

Wisdom, not Foolishness, “Character Building from the Bible”

## **WISDOM, not Foolishness**

### **Two “Character Building from the Bible” Lessons from Every Child Ministries**

#### **Learning about the word WISDOM, WISE:**

**Definition:** Wisdom: 1. being wise, knowledge and good judgment based on experience. 2. Wise conduct, wise words.

Wise: Having or showing knowledge and good judgment

**Opposite:** Foolishness, foolish, unwise, stupid, ignorant

#### **Bible Memory Verses:**

**Proverbs 9:10** "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."

**Adaptation Grades 1-2** "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

**Colossians 2:3** "Christ, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

**Adaptation Grades 1-2** "Christ...all the treasures of wisdom"

James 1:5 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men liberally, and does not scold, and it shall be given him."

**Adaptation Grades 1-2** "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God."

#### **Bible Stories:**

Solomon chooses wisdom as his one request from God

I Kings 3:3-15

Jesus shows that he has the wisdom of God in the way he asks and answers questions.

Luke 2:40-51

**Unit Lesson Aim:** At the conclusion of these lessons, the student will KNOW that God is the only One who has adequate understanding to be truly wise, for God knows and understands everything. As a result, he will begin to seek God's wisdom by reading the Bible and praying for God's guidance in his life.

## Lesson 1

### THE WISEST MAN WHO EVER LIVED

#### Review for Older Students:

When Jesus' enemies brought him to Pilate to be judged, what did Pilate find that Jesus had done wrong? What laws had He broken?

Why did Jesus' enemies take him to Pilate to be judged?

Who told Pilate that Jesus was a just man?

Who did Pilate want to release instead of Jesus?

Why did Pilate suggest releasing someone else?

What did Jesus' enemies say when Pilate offered to release Barrabas?

In what two ways did Pilate show that he felt Jesus had done nothing wrong?

If Jesus never did anything wrong, how many lies could He have told?

After Jesus died on the cross, his enemies went to Pilate. What nasty name did they call him?

They said Jesus promised to do something, and they were sure it was a lie. What did He promise to do?

What trick did they think Jesus' disciples wanted to do?

How did they plan to keep them from doing that?

How did the tomb of Jesus get open?

Who told the women that Jesus was risen?

How did they find out for sure that it was true?

#### For Younger Students:

What bad things did Pilate say Jesus had done?

How many lies did Jesus tell?

Jesus promised that He would rise from the dead. Was this a lie?

How did Jesus' disciples know that He had risen from the dead?

#### Beginning the Lesson:

Suppose you could have one wish fulfilled--whatever you wanted. What would you ask for? Would you ask for lots of money? Maybe for nice clothing or a beautiful home?

Would you ask to be able to go to college someday? What would YOU ask for? (Let the children respond briefly.)

*Transition to the Lesson--*Not many of us ever get a wish like that. But there is one man who did. His name was Solomon, and his story is in the Bible...

#### Solomon chooses wisdom as his one request from God

##### I Kings 3:3-15

And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places.

4 And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar.

5 In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

6 And Solomon said, Thou hast showed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

7 And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

8 And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

10 And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.

11 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;

12 Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

13 And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

14 And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

15 And Solomon awoke; and, behold, it was a dream. And he came to Jerusalem, and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings, and offered peace offerings, and made a feast to all his servants.

### **Main Ideas to Emphasize:**

God told Solomon He would grant him one wish.

Solomon asked for wisdom to rule his people wisely.

God was pleased with his request, and granted him that and much else besides.

God gave Solomon such wisdom that he was the wisest man who ever lived.

God is the only one who can give wisdom like that. He can give wisdom because He knows and understands everything.

God wants His people to look to Him for wisdom.

### **Skit:**

Ask for two volunteers to act out the story. One will play the part of Solomon; the other will be God's voice. The other children will bring riches and show honor to Solomon after he chooses wisdom.

### **Application--Step of Growth for the Saved Child:**

Follow Up--Ask who is praying every day for God's help to tell the truth. Congratulate and pray for those who are.

Who is the only One who knows everything? Yes, God is the only one who knows and understands everything. Whom should we go to when we need wisdom? Yes, we should

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go to God. One way to do this is to pray and ask God for wisdom. Then He can guide us and help us to make the right choices. Are you facing something hard this week? Let's pray and ask God for wisdom right now. (Take time to pray for wisdom for each child.) Every time this week that you don't know what to do, what can you do? Yes, pray and ask God for wisdom. He will help you.

**Invitation--Giving the Unsaved Child an Opportunity to Receive Christ:**

The wisest decision you could ever make is to receive Jesus as your Savior. Then He will be right there with you to help you in every decision of life. The Bible tells us in Colossians 2:3 that in Christ are hid ALL the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. If you have never received Jesus as your Savior, but today you would like to do so, pray this prayer in your heart right now. (Teacher, lead in the sinner's prayer, found in the preface to these lessons. Then ask those who prayed to raise their hands briefly. You pray for God's blessing on them.)

**Lesson 2**

**AN EVEN WISER MAN**

**Review for Older Students:**

What did God say to Solomon in a dream?  
 Why did Solomon ask for wisdom?  
 What else might he have asked for instead of wisdom?  
 How did God feel about Solomon's request?  
 How did God show Solomon He was pleased?  
 How do we know Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived?  
 How can we get wisdom today?

**For Younger Students:**

Who was the wisest man who ever lived?  
 How did he get to be wise?  
 Who is the only One who can make us wise?

**Beginning the Lesson:**

**Review--**The last time we were together, we learned about a very wise man--the wisest man who ever lived. Do you remember his name? (Let the children answer.) Do you remember how he got so wise? (Let a child answer briefly.) Yes, Solomon was wise because he asked God for wisdom. Only God is truly wise, so when we ask God for wisdom, He shares His wisdom with us. Then we become wise, too.

**Transition to the Lesson--**

Now here is something strange. The Bible says Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived (I Kings 3:12). Yet it also says that one person was even wiser than Solomon! How could that be? The Bible says,

"a greater than Solomon is here" (Luke 11:31). Who could it be talking about? If Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived, someone wiser than him would have to be more than a man. He would have to be---well, he'd have to be a lot more than just a man. Who was this one that the Bible says is greater than Solomon? It is Jesus. Let's see today how wise He was.

**Jesus shows that he has the wisdom of God in the way he asks and answers questions.**

**Luke 2:40-51**

**And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.**

**41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.**

**42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.**

**43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.**

**44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.**

**45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.**

**46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.**

**47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.**

**48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.**

**49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?**

**50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.**

**51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.**

### **Main Ideas to Emphasize:**

Even when Jesus was 12 years old, He was very wise.

He was asking questions that made the teachers really think.

He was answering their questions.

Jesus was wise because He was God's unique Son.

God is the source of all wisdom. He is the One we should seek to make us wise.

### **Acting:**

We will provide several pictures of places people look for wisdom. You will show the cards. At each card, the children will shake their heads "No", and reach both hands up to heaven, then down to themselves, saying, "Wisdom comes ONLY from God."

**Application--Step of Growth for the Saved Child:**

Follow up from Lesson 3--How many of you asked God for wisdom or guidance since our last lesson? Who would like to tell how God gave you wisdom? One way to get wisdom is to pray and ask God for it. Another is to read what God has already told us in the Bible. As we follow the Bible's teachings, we will become wise.

**Younger children--**Suggest that there may be someone in their home or near them they could ask to read Bible stories to them each day. At least, they could come to Sunday school and listen to Bible stories there each week. (Suggest several Sunday schools in the area.)

**Older children--**Ask if there is a Bible in their home. If there is, they could read one paragraph each day from the book of Mark. (Show them how to find Mark and how to tell what a paragraph is. We suggest Mark because it is an easy book divided into many short paragraphs.)

**Invitation--Giving the Unsaved Child an Opportunity to Receive Christ:**

Jesus was a wise teacher, but He was much more. He was the Savior who died to pay for our sins and rose again from the dead. Maybe you have questions about Jesus. It would be very wise for you to talk your questions over with a Christian friend. We will be here to talk over any questions you have (tell an agreed upon date and time to meet with any who want to talk with you.) If you have never received Jesus as your Savior, but today you would like to do so, pray this prayer in your heart right now. (Teacher, lead in the sinner's prayer, found in the preface to these lessons. Then ask those who prayed to raise their hands briefly. You pray for God's blessing on them.)

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