



KIDS

weekly devotional



James 1:5

"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God and He will give it to you."





"You know, David, I've been wondering about wisdom," asked Joe. "I mean, I know a few smart things, but I don't feel very wise."

Joe had been struggling with a decision he made about a week ago that got him grounded from his favorite activity – racing his BMX bike on Saturday mornings at The Bike Park.

"I'm not sure what you are talking about, Joe," asked David. "You're the smartest guy I know."

"I'm not talking about being smart," he said.

So, Joe told David about how he really wanted to be in the spelling bee at school last week. After all, he was one of the best spellers in the school. But he had forgotten to tell his mom about the contest, and she had made a dentist appointment for the same time.

"I remember that," said David. "You were in the spelling bee. I saw you on the stage."

"Yeah, I was on the stage," he said. "But I never told my mom about the spelling bee, so she didn't even know where I was. I really wanted to win and so I ditched the dentist appointment."

"Oh, that wasn't a good idea," said David.

It was a very bad idea. Joe ended up having to leave the spelling bee early when his mom came to get me for the dentist appointment.

The logo for 'devo' features the word in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font with a slight 3D effect. It is centered over a large cyan circle, which is partially overlapped by a smaller purple circle below it. The background is dark blue with a colorful, abstract brushstroke pattern at the top and bottom edges.

devo

"Oh, that wasn't a good idea," said David.

It was a very bad idea. Joe ended up having to leave the spelling bee early when his mom came to get me for the dentist appointment.

"You know, I was supposed to go home right after school so we could go to the dentist," he said. "Instead, mom had to make an extra trip to the school, and she wasn't happy."

"Man, my mom would have been so mad," said David.

"She wasn't so much mad as disappointed," said Joe. "She said that I knew better than to do something without getting permission. She was right. She said If I would have told her about the spelling bee, she would have changed the appointment."



point

David had been surprised when Joe disappeared halfway through the spelling bee. He knew Joe most likely would have won the contest.

"I wondered where you went," said David. "And now I know why I haven't seen you around for a while. I hate being grounded."

"Yeah, but I learned a valuable lesson," he said.

"What lesson was that," asked David.


Joe told him that he learned there was a difference between being smart and being wise, and that it was no good to be smart without being wise at the same time.

"What is the difference," asked David. "I would love to be as smart as you."

"Okay, here is a test," said Joe. "If you really needed to do something and it was the same day as a dentist appointment, what would you do?"

David thought about that, and then told Joe he would just ask his mom if she could reschedule the appointment so he could do whatever it was he needed to do.

"Alright, you see, you would have made a good choice, and that makes you smart and wise," said Joe.





point


"What," asked David.

Joe then told him that being smart is when you know the difference between right and wrong. Being wise is deciding to do what is right.

"A lot of people know the right thing, but do the wrong thing," he said. "That was me. I knew I should have asked my mom, but I was afraid she would say no. So, I made a bad choice and went to the spelling be without telling her. That is not being wise."

"I get it," said David. "A lot of people know a lot of stuff, sort of like you. But knowing a lot of stuff is only wise if you know how to do the right thing with all that stuff. Right?"

"I think that is perfect," said Joe. "Knowledge is knowing what's right; wisdom is doing what's right."





Lesson

Just like David said, there are a lot of very smart people who make poor choices. Yes, they are smart, and they know a lot of things, but wisdom is what allows us to make good choices. The bible tells us that if we want wisdom all we have to do is ask God for it. God gives us a brain so we can learn things – that's how we gain knowledge. But knowledge without wisdom can lead to poor choices. That is why we need to have knowledge with wisdom. Knowledge is how we know it is wrong to lie; but wisdom is what keeps us from lying. So, ask God and He will give you wisdom to help you follow Him and love others.





prayer



Heavenly Father help me to seek wisdom and find it. I know it is important for me to learn things and get smarter, but being smart without wisdom.

