



## LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

*We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Wisdom Comes from God

**SCRIPTURE:** Proverbs 1

**WORD OF WONDER:** From Proverbs 4:5

Read [Proverbs 1:20–23](#).

These words give me hope. In a world swirling with loud ideas, unfiltered thoughts, and countless suggestions, the search for wisdom can feel daunting. But wisdom isn't locked away in a safety deposit box somewhere. It's not carrying on in the VIP lounge of some exclusive club. No, it's "out in the open" ([Proverbs 1:20](#)). It's available. It's ours if we'll take it.

It begins with God Himself. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" ([Proverbs 1:7, NIV](#)). God is a giver. When we seek Him with reverence and respect, He delights in giving us knowledge and understanding to act rightly. He doesn't dangle the carrot just to yank it away.

Do you believe that? I do, but sometimes I forget. Sometimes I think wisdom means using fancier words, listening to better podcasts, or quoting song lyrics I don't really understand. (Shh, don't tell anyone!) But wisdom actually means a deep, abiding fellowship with God. It comes through prayerful obedience. A life marinated in God's Word. God is the source of wisdom!

So, what kind of life are you leading? Is it a life that acknowledges God—a life of awe and wonder? Wisdom is out there, not tucked away in some back alley. It's ours if we'll take it. Time to wise up!

—**Michael Rade**

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LESSON 1 **FOR LEADERS**  
**WISDOM COMES FROM GOD**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

Most of the book of Proverbs is attributed to King Solomon, David's son ([Proverbs 1:1](#)). When God appeared to Solomon and told him to ask for anything he wished, Solomon asked for wisdom, which God was glad to give ([1 Kings 3:1–15](#)). These proverbs express that wisdom.

**WHAT?**

Proverbs is written “for gaining wisdom and instruction” ([Proverbs 1:2, NIV](#)). It says that all knowledge and wisdom begin with “fear of the Lord” ([Proverbs 1:7, NIV](#)), or as the NIV puts it, “respect for the Lord.” Everything good and wise comes from God.

**WHERE?**

These proverbs address the youth—especially young men—living in the land of Israel. The instructions are written from a father to a son, but a mother is sometimes included as well ([Proverbs 23:22–25](#)). This wisdom came from the royal courts of Israel, where Solomon ruled.

**WHEN?**

Solomon might have lived in the 900s BC. His proverbs fit with the structure and content of wisdom literature from the ancient Near East. There are similar collections of sayings from Egypt and Mesopotamia.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

If all wisdom comes from the one true God, we expect God's Son to be a revealer of wisdom. Sure enough, the words of Jesus in [Matthew 11:19](#) led many early Christians to view Him as the embodiment of God's wisdom (compare [1 Corinthians 1:24](#)).



## Curiosity

### LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

*Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.*

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## Create an Owl Puppet

### Play Station: Create an Owl

Welcome! I'm so glad you're here today! We are going to have so much fun learning about wisdom.

Set out paper bags, hands, and googly eyes.

Encourage kids to create an owl by using the hands as wings.

A triangle nose can also be added. Allow them to be creative and use their imaginations.



Let's make an owl. Do you know what kind of animal an owl is? Allow kids to respond. An owl is a special kind of bird. Owls have feathers. Owls also have eyes, but their eyes do not move. Their heads can move almost all the way around. How far can you move your head? Encourage kids to try. Give kids googly eyes to add to their owls. These owls look great! Do you know what sound an owl makes? Allow kids to respond and encourage kids to make hooting sounds together.



## Belief

### LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

*Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.*

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#### Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for bringing us here today. Help us listen closely to hear from You and how You give us wisdom. Thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide us closer to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

#### God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

#### TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Read Proverbs 1:1-7 and/or the script below. If you use the script, the puzzle pieces are included in your Belief bag.

<sup>1</sup>These are the proverbs of Solomon. He was the son of David and the king of Israel.

<sup>2</sup>Proverbs teach you wisdom and instruct you.

They help you understand wise sayings.

<sup>3</sup>They provide you with instruction and help you live wisely.

They lead to what is right and honest and fair.

<sup>4</sup>They give understanding to childish people.

They give knowledge and good sense to those who are young.

<sup>5</sup>Let wise people listen and add to what they have learned.

Let those who understand what is right get guidance.

<sup>6</sup>What I'm teaching also helps you understand proverbs and stories.

It helps you understand the sayings and riddles of those who are wise.

<sup>7</sup>If you really want to gain knowledge, you must begin by having respect for the LORD.

But foolish people hate wisdom and instruction.

## 9:00 Service

**Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Solomon.** Encourage the kids to say, "Solomon." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Solomon!**

**Solomon was a very wise king who wrote the book of Proverbs in the Bible. Let's put a puzzle together to help us learn more about Solomon and his wisdom.**

Display one puzzle piece at a time and use the notes below to elaborate on each piece. Ask kids to identify the picture on each piece.

- Wisdom comes from God (Bible): **God uses the Bible to give us His wisdom.**
- Wisdom helps us understand what is good (picture of brain): **We can use wisdom from God to know what is good and right.**
- We can listen to advice from our parents (picture of parents): **Our parents can give us good, wise advice.**
- We can become wise by obeying God (picture of a cross): **When we obey God, we are using wisdom.**

**Let's see if we can put this puzzle together!** Help kids fit the pieces together to form the puzzle. End the activity by saying the Wonder Truth: **WISDOM COMES FROM GOD.**

### Word of Wonder

#### WORD OF WONDER

**Get wisdom and get understanding. Don't forget my words or turn away from them.**

— Proverbs 4:5

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **Where can we find God's words? (the Bible)**  
**What does it mean to listen to God's words? Is that easy for you?**



9:00 Service

## Identity

### LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

*Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.*

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#### Closing Game: Follow Directions

**SUPPLIES:** colored paper (red, green, yellow, blue; 1 sheet of each color), tape

Before the activity, hang the four colored pieces of paper around the room, one sheet on each wall.

**Let's play a game of following directions. I will call out a color, and you will walk in the direction of that color.** Show kids the colored papers hanging on the walls. Take time to help kids identify the four colors.

Call out each color and encourage the kids to move in the direction of each color as you call it out.

**I gave directions and helped you know where to go in our activity. In our lives, we can listen to God and go to Him for direction because wisdom comes from God! God's words in the Bible help us know what to do. We know that wisdom comes from God!**

#### Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for giving us wisdom in every situation—big or small.

**God, thank You for always being with us. Help us become wise and use the wisdom that You give us in everything we do—big or small. Thank You for Your gift of wisdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** May our loving God, who gives us true wisdom, make you wise in all you say, think, and do.