



LESSON PLAN

Scripture Texts:

Proverbs 1:1-19

1 Corinthians 1:20-25

Session Theme:

Wisdom

a. Welcome to Class

Teachers should arrive in the classroom well in advance of class. Welcome students as they enter, and inquire about their week. Pass out name tags and record attendance on a classroom chart.

b. Warm Up: Wise Words

Write the word WISE on the board in large letters. Bring a bag of candy or fruit with you to class and explain that you're planning to eat the entire bag as your next meal. Ask kids if that idea sounds wise or unwise. Why? "Decide" to share the treats with the class and discuss what it means to be wise. Give examples of wise or unwise choices. (Wise = showing good judgment.)

Sometimes it's hard to know what decision to make. In addition to praying and talking to people who care for us, we can turn to the Bible for help. The Bible is like a guidebook for life! We can learn to be wise from reading the stories of other people, as well as from learning the Bible's teachings.

c. Opening Prayer

Lord God, source of all wisdom, from you all good things come. Thank you for guiding us by your Word. Give us your Holy Spirit so that we may trust in you and live obediently. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

d. SEED Video or Song (Optional)

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This time may also include an opening song or two, using a commercial Sunday School music CD.

Song suggestions for this lesson:

- "The B-I-B-L-E" (children's song)
- "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" (hymn)

e. Brief Bible Background

Read together the introduction to the lessons for the day, and briefly summarize the context and setting:

- Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament
- Scripture Section: Writings

Throughout the Old Testament are books of poetry, proverbs, and songs. Most of these writings are not attached to a particular time or place, but reflect the good and bad times we all experience.

f. Communicate the Bible Story

Always keep in mind that the main purpose of Sunday School is to put people in contact with Bible stories. Use a version that is appropriate to the age level.

Upper Elementary: Read the Bible Story and Rhyme

Youth/Adults: Read the Scripture text from the Bible

For Upper and Lower Elementary, use the Storyteller questions to help the students think about the events of the story.

g. Complete the Worksheet(s)

Continue with the handout sheets appropriate to the age level of the students in class:

Upper Elementary: Worksheet and Drama

Youth: Bible Study (Maps, Timelines, Questions)

Adult: Bible Study Sheet (Introduction and Discussion)

h. Craft and Activity Time

If there is time after covering the Bible story, the class may move to craft and activity time, described on the following page. (Do not let the activity time supersede the actual time spent on the Scripture lesson.)

i. Summarize and Review

Before ending class, briefly summarize the day's lesson one last time. If you have not already done so, introduce the Theme Word for the week, providing the definition, and asking how the lesson connects to that theme.

Youth/Adult: Discuss "Reflection for the Week Ahead"

j. Closing Prayer

Close the session in prayer before dismissal:

Upper Elementary: Practice a prayer from memory (e.g., the Lord's Prayer, Luther's Morning Prayer, etc.)

Youth/Adult: Use the ADTRC Prayer format



Bible Study Leader's Guide

The following is a discussion and answer guide for the Youth and Adult Bible Study sheets. For all leaders, it can serve to provide some background on the Bible lesson.

Discuss: Proverbs 1:1-19

1. Many proverbs in this book are attributed to King Solomon. How, or from where, did Solomon get his great wisdom? (See 2 Chronicles 1:7-13.)

God gave young Solomon the opportunity to ask for whatever he wanted. Solomon asked for the wisdom to be able to rule his people well. God was pleased with Solomon's request, and granted him wisdom and much more. Solomon's wisdom came from God.

2. What are the many different words in verses 2-6 that refer to mental or intellectual ability, or the act of communicating this to others?

There are many synonyms used here, including wisdom, instruction, understanding, insight, wise dealing, prudence, discretion, learning, guidance, knowledge, and teaching.

3. In verse 7, what do you think is meant by "the fear of the Lord"? What does this have to do with wisdom and knowledge?

In the Bible, the phrase "fear of the Lord" refers to having faith in God. We can best think of this fear in terms of respect — to recognize the power of God and to obey his commands. But such fear can also be seen as a genuine awe of God's greatness, and entrusting our lives to his power. One cannot be spiritually wise apart from such faith. Trusting in God means we look to his Word to know about ourselves and our world, and about the Lord himself.

4. What metaphors are used in verse 9 to refer to a parent's guidance? What would it mean to "wear" good sense at all times? In what sense is wisdom something that no one can take away from us?

The proverbs compare a parent's teaching to a garland around our head and a pendant around our neck. A garland is something we keep on our head that goes with us wherever we go. A pendant is something valuable, often given as a gift. These are good ways to think about wisdom. But unlike physical objects, wisdom is held inside us.

5. What particular temptation does the father warn his son about in verses 10-19? What sort of advice should we not listen to? How can we tell the difference between good

advice and bad advice?

The father warns his son not to fall in with sinners — specifically people with criminal intent. Robbers and murderers engage in evil for personal benefit, looking for easy gain; but they are too stupid to realize they will be caught and punished. When something seems too good to be true, it usually is.

One rule of thumb to measure our actions is to think about the potential harm that could be caused by what we do. But even then, we can't always see the unintended consequences of sin. A better guide is to simply take God at his Word.

6. What does the Bible say that a life of crime leads to? Even if others convince us to do something wrong, how are we responsible to God for our own actions?

Of those who seek to harm and trap others, Scripture says: "but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives" (v. 18). In other words: What goes around comes around. The harm we intend for others will catch up with us.

In the end, it is not enough to blame someone else for leading us into sin. We are accountable to God for our own actions. As the Apostle Paul warned: "What fruit were you getting from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death" (Romans 6:21).

7. Read 1 Corinthians 1:20-25. In your own words, how would you describe the difference between the wisdom of God and the wisdom of the world? In what sense has God "made foolish the wisdom of the world"? Why?

Worldly wisdom has to do with the way things work in a fallen world. It is a finite logic that only takes into consideration things that can be seen and experienced. The wisdom of God comes to us from the outside; it is given to us. True wisdom is not something we can discover for ourselves, it is something that must be revealed to us by God himself.

8. Why does the crucifixion of Jesus seem foolish to the world? What does faith reveal to us that human reason cannot?

To the world, the crucifixion of Jesus looked like failure and defeat. But the Gospel tells us that through the cross, Jesus freed us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. It was in giving himself for us that we became the beneficiaries of all that belongs to him: faith, righteousness, and eternal life. We cling to the promise of the cross in faith as God's greatest victory!

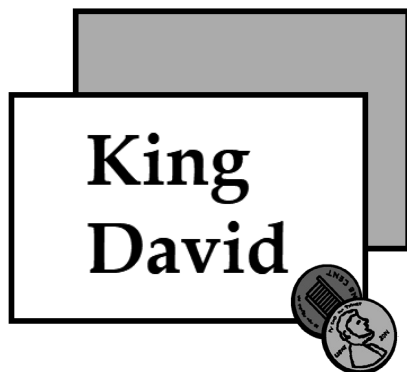
Classroom Craft and Activity Page

Listed below are in-class activities and craft projects related to the theme for the day. Choose one of the following based on the age and capabilities of the students. (Never let the activity or craft time take precedence over the biblical story.)

Activity 1: Wise or Unwise Game

Materials Needed:

- Index cards
- Colored markers
- Pennies
(or other coins)
- Masking tape



Instructions:

Before class: Write the names of several commonly known Bible characters on index cards. Using colored markers, write one name on each card. Examples could include Adam, Eve, Abraham, Noah, Jacob, Moses, Samson, Jonah, Jesus, Mary, Joseph and the Wise Men. Also include names from recent SEED lessons, such as Saul, Fortune Teller, David, King Rehoboam, Haman and Queen Esther.

Make a starting line with masking tape. Spread the index cards out at different distances from the starting line.

At game time: Have kids form a line. The first student should toss a coin so it lands on the name of a Bible character. After naming the character, challenge the student to list one *wise* or one *unwise* thing that the character did.

- If stumped, the student can ask you to give one true and one false “fact” about the character. If they choose correctly, they get one point. If incorrect, zero points.
- If the student comes up with one wise/unwise thing on their own and is correct, that student gets two points.
- If a student is able to list both a wise AND an unwise thing, that student gets three points.

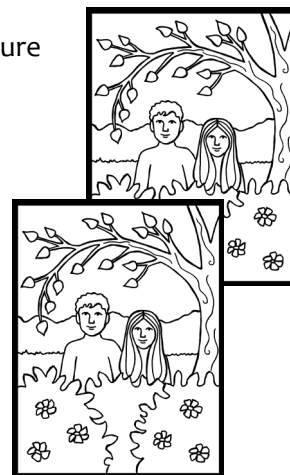
The game continues with each student taking turns at the starting line and tossing a coin on a character’s name. Play until kids have exhausted their knowledge.

Sometimes we think that people in Bible times were perfect and always made the right decisions, but that isn’t true. As we saw through this game, even people back then made both wise and unwise choices. We can always look to the Bible and the lessons we learn in church to help us grow in wisdom. But even when we fail, God is good and will help us. We need only ask for forgiveness and guidance!

Activity 2: Tell Me the Story Memory Game

Materials Needed:

- Two copies of the main picture from SEED lessons 1-7 (use Upper Student Story Pages or the memory cards for this)
- Scissors
- Construction paper (all the same color)
- Glue sticks or tape



Instructions:

Note: Depending on the size of your class, you can either play this memory game as one big group or as smaller groups of two to four kids.

Before class: Download or copy the framed pictures from each chapter of the SEED Upper Student Story Pages or from the memory cards. Make two copies of each picture. (If you are playing with smaller groups, you will need two copies of each picture for every group that plays.)

At activity time: Give each person one or two pictures and corresponding quarter-sheet pieces of construction paper. Have everyone glue the pictures to the construction paper.

Collect all the pictures and shuffle them. Then, arrange them on a table or the floor, face down.

Have each person take a turn coming forward and turning over two pictures.

If they match, the player will pick up the pair and say one fact about the story. Then, that person will take the pair of pictures back to their seat with them.

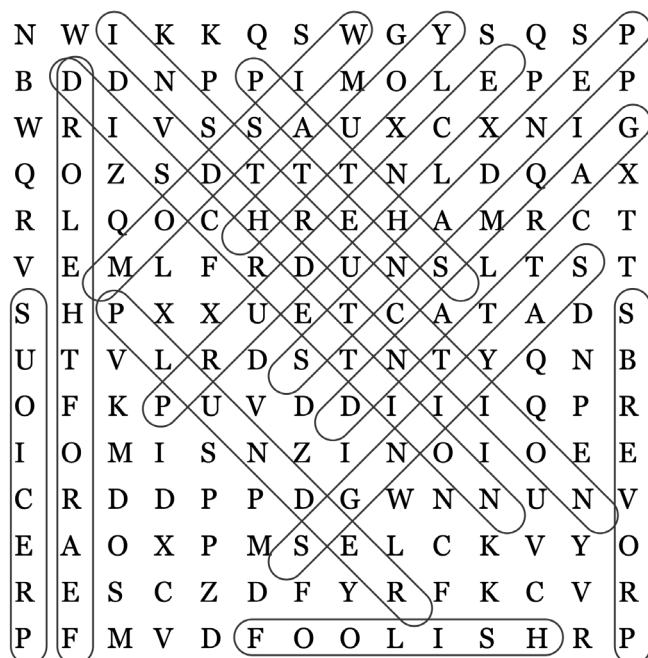
If the pictures don’t match, the player will flip them face down again and the next player will take a turn. Whoever ends up with the most matching pieces at the end wins the game.

We can learn so much from the Bible! Hearing stories about men and women of faith who came before us teaches us how to live and what to do (or not do!). Read your Bible and study it regularly. It is a treasure trove of wisdom for all people in every generation.

Worksheet Answer Key

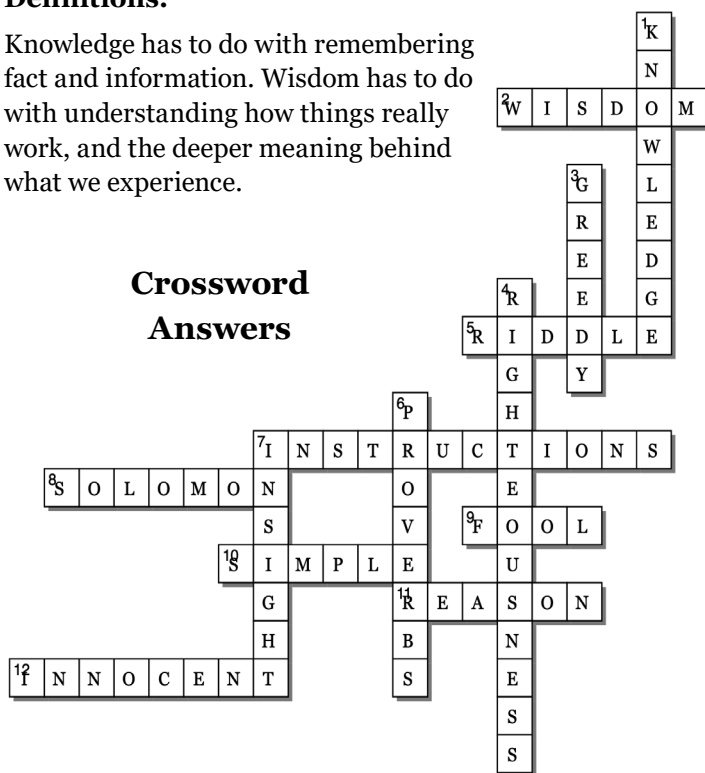
Shown below are the answers and solution to the children's worksheet for this week's lesson:

Wordfind Solution



Definitions:

Knowledge has to do with remembering fact and information. Wisdom has to do with understanding how things really work, and the deeper meaning behind what we experience.

Crossword
Answers

Vocabulary Word for the Week

Teachers may want to introduce the theme word for the week to help expand students' biblical vocabulary.

Wisdom

to understand the way things work and determine the best way to do something

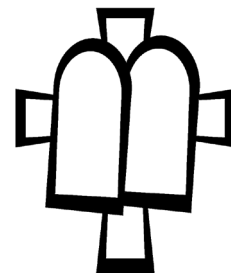
When we read the Bible, the Holy Spirit gives us wisdom and teaches us about God, ourselves, and the world around us.

Reflection for the Week Ahead

Some have argued that the book of Proverbs is a little too simplistic — presenting the world in black and white when we all know it comes in shades of gray. But sometimes things are more simple than we think. We often make things more complicated than they need to be as a way of avoiding what we know we should do.

Spend some time this week reading from the book of Proverbs. Try to read at least ten verses each day. Notice that most of these proverbs convey a timeless wisdom that is not locked into one particular place or time, but apply to us all.

As you engage with others this week — at work, school or home — try not to make excuses for why things are harder than you are able to handle. Instead, obey God and simply do what God asks of you.



The Practice of Prayer

On the lines below, write a prayer thanking God for his Word, and for the opportunity to spend time in the Scriptures. Ask the Holy Spirit to open up your heart to God's guidance and give you the power to do his will.

Practice using the ADTRC Prayer Form: Address, Description, Thanks, Request, Conclusion.