

WISDOM OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PROVERBS 1; 3-4



CHRIST CONNECTION: Solomon taught that people should trust in God. Jesus trusted in God, His Father, and followed His plan by coming to earth to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus rose again. When we trust Him, we have forgiveness and life with God forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does God know? God knows everything.

KEY PASSAGE: Proverbs 3:7

STORY POINT: We gain wisdom when we trust in God.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

God's gift of wisdom to King Solomon did not end with Solomon; he shared this wisdom through his proverbs. Solomon wrote in Proverbs 1:2 that these words were for learning wisdom and discipline, understanding insightful sayings, receiving instruction, and teaching the inexperienced. Through all the insight he gained as the wisest man on earth, he came back to this truth: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7).

What does it mean to fear the Lord? How can we know that we have true wisdom?

Fearing the Lord means honoring Him as holy and revering Him as God alone. Solomon recognized the folly of a life lived in his own strength and wisdom. He knew that pursuing the Lord through genuine trust and obedience is the only way to live a life that matters. He beckoned readers to trust in the Lord with all their heart and not depend on their own understanding. The proverbs reveal to us that wisdom is not a mere intellectual exercise. Wisdom is a Person, Jesus, and by trusting in Him we find salvation.

Many proverbs offer practical guidance for interacting with the world: avoiding peer pressure, pursuing the path of peace, and treating others fairly. However, all of the practical guidance is grounded in following God's wisdom above any earthly knowledge. Solomon wrote of the favor God's people experience when they cling to His ways above all else.

Consider your relationship to godly wisdom. Reflect on the seasons of life that have led you closest to the Lord and in obedience to Him. Remember God's generosity and kindness toward His followers: "Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God—who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly—and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).

Invite preschoolers to see the beauty of pursuing God's ways and trusting Him, both for the promise of His presence and the wisdom He provides in our everyday lives. Life everlasting begins when we come to faith in Him!



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, Allergy Alert, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, tape, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map, snacks, paper cups, napkins.



WELCOME

Welcome

- “Turn, Turn, Turn (Proverbs 3:7)” song

Activity Page

- “Find the Pair” Activity Page, 1 per child

Play out family life

- people figures
- doll house

Transition

- countdown video (optional)



LOVE

Snack and talk

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

Decorate a wisdom magnet

- heavyweight paper
- adhesive magnet strips
- rubber stamps
- washable stamp pads
- smocks
- wet wipes



LEARN

Introduce the Bible story

- string or yarn

Learn about the Bible

- bookmark
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- “Wisdom of God’s People” video (optional)
- storytelling tips props (optional)

Review the Bible story

- beanbags, 1 per 2 children

Practice the key passage

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “Turn, Turn, Turn (Proverbs 3:7)” song
- sticky notes

Learn the Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Missions moment

- “Healthy Food Dot Painting” printable, 1 per child
- washable dot paint markers



LIVE

Write with a feather

- tablecloth
- smocks
- paper plates
- washable paint
- craft feathers

Obey and move

- obstacle course items (hula hoops, ropes, and so forth)
- red, yellow, and green paper, 1 piece

Play a board game

- “Move Through Proverbs” printable, 2 or 3 copies
- dice, 2 or 3
- different-colored craft pom-poms

Transition

- coloring page, 1 per child
- “Turn, Turn, Turn (Proverbs 3:7)” song
- Big Picture Cards for Families



WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an Allergy Alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete "Find the Pair" on the Activity Page.

SAY 🗨️ Do any of the Bibles on the activity page look like a Bible you have seen? Even though the outsides of Bibles look different, the words on the inside are all God's words. Because of the wisdom God gave to him, Solomon wrote down many short sayings called proverbs. We can read them in the Bible. 🗨️

2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today's Bible story.

MAKE CHOICES



Offer choices to preschoolers, and ask them to choose which they would prefer. Sample questions are: Would you rather have vanilla or strawberry ice cream? Would you rather go to bed at seven o'clock or at midnight? Is it better to obey your parents/guardians or to disobey them?

SAY 🗨️ Obeying your parents/guardians is the better choice. In today's Bible story, King Solomon wrote down some short sayings called proverbs. We can read these proverbs in the Bible. When someone reads the book of Proverbs, it helps them make wise choices that please God. 🗨️

PLAY OUT FAMILY LIFE

Offer preschoolers a doll house and people figures. Lead boys and girls to play out family life with the figures. Be mindful of family situations or circumstances that your preschoolers may be part of as you guide their play.

SAY 🗨️ Today's Bible story will teach us some of the wise sayings God revealed to King Solomon. Solomon wrote down these proverbs, and they are in the Bible. When people read these proverbs, they will learn that **WE GAIN WISDOM WHEN WE TRUST IN GOD**. Solomon wrote that people should be kind to others and do the things God says. 🗨️

3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers' attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to copy you as you clap a rhythm to call them to the group time area as they transition to Learn.

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Cut a piece of string or yarn about 8 inches long, and tie it around your finger. As you welcome boys and girls to church, move your hand in a way that preschoolers notice the string tied to your finger and ask about it.

SAY “ Oh, this? Sometimes I have a hard time remembering things. I tie a string around my finger to remember things like, turn off the lights, put fuel in the car, or lay out the frozen meat that will be cooked for dinner. Today, I tied this string to my finger to remember to tell my friends at church that Solomon told people how to be wise. ”

2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Proverbs 1 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY “ My Bible is open to the book of Proverbs. Proverbs is in the Old Testament part of the Bible, and when we read it, we are reading the things God told Solomon and other people to write down. ”

Point to the Bible story picture on the Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

WISDOM OF GOD'S PEOPLE

“ **King Solomon was very wise. He wrote down lots of short sayings called proverbs. Proverbs are like little pieces of wisdom that teach us how to live right and make good choices. .**

Here are some of the things Solomon said:

“First, **always remember to respect God.** That is where true wisdom starts. Only foolish people ignore wisdom and don't like being told what to do.

“My son, don't forget what I tell you. Follow my rules, and you will live a long, happy life. **Always be honest and true and be kind to others. God and other people will be happy with you.**

“**Trust God with all your heart;** don't just rely on what you think. **Always remember God in everything you do,** and He will show you the right way. Don't be too proud and think you know everything. Instead, **respect God and stay away from what is wrong. That will keep you healthy and strong.**

“Make sure to give back to God from all the good things He gives you. Then you'll have lots of good things too. **Don't get mad when God corrects you. He does it because He loves you, like a father who corrects his children to help them learn.**



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

“Listen to me, son, and you will have a long and happy life. I’m showing you the best way to live. Do what I say, and you won’t get into trouble. Stay away from people who do wrong and have wrong ideas. Don’t even go near them! They like to do mean things. But **people who love God are like the sun, shining brighter and brighter. They always know the right thing to do.”** ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Write advice on sticky notes: Write down each piece of advice mentioned in today’s Bible story on a sticky note, and attach it to the focal wall to observe the many pieces of wisdom Solomon shared.

Personalize it: Say a child’s name or make eye contact with them as you mention a piece of advice, so the child feels that the advice is for them. Invite a different child to come stand by you each time advice is given.

4 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ Solomon taught that people should trust in God. Jesus trusted in God, His Father, and followed His plan by coming to earth to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus rose again. When we trust Him, we have forgiveness and life with God forever. ”

5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Form pairs of preschoolers. Give each pair a beanbag. Tell preschoolers to take turns gently tossing the beanbags to one another as they share something they remember from today’s Bible story.

SAY “ Solomon wrote down little pieces of wisdom that teach people how to live right and make good choices. Solomon taught that people should trust in God. Jesus trusted in God, even when God’s plan meant that Jesus would die on the cross for our sins. Jesus rose again so we can have forgiveness and life with God forever. ”

6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Before the session, affix a hopscotch grid to the floor with tape. Write each word in the key passage on sticky notes, and attach them to the squares within the grid. Place the Key Passage Marker at Proverbs 3:7. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Lead children to hop through the grid and say each word of the passage as they move. Challenge children to say the key passage from memory.

SAY “ The passage we just said are God’s words that Solomon wrote down. Our passage is one of the short sayings that helps people live right and trust in God. Jesus trusted in God, His Father, and followed God’s plan to come to earth and die on the cross for people’s sins. Jesus rose again, and when we trust Him, our sins are forgiven. ”

Sing the key passage song, “Turn, Turn, Turn (Proverbs 3:7).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SAY “ King Solomon was wise and wrote down pieces of wisdom to help people know what to do. Can you think of someone who knows more than Solomon? **What does God know? God knows everything,** and people should trust in Him. Jesus trusted God even when it meant that Jesus had to die on the cross and rise again. When we trust in Jesus, we have forgiveness and life with God forever. ”

8 MISSIONS MOMENT

Before the session, print a copy of the “Healthy Food Dot Painting” printable on heavyweight paper for each child. Distribute the printable, and guide preschoolers to use the dot paint markers to decorate the fruits and vegetables.

SAY “ Orvil served as a missionary in Mexico for 38 years. Orvil did acts of strength and ran 550 miles to help people know about Jesus. When Orvil did his acts of strength, he told people that making healthy choices helped him be strong. He encouraged people to eat fruits and vegetables. What is your favorite fruit or vegetable? **[Allow responses.]** ”

Pray, thanking God that missionaries use the abilities that God has given them to help other people know about Jesus.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

SAY “ God, we praise You because You know everything. Thank You for leading Solomon to write down these words in the Bible so we can know how to make good choices. Thank You that You sent Jesus to die on the cross and rise again so that when we trust in Him, our sins are forgiven, amen. ”

2 SNACK AND TALK

Post an Allergy Alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

SAY “ What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story? ”

SAY “ What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story? ”

SAY “ How can we gain wisdom from God? ”

SAY “ What does God know? God knows everything. ”

3 DECORATE A WISDOM MAGNET

Cut heavyweight paper into fourths. Write the story point or Trust in God onto each card. Challenge older preschoolers to copy the words to their own card. Give each child a card, and set a washable stamp pad and a few decorative rubber stamps nearby. Demonstrate how to press the rubber stamp into the pad and then press it onto a card. Cut and peel the paper away from a strip of magnetic tape, and affix it to the back of a child’s card. Suggest children attach the magnet to the family refrigerator to remind them to trust God to gain wisdom.

SAY “ Solomon wrote short sayings to help people be wise. **WE GAIN WISDOM WHEN WE TRUST IN GOD.** Some of the sayings encourage us to trust God, be honest and true, and respect God. You can share your magnet with your family, and when your family sees it, they will be reminded that God gives wisdom when we trust in Him. Jesus trusted God, even when it meant dying on the cross. Jesus rose again so that when we trust in Him, we can have life with God forever. ”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group—all at the same time, in small groups that rotate through each activity, or set up as centers—allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

SEARCH BIBLES



Write the letters T, R, U, S, and T on individual strips of paper. Gather a Bible, and place a strip at each of the following passages:

- Genesis 15:6 (Abraham believed God.)
- Exodus 14 (Moses trusted God to save them from Pharaoh.)
- Joshua 6 (Joshua trusted that God would help them defeat Jericho.)
- Ruth 1 (Ruth trusted that God would take care of her.)
- Psalm 40:4 (David trusted God.)

Invite a child to open the Bible to one of the markers. Review how that person in the Bible trusted God. After all the paper strips have been found, put them in order to reveal the word TRUST.

SAY “ Solomon wrote, ‘trust God with all your heart.’ Trust means believing that someone will keep their promises. Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Ruth, and David all trusted God, and God took care of each one of them. **WE GAIN WISDOM WHEN WE TRUST IN GOD** and do what He says. Jesus did what His Father said to do. Jesus obeyed His Father and came to earth to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus rose again so that when we trust Him, we can have forgiveness. ”

WRITE WITH A FEATHER

Before the session, write the words Trust, God, and Wisdom on individual pieces of paper. Cover a table with a tablecloth, and assist preschoolers with placing a smock over their clothing. Distribute a piece of construction paper to each child. Set out the prepared papers, paper plates with washable paint, and craft feathers. Demonstrate how to dip the quill of the feather into the paint and write one of the words. (Note: Lead younger preschoolers to draw pictures or trace over letters on paper.)

SAY “ You wrote words with a feather. Solomon wrote with a feather pen too. Solomon was wise, and he wrote down short sayings to help people make right choices. Solomon wrote that people will be happy, healthy, and strong when they learn how God wants them to live. Jesus loved His Father, and always followed God’s plan. Jesus came to earth, died on the cross, and rose again. When we trust Jesus, we have forgiveness and life with God forever. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

OBEDY AND MOVE

Gather red, yellow, and green paper. Set up an obstacle course throughout the classroom. Tell children that at your signal, they should follow each other through the course. Say that when you hold up the green paper, the children can move freely through the course. Mention that when you hold up the yellow or the red papers, they should move slowly or freeze in place. Give the signal, and change colors randomly as preschoolers move.

SAY “ Did you like it when I held up the green paper and you could zoom through the obstacle course? Stopping when I held up the red paper was also fun. Things always go better for us when everyone knows what to do. Solomon’s words in the Bible give us little pieces of wisdom that help people live in a way that pleases God. **What does God know? God knows everything.** Because God knows everything, we can trust that His way is the best way. ”

PLAY A BOARD GAME

Print two or three copies of the “Move Through Proverbs” printable. Form two or three groups of preschoolers. Lay the game boards on a flat surface for each group. Give each child a colored pom-pom to mark her path through the board. Invite a child to roll the dice, identify the number shown, and move her game piece that many spaces. Read the proverb that is printed on the space, and talk about it. (Note: If possible, place an adult with each group to help preschoolers read.)

SAY “ Thanks, everyone, for following the game’s rules. It helped us enjoy the game. Do you remember some of the rules King Solomon wrote about? **WE GAIN WISDOM WHEN WE TRUST IN GOD** and do what He wants us to do. God says His way is the best way to live. Jesus followed God’s ways, even when it meant that Jesus would die on the cross for our sins. Jesus rose again, and when we trust Him, we will have life with God forever because our sins have been forgiven. ”

2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed Activity Page. Distribute the Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to review the Bible story and engage with the family discussion starters during the week.

