



Solomon Writes Many Proverbs

1 Kings 4:29-34; Proverbs 1:1-7

Third- and fourth-graders understand what it means to be smart, but they probably don't have a very firm grasp on what wisdom is. Be sure to emphasize throughout this lesson that wisdom is not just a matter of knowledge. Wisdom is being able to apply knowledge to make decisions that fit into God's plan. Godly wisdom involves a deep sense of respect for God, a desire to seek God, and the humility to submit to God.



► Bible Point
We become wise by following God's Word.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Wisdom Search Relay <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Run a relay to find God's wisdom.	plastic trash bag, foam packing peanuts or paper crumples, paper, pens, tape Teacher Pack: "Wisdom Search" cards 	Tear apart the "Wisdom Search" cards and bury them among packing peanuts or paper crumples in the trash bag. Make two signs, one that says "God's Wisdom" and one that says "The World's Wisdom," and hang them next to each other on the side of a table at one end of the room.
	2 Bible Exploration	Wisest Man Ever <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Fill out an application to enter Solomon in a contest for the wisest man who ever lived.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, pencils or pens
	The Wisdom Quest <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Go on a journey through Proverbs for evidence of wisdom.	Bibles, paper, pencils or pens, poster board, markers, CD player Teacher Pack: CD: "The Wisdom Quest" (track 12)	

Key Verse
"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10).

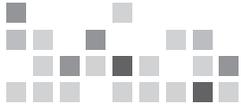
Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will seek wisdom in God's Word.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">3 Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>The Beginning of Wisdom <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Create paths to wisdom.</p>	<p>paper, pencils, 1 roll of masking tape and 1 copy of the “Beginning of Wisdom” handout for every 3 to 4 children Teacher Pack: “Beginning of Wisdom” handout</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>Bible Truth Sleuth</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		





Wisdom Search Relay Supplies

plastic trash bag
foam packing peanuts
or paper crumples
paper
pens
tape

Teacher Pack

“Wisdom Search” cards

Wisdom Search Relay Easy Prep

Tear apart the “Wisdom Search” cards and bury them among packing peanuts or paper crumples in the trash bag.

Make two signs, one that says “God’s Wisdom” and one that says “The World’s Wisdom,” and hang them on the side of a table at one end of the room.

1

GETTING STARTED

Wisdom Search Relay

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Say: **Today we’re talking about becoming wise people. The first step is to know what wisdom is. We’re going to run a relay to search for wisdom. Here’s what you’ll do:**

You’re going to form a straight line. The first person in line will dig through the trash bag until he or she finds a wisdom card. Then the whole group will decide whether the card shows God’s wisdom or the world’s wisdom. Then you’ll run to the other side of the room, put the card on the table by the sign that shows what kind of wisdom it is, and run back to this side. Then it’s the next person’s turn. We’ll keep going until we’ve found all the cards.

Have kids line up and run the relay.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- What did you find difficult about searching for wisdom hidden in the bag?
- In what ways is wisdom hidden from us?
- In what ways is wisdom freely available to us?
- How did you decide what kind of wisdom the cards showed?
- Is it true that there are only two kinds of wisdom—God’s wisdom and the world’s wisdom? Why or why not?

Say: **Today we’re going to talk about what it means to be wise. We’re going to learn about what God considers wise. Solomon, who is described by the Bible as one of the world’s wisest men who ever lived, will lead us through our search. And we’ll learn that ► WE BECOME WISE BY FOLLOWING GOD’S WORD. Let’s get started!**





2

BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Wisest Man Ever

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids turn to the "World's Wisest Man" activity on their Bible Truth Sleuth page. Give each child a pencil or pen and a Bible. Help children find partners.

Say: **Today we're talking about wisdom. *The Official Book of World Records* is looking for the wisest man who's ever lived. Many people say Solomon was the wisest man ever. Right now, you're going to fill out an application to send to the editors of *The Official Book of World Records* to show that Solomon was the wisest man ever. With your partner, look at 1 Kings 4:29-34, and fill out the questions on the application.**

Give kids five minutes to study the passage with their partners and to create an application for Solomon. Have each child fill out the application on his or her Bible Truth Sleuth page.

If kids have trouble, you may want to give them hints about Solomon:

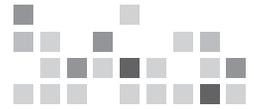
- Has great insight.
- Breadth of understanding is as measureless as the sand on the seashore.
- Has spoken 3,000 proverbs.
- Has written 1,005 songs.
- Has described plant life.
- Has taught about animals, birds, reptiles, and fish.
- People from many nations were sent by kings to listen to his wisdom.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- **So what do you think? Will the editors of *The Official Book of World Records* choose Solomon as the wisest man on earth? Why or why not?**
- **Explain which things you listed are the most convincing reasons proving Solomon was wise.**
- **Tell about someone you know who shows wisdom like Solomon.**

Say: ► **WE BECOME WISE BY FOLLOWING GOD'S WORD.** Solomon was a very wise person. The Bible tells us that he was the wisest man who ever lived. Solomon was wise because he asked God for wisdom. He wrote lots of proverbs to help the rest of us understand what wisdom is and how to find it. Let's discover what he wrote about wisdom.



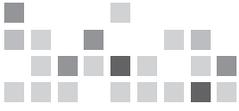
Wisest Man Ever Supplies

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Bibles
Bible Truth Sleuth pencils or pens

Wisest Man Ever Easy Prep

.....
Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.





The Wisdom Quest Supplies

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Bibles
paper
pencils or pens
poster board
markers
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "The Wisdom Quest"
(track 12)

The Wisdom Quest

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have each pair from the previous activity get together with another pair to create groups of four. If you have fewer than 16 children, have kids work in pairs or trios.

Say: **Today we're trying to determine what it means to be wise. It's time for you to search for the answer to that question. Let's pretend that you're on a wisdom quest. A quest is a hunt or a journey of adventure and discovery. Let's listen to the CD to get instructions for the quest.**

Play "The Wisdom Quest" (track 12 on the CD). The segment will take the kids through Proverbs 1:1-7 and will give them instructions for their wisdom quest.

Give each group Bibles, paper, and pencils or pens. Also give each group a piece of poster board and markers. Assign each group one chapter from Proverbs 10 through 30. You don't need to cover them all, but make sure each group gets a different passage.

Have each group look through the chapter of Proverbs they've been given and pick out individual proverbs to help them answer the question, "What does it mean to be wise?" Then have them use poster board and markers to create a display that will show what it means to be wise. Tell kids they may present the answers they find in any way they want. Kids may use their poster boards to create an advertisement or billboard. They may want to create a poster or book cover, or they may want to write a song.

Give the kids about 10 minutes to work. Then have each group present its information.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- Which of these proverbs did you find especially interesting, and why?
- What makes people wise?
- What does it mean to be wise?
- What does wisdom look like in your own life?

Say: **All of these are wonderful meanings of being wise. Let's put them all into one definition: ► WE BECOME WISE BY FOLLOWING GOD'S WORD. Let's talk about how we can become wise followers of God's Word.**





3

WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE

The Beginning of Wisdom



Tip Give this idea more sparkle by giving kids toys, gizmos, or art supplies to use to create their step-by-step paths to wisdom. If you have time at the end of the session, have kids play one another's games or walk along one another's paths to discover how they can become wiser.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Our Key Verse today is about how we can get wisdom just like King Solomon showed in the passages we read. It can be found in Proverbs 9:10: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." "Fear of the Lord" means to respect and submit to God, not to be frightened of God.**

Form new groups of three or four children. Give each group a copy of the "Beginning of Wisdom" handout, a roll of masking tape, paper, and pencils.

Say: **Now that we've learned about Solomon's wisdom, let's start thinking about how each of us can become truly wise. In your group, talk about the discussion questions on the sheet I've given you. Then create a path—it can be like a game—on the floor that shows the path we can follow to become wiser. Use our Key Verse to help you know how to start your path.**

Give kids 10 minutes to discuss the questions and create a masking-tape path or game on the floor that shows the steps for acquiring wisdom. For example, kids might show a path made of several squares. They might tape a sheet of paper in the first box that says, "Begin by fearing the Lord"; the second step might read "Next, read your Bible"; and the third step might read "Next, ask God for wisdom." Another group might create a hopscotch pattern on the floor that shows the steps to becoming wise.

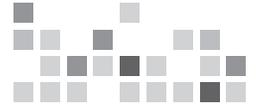
While kids work, offer help and encouragement as needed.

Have each group share its discoveries with the others.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

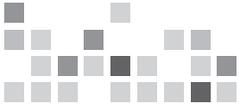
- What were some common paths to wisdom that emerged in your patterns?
- What are other paths people take to try to obtain wisdom? Why do they or don't they work?
- What's one thing you can do to follow God's path of wisdom?



The Beginning of Wisdom Supplies

-
- paper
- pencils
- 1 roll of masking tape
- and 1 copy of the "Beginning of Wisdom" handout for every 3 to 4 children
- Teacher Pack**
- "Beginning of Wisdom" handout





Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

Say: **God values wisdom, and he wants each of us to be wise. We may not be as famous for wisdom as Solomon, but that's OK. God promises to help each of us become wise and make good decisions. We can look to the Bible for wisdom, we can look to other Christians for wisdom, and we can ask God for wisdom. And we know that ► WE BECOME WISE BY FOLLOWING GOD'S WORD.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how we can gain wisdom by following God's Word this week.**

Direct kids to find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and to choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Share the Key Verse with a friend at school.**
- **Write a letter to God thanking him for giving you wisdom and helping you understand his Word.**
- **Read your Bible each night before bedtime. Ask God to help you find wisdom in his Word.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas.**

Say: ► **WE BECOME WISE BY FOLLOWING GOD'S WORD. Let's be as wise as Solomon and follow through with our Daily Challenge this week.**





Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about gaining wisdom by following God's Word. Kids can also do the activities on the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about e-mailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for helping us become wiser and asking God to help us make wise decisions this week.

