

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

Wait to pass out the Class Notes until after the skits.

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 king. God was pleased when Solomon asked for wisdom to lead and judge the people well. God granted him wisdom and wealth. Solomon's reign was a time of peace and blessing in Israel. 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 piece of advice based on 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 if they've heard it. You may choose to discuss what some of these proverbs mean.

Slide #6

Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.

A penny saved is a penny earned.

Practice makes perfect.

Better safe than sorry.

Slide #7

Slide #8

These are proverbs that people came up with, but the proverbs in the Bible are different because they are wisdom from God. They aren't based on man's ideas or experience. A biblical proverb is a short saying that gives a general truth for practical, godly living.

Biblical Proverb: short saying that gives a general truth for practical, godly living

Remember that there is a difference between wisdom and knowledge. Wisdom is knowing and applying God's truth. Knowledge is facts or skills learned through education or experience.

Wisdom: knowing and applying God's truth Knowledge: facts or skills learned through education or experience

Many people have knowledge; they may be really smart from studying or learning from things they've done. But the wisdom God wants us to have will change how we live.

The Fear of the Lord

Let's read about the first step to gaining 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.

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 in our classroom, 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 make the same effort to seek godly wisdom?

Allow discussion.

Slide #12

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. See the path here to the treasure? What's in the treasure chest? The Bible.

Right! The boy is following the path in search of the treasure.

What things does he avoid when he stays on the path? 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 wisdom and knowledge? Proverbs 2:6. The Lord.

Notice that verse 5 said the same thing as chapter 1 verse 7. Wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord.

But what does that mean? Are we supposed to be afraid of God? Allow discussion.

We need to fear God, but the fear of God means not just being afraid but 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 source of all wisdom.

Refer to the Memory Verse Poster. Our memory verse talks about this. What does it say about who to 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? The Bible.

Right! The next step to wisdom is to study the Bible and apply what it says to our lives. That's why we read the Bible here at church and why we should read it at home, too. Treasure 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, figure out what it means for you in your life. How can his Word change what you do every day? Ask God to help you understand. God is calling all of us to a life of Bible study, a life of learning more about him.

Wisdom for Daily Living

The book of Proverbs is like a treasure chest of practical advice God gives for daily living. It talks about choosing friends, listening to our parents, working hard, controlling our words, being humble, and more!

We're going to divide into groups in a minute. Each group will be given a Proverbs Card with verses on a certain topic, such as friendship or pride. It's your job to read the verses, discuss what they mean, and come up with a short skit to act out how you could apply the truth in daily life. You may choose to base your skit on either verse or a combination of both.

Slide #13

Proverbs 12:25

For example, you could get a verse like this one from Proverbs 12:25: "Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad."

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 did the verse say can make him glad again? A good word.

So, you could act out a short skit where one or two people are worried about something, such as moving to a new city, losing a job, or watching bad weather heading toward them. Then someone comes along with encouraging words to make them feel better and trust God instead of worrying about things they can't control.

Many of the proverbs have contrasting ideas, like this verse with both anxiety and gladness, which are opposites. The sayings in Proverbs often show contrasts between the wise and the foolish, the good friend and bad friend, the lazy person and the hard-working (diligent) person. You can use those contrasting ideas in your skits by having one character or scene show the wrong action and one show the right action. The skits don't have to be long, but you should practice it a few times. I'll give you some time to work on your skits, then you'll get to present your verses and topic to the class and act out your skit. Divide students into groups and pass out a Proverbs Card to each group. If you brought props, pass those out or let students choose their own. Give them time to discuss their verses and prepare skits. You may need to visit each group to help with explanations or skit ideas.

When time is up, have each group read their verses, explain what they mean, and present their skit to the class. Use the Proverbs Cards answer sheet to add explanations, as necessary, to the topics as they are discussed. If you have cards that were not passed out, read and discuss those as a group after the skits are done.

Pass out the Class Notes.

Great job on your skits! Now let's review what we've learned with the Class Notes. You will choose a word from the word bank to fill in the blanks.

Slide #14

Slide #15

Slide #16

Slide #17

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.

Who will read the definition of a biblical proverb for #3? Choose a reader. Truth. 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 gaining wisdom to 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.

Now we're getting to the practical 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.

And what can we use to encourage others for #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. In fact, God's Word is the only place to find true wisdom.

Slide #18

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. But we must search for wisdom as we would for hidden treasures. The book of Proverbs can give us advice on a lot of things today. When we follow the advice in Proverbs, we can avoid the negative consequences of 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. We all like being smart and knowing things. But just knowing things will not always help us. Being wise will change how we live.

Here's a 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 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 repent of our sins and trust in Jesus alone.

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. Because God has commanded us to seek wisdom, we are showing our love and gratefulness to God when we 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 avoid the consequences of sin. Also, the general truths of working hard and being kind do bring blessings here on earth. 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.

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