shouting at the end of each line with motions.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of—

What?! *Shout!*

(The wheels on the bus go round and round,)

Scrunch up shoulders whenever you ask, "What?"

Beginning of—What?! *Shout!*

(Round and round,)

Beginning of—What?! *Shout!*

(Round and round.)

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of—What?! *Shout!*

(The wheels on the bus go round and round,)

Begin-in-ing of—Wisdom! *Shout!*

(All over town!)

Raise hands up when you shout "Wisdom!"

Think of fun ways to sing. For example: Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.