

LESSON PLAN

For Lower Elementary Students & Classes

Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class to greet students and parents by name. Have the day's Bible Message written on the white board or on poster board that all the kids can see. Consider using a repeatable special greeting ("This is the day the Lord has made!") or handshake for your students.



Opening Prayer Song

Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Take a minute and have students greet each other by name. It helps build community after not seeing each other for a week. The opening prayer song should be sung every week with these young kids — repetition is good.

This is sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Accompaniment music isn't needed.

*Heavenly Father, we love you,
thanks for everything you do.*

*Open our hearts and open our ears,
so we can learn from what we hear.*

*Thanks for hearing us when we pray,
and for loving us every day. Amen.*

Introduction to Today's Bible Message

Teacher's Script (student responses are in bold).

Today's Bible message is: We learn from God. Say it with me: **We learn from God.** God does many things to help us learn about him. One of those things is by giving us what we call words of wisdom. They're in the Bible.

- Raise your hand if you can tell us what wisdom is.
- Raise your hand if you can tell me something we learn from God. (*Choose a few children to answer. We learn everything from God.*)

Wisdom is being smart and looking to God and the Bible before anything else for our answers to life. When we read the Bible **we learn from God** and he gives us wisdom. Today we're learning some of the things God wants us to know because, **we learn from God!**

Read the Story while Showing the Pictures

Each Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture to be printed on letter-sized paper (or enlarged to ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available). The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading.

Common Sense Wisdom

Based on Proverbs 1:1-19

When Solomon became king after his father, David, God asked him what he wanted. He asked for wisdom. He wanted to lead God's people in a smart and fair way. God helped him write a book called Proverbs. It's full of God's wisdom and can help us.

Picture 1

God made Solomon very wise (smart). [*Who made Solomon wise?*] Many people would come to Solomon for help. One of the things he told them was, "Trust God more than you trust yourself." [*What did he tell them?*] God always knows better than we do, and he knows what is best for us.

Picture 2

Solomon would also tell children, "Trust your parents, listen to them, and do what they tell you." [*What did Solomon tell children?*] Your parents love you and always want what is good for you. If you trust them and do what they say, you will be happier.

Picture 3

Everyone gets mad. Sometimes when we are mad at somebody, we say mean things to them, and they say mean things to us. Solomon says that mean words do not help with problems. [*What does Solomon say?*] They just hurt people's feelings. Nobody should say mean things just because they are mad or unhappy.

Picture 4

Sometimes, when people do something wrong, they don't want anybody to know about it. God doesn't want us to hide or lie about our mistakes. He wants us to tell him or the people you're sorry you did something wrong. [*What does God want us to do?*] God loves us!

Bible Message

Do you remember today's Bible Message? **We learn from God!**

Optional Activities for Young Children

You can choose one or two of the optional activities, depending on how much time you have. Be sure to leave time to go over the Take-Home Page before students leave.

a. Fingerplay

A fingerplay is a story or rhyme with hand actions or movement that includes repeated lines to reinforce the story and/or the weekly Bible message.

We Learn From God

To the tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb. You may need to explain the word apologize to the younger kids.

Proverbs tell us to trust God,
to trust God, to trust God.
Proverbs tell us to trust God,
He knows more than we do.

Trust your parents every day,
every day, every day,
Trust your parents every day,
and listen to them too.

When you're talking use nice words,
use nice words, use nice words,
When you're talking use nice words,
as God tells us to do.

Apologize when you do wrong,
you do wrong, you do wrong.
Apologize when you do wrong,
it's what God wants from you.

God loves us and always will, always will, always will,
God loves us and always will, and we all love him too.

b. Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember it. The rule is that whoever is speaking can only say one sentence or one thing. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. The story needs to be in the right order.

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page apart and let them put the illustrations (no words) in order while they tell the story.

START: King Solomon was very wise. He got that gift from God. He wrote a book called Proverbs. Then what happened?

c. Song

This simple camp song has motions and can be found online.

I've Got the Joy!

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart.
(Where?)

Down in my heart; (Where?)

Down in my heart.

I've got the joy joy, joy, joy, down in my heart.
(Where?)

Down in my heart to stay.

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, down in my heart. (Where?)

Down in my heart; (Where?)

Down in my heart.

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, down in my heart. (Where?)

Down in my heart to stay.

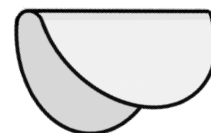
d. Young Children's Craft

We Learn from God Mobile

Supplies Needed:

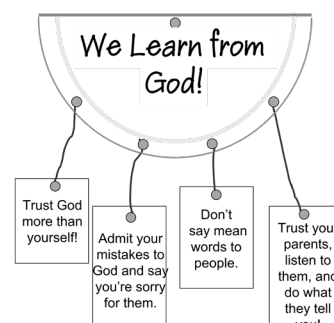
- Paper plate
- Copied "proverbs" on cardstock (see template)
- Yarn or ribbon
- Safety scissors
- Stapler and Hole Punch

folded paper plate



Copy and cut out Proverbs cards. You can cut them any size. Let kids draw on back side of each card and color over the words. Fold a paper plate in half (similar to the craft in Lesson 2) and write "We Learn from God" on both sides. Punch one hole on top (middle) to suspend it.

Punch four holes along the edge and one on top of each of the cards to hang them from the plate. Use different lengths of yarn to hang cards from the plate. If needed, staple the edges of the plate together.



Take-Home Page

Repetition is very important to learning. The Take-Home Page allows teachers to review the story at the end of class. Invite children to take a seat at a table, and give each a copy of the Take-Home Page. Use the following questions to guide discussion. If necessary, explain to kids about thought and dream bubbles.

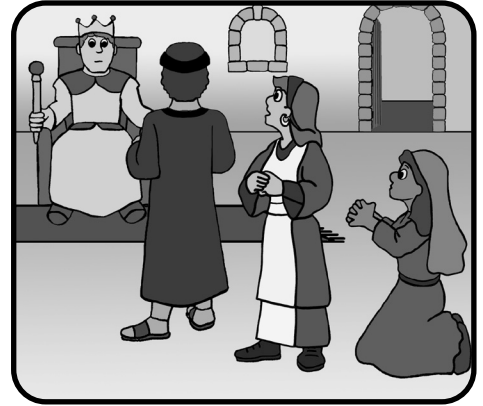
Encourage children to use the Take-Home Page to tell the story to their family.

Have children point to Picture 1.

- Raise your hand if you can tell me something you see in this picture. (*Allow kids to answer until they start repeating answers or become silly.*)

Read the words under Picture 1.

- Which of the people is Solomon?
- The words say that we should trust God more than us. Who else does God give us that we can trust?



Have children point to Picture 2.

- Raise your hand if you can tell me what's happening in this picture. How is it different from Picture 1?

Read the words under Picture 2.

- Who in this picture was also in Picture 1?
- Do you think Solomon is teaching the kids something? How do you know?



Have children point to Picture 3.

- Raise your hand if you can tell me what's happening in this picture.

Read the words under Picture 3.

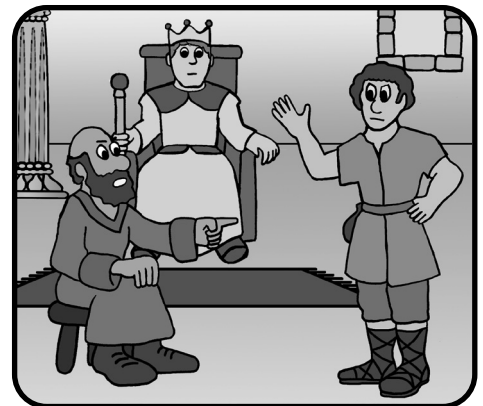
- What are the men doing? Do they look happy, sad, or mad or angry?
- How do mean words make people feel?

Have children point to Picture 4.

- Raise your hand if you can tell me what's happening in this picture.

Read the words under Picture 4.

- What should we do when we make a mistake or do something we know we shouldn't do?



Have children point to the Bible Message at the top of the page.

Do you remember today's Bible Message? **We learn from God.**

Closing Prayer

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

Thank you, Jesus, for teaching me.

Bless me, my friends, and my family.

*This week I ask you to keep me safe
and through the week to grow my faith.*

*Bring me back to learn again,
and fill my heart with love. Amen.*

