

## Lesson 88

# Wisdom from God

Proverbs contains advice to help us make wise choices.

# Studying God's Word

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

## Introduction

Hide the Proverbs Cards around the room. Write the proverb topics on the board.

Before class, prepare for the game later in the lesson. Print and cut out the Proverbs Cards and hide them around the room. Have tape or poster putty ready. Write the following proverb topics on the board, leaving room under each one for three or four cards: Friendship, Listening to Parents, Laziness, Gossip, Speech, Pride.

Slide #3

Slide #4

Slide #5

Refer to Lessons 81–82 Theme Posters. We've been learning about the kings of Israel. King Saul was the first king, but when he chose to disobey God, God rejected him and chose David to be the next king of Israel. David had to wait many years before God kept his promise, but God was faithful. David became king and fought many victorious battles against the enemies of Israel. David wanted to build a permanent house where his people could gather to worship God. Instead, God promised that one of David's sons would build it.

Which son of David built the temple? Solomon.

Refer to Lesson 87 Theme Poster. Right. Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem. Solomon wasn't David's oldest son, but God chose him to be the next king after David. God was pleased when Solomon asked for wisdom to lead and judge the people well. God gave him great wisdom, riches, and honor. While Solomon reigned, God blessed Israel and gave them peace. Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived, and he wrote down some of the wisdom God gave him in the book of Proverbs.

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Turn in your Bibles to Proverbs. It is one of the books of poetry in the Old Testament and comes right after Psalms.

Does anyone know what a proverb is? Allow answers.

A proverb is a short saying that gives a general truth or advice from common sense or experience. Raise your hand if you've ever heard these sayings before. Read the sayings below, pausing after each one to let students raise their hands. You may choose to discuss what some of these proverbs mean.

Slide #6

An apple a day keeps the doctor away.  
A penny saved is a penny earned.  
Practice makes perfect.  
Better safe than sorry.

Slide #7

Slide #8

Wisdom: knowing and using God's truth in our own lives Biblical Proverb: a short saying that helps us understand and use godly wisdom every day

These are proverbs that people came up with, but the proverbs in the Bible are different because they are wisdom from God. Wisdom is knowing and using God's truth in our lives. A biblical proverb is a short saying that helps us understand and use godly wisdom every day. The wisdom God wants us to have will change how we live.

## **The Path of Wisdom**

Let's read about the first step to having godly wisdom.

Slide #9

Slide #10

Slide #11

Proverbs 1:7

Turn to Proverbs 1. Who will read verse 7? Choose a reader.  
What does this verse say is the beginning of knowledge? The fear of the Lord.  
What kind of people despise wisdom and instruction? Fools.  
Does God want us to be wise or foolish? Wise.

Proverbs 2:1-6

Now turn to chapter 2. Who will read verses 1-6? Choose readers.  
Who was Solomon writing to here? Look in verse 2. His son.  
What does he want his son to do? Receive or listen to his words. Seek for wisdom.

Solomon wants his son to listen carefully to his commands and to seek wisdom and understanding.

How does Solomon say we should seek for wisdom? Look in verse 4. Seek for it like silver and search for it like hidden treasures.  
If we knew there was treasure, like silver or gold, hidden nearby, would we ignore it or search really hard until we found it? Search really hard.

Yes! Most of us would search pretty hard for treasure like that. Don't you think we should search just as hard for wisdom from God?

Slide #12

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. See the path here to the treasure? What is the boy using to help him find the treasure? The Bible.

What does staying on the path of wisdom help him keep away from? Sins like unkindness, anger, laziness, disobedience, gossip, worry, and pride. But what do we need to understand before we can find the treasure of the knowledge of God? Look in verse 5. The fear of the Lord. Who gives true wisdom and knowledge and helps us understand it? Proverbs 2:6. The Lord.

Yes. The verses from Proverbs 1 and 2 say the same thing: wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord.

But what does that mean? Should we be scared of God? Allow discussion.

We need to fear God by believing him and respecting and honoring him because of who he is.

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. We have to know that God hates sin because he is holy. And God must judge sin because he is just. However, we know that because of God's love and mercy, he sent Jesus to take the punishment for sin that we deserve. So, if we turn from our sins and believe in Jesus, we don't have to be afraid of God's punishment. But we still fear God by giving him honor, worship, respect, and obedience because he is the all-powerful Creator of everything, including us!

So, the first step to becoming wise is to understand who God is and to respect him. God is the one who gives true wisdom.

Refer to the Memory Verse Poster. Our memory verse talks about this. Who does it say we should ask for wisdom? It says to ask God.

Let's say the verse together. Read or recite James 1:5.

And where can we go to know more about God and how he wants us to live? The Bible.

Right! The next step to wisdom is to study the Bible and use what it says in our lives. That's why we read the Bible here at church and why we should read it at home, too. Take care of your Bible and learn to love it! Listen to God's Word when it is taught and preached. When you hear or read something from God's Word, think about what it means and how you should use it in your life. Ask your parents, teacher, or pastor for help to understand it correctly. And, of course, you can ask God to help you, too. When you follow God's Word, it can change what you do every day and how you do it.

Pass out the Class Notes.

Now let's review what we've learned with the Class Notes. We'll fill in the crossword puzzle together as we read each sentence.

Slide #13

Slide #14

Slide #15

Who will read #1 and give us the missing word? Choose a reader. Poetry. Have students complete #1.

Who will read #2 about who wrote many of the proverbs? Choose a reader. Solomon. Have students complete #2.

What is a biblical proverb? Someone read #3. Choose a reader. Use. Have students complete #3.

And #4? Who will read that? Choose a reader. Wisdom. Have students complete #4.

How should we search for wisdom in #5? Choose a reader. Treasures.

Have students complete #5.

What is the first step to getting wisdom? Who will answer #6? Choose a reader. Fear. Have students complete #6.

Who will read #7 about the fear of the Lord? Choose a reader. Respect.

Have students complete #7.

## Wisdom for Daily Living

The whole Bible is full of God's truth and wisdom, but the book of Proverbs is like a treasure chest of wise advice God gives for daily living. It talks about choosing friends, listening to our parents, working hard, controlling our words, being humble, using money, and much more!

### Slide #16

Proverbs 12:25

Let's read Proverbs 12:25 as an example. Listen and follow along in your Bibles. Read the verse.

What do you think this verse means? What weighs a heart down? Anxiety. How do you feel or look when your heart is weighed down? Allow discussion. Sad, worried, concerned.

Anxiety is another word for worry. So, when someone is worried, what does the verse say can make him glad again? A good word.

When you're worried about something, does it make you feel better when someone says encouraging words to you? Yes.

Yes, it does. This is true, isn't it? So how can you apply, or use, this proverb in your own life? Allow discussion. Use encouraging words to help others feel better and trust God instead of worrying.

Write proverb topics on the board. Have tape or poster putty ready. We're going to play a game now. On the board, I've written some of the topics we find in Proverbs. Read them with me: Friendship, Listening to Parents, Laziness, Gossip, Speech, and Pride. Explain any words your students may not be familiar with.

There are 15 Proverbs Cards hidden around the room. When I say to go, you will all have to search for the cards, like a treasure hunt. When you find one, bring it back to your seat. Ready? Go! For a smaller class, have students search for more than one card. For a larger class, have two or more search together for a card. After all the cards are found, have each student/group read their cards to the class. Use the answer sheet to help the class figure out the general idea of each proverb before sticking it on the board (with tape or poster putty) underneath the correct topic. Play for a set time or until all the cards are used then check the answers.

Great job! Remember, these are only a few of the many proverbs found in the Bible. But they are all wise sayings because they are from God's Word. They can help us understand how God wants us to live each day.

Slide #17

Slide #18

Let's finish our Class Notes now. We'll use the wise advice we learned from the Proverbs Cards. Who will read #8? Choose a reader. Gossip. Have students complete #8.

And #9? Choose a reader. Listen. Have students complete #9.

Who will read #10? Choose a reader. Lazy. Have students complete #10.

What should a wise person do when he speaks in #11? Choose a reader.

Words. Have students complete #11.

And the last one, #12? What's the opposite of humble? Choose a reader.

Proud. Have students complete #12.

## Application

Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived. God directed him to write many proverbs. And even all these years later, we can still learn from them. Solomon said we should search for wisdom just as hard as we would if we were looking for hidden treasures. The book of Proverbs tells us the first step to finding true wisdom: the fear of the Lord. When we respect and honor God because of who he is, he will help us grow in wisdom so we can live in a way that pleases God. That's called godly living.

Slide #19

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. As we read God's Word and grow in wisdom, we can find a lot of great advice in the book of Proverbs. Following this advice can help us keep away from sins like unkindness, anger, laziness, gossip, worry, and pride. We can learn to be a good friend, honor our parents, encourage others, be humble, work hard, and much more.

But here's an important question to think about. If we follow the advice in Proverbs and obey the commands to speak kindly, control our temper, and honor our parents, does that mean we'll automatically go to heaven when we die? Allow discussion, reminding the students that good works do not save us, only faith in Christ saves us.

We must remember that we are saved by God's grace when we trust in Jesus and repent, which means turning from our sins.

So, if we are saved by faith in Jesus, why should we try to live wisely and follow the advice in Proverbs? Allow answers.

As children of God, we should want to obey God and honor him with our lives every day. We are showing our love and gratefulness to God when we wisely do what the Bible says.

What are some other blessings we may get from living wisely and following God's commands? Allow discussion.

We can keep from sinning, which also keeps us from having to pay the consequences of sin. Also, the general truths of working hard and being kind do bring blessings here on earth. And we can also work for heavenly rewards! We want God to be pleased with how we live for him here and now.

## Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

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