



LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Wants Us to Listen to Wisdom

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 8

WORD OF WONDER: From Proverbs 4:5

Read [Proverbs 8:1–12, 32–36](#). My first year of college, I attended a hockey game with a group of friends. After the game, we missed the shuttle back to campus, so we tried walking back. We ended up on a dirt road in the suburbs, which isn't easy to do. We were lost. We didn't know the way. Well, most of us didn't know the way.

"I told you we missed our turn!" My buddy was exasperated. "I told everyone. No one listened."

"I listened," I squeaked.

"You heard," he fumed, "but you didn't listen."

Ouch! He was right. I had heard him. Everyone had. But we let his words blow away with the evening chill, and then barreled forward.

I think about that night sometimes. Then I think about all the sermons I forgot as soon as the service ended. I think about the times I read my Bible, only to close it up and resume my own wayward course.

Wisdom from God is calling out in the streets. Wisdom cries out at the entrance of the city. Who will listen? Will I? Will you? God wants us to listen to wisdom. He wants us to hang on every word. Wisdom brings blessing. Wisdom brings life. And God offers it to us. Who will listen?

—**Michael Rade**

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DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

We learn from Proverbs that the search for wisdom is also the search for God, since all wisdom comes from God. The author, Solomon, even personifies wisdom as a virtuous and approachable woman. Lady Wisdom is a teacher and guide, available to all.

WHAT?

If the earlier chapters have shown that wisdom provides meaning to the ordered world of creation, [Proverbs 8](#) also shows that wisdom is a way of looking at the world. Wisdom was with God before creation, and heeding wisdom means receiving God's blessing.

WHERE?

Wisdom calls out in the streets to all who will listen. She is at the city gates raising her voice. God's wisdom isn't contained in the palace, or even the temple. Lady Wisdom is in the most public and freely accessible spaces, where everyone can find her.

WHEN?

Wisdom is timeless, for she existed with God before the foundations of the world. Wisdom speaks of witnessing the creation of watery depths and mountains, the heavens and clouds, the sea and land ([Proverbs 8:24–29](#)).

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Wisdom rejoices over creation and mourns at sin or anything that distorts the splendor of God's created order. Ephesians tells us that God's wisdom is now revealed and given freely through the triumph of Jesus: a mystery once hidden and now revealed ([Ephesians 1:3–10](#)).



Curiosity

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

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Digging for Gems

SUPPLIES: bin, sand, gems or rocks that look like gems, digging tools

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Digging for Gems

Set-up: Set out a bin filled with sand and add plastic gems and jewels (or rocks that look like gems). You can add small digging tools and a sand sifter as well. You can also add regular rocks to the bin.

Play: Let the kids dig through the bin to find the gems and jewels. If you have sand and a sand sifter, let the kids carefully use the sifter to separate the gems and rubies from the sand.



10:45 Service

Belief

LESSON 4 **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, we come to You today listening to what You have to say. Help us to listen and learn from Your Word. 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 8:10-12, 32-33 and/or the script below. If you use the script, the jewel pictures are in your Belief bag.

- 10** Choose my teaching instead of silver. Choose knowledge rather than fine gold.
- 11** Wisdom is worth more than rubies. Nothing you want can compare with her.
- 12** "I, wisdom, live together with understanding. I have knowledge and good sense.
- 32** "My children, listen to me. Blessed are those who keep my ways.
- 33** Listen to my teaching and be wise. Don't turn away from it.

10:45 Service

Script:

The book of Proverbs tells us how to get wisdom and how to live God's way. *Wisdom* is knowledge and understanding that comes from God.

Solomon is asking us to use our imaginations. Imagining Wisdom as a person helps us think about what it means to listen to someone who is ready to teach and gives us good advice as we follow God. We're going to use that same imagination to go on a

treasure hunt to learn more about Wisdom. Listen for me to name a kind of treasure or jewel—I might say rubies, gold, or silver. When you hear me say one of those words, look for a picture of that jewel on the wall. A ruby is a red jewel.

Wisdom says we should choose her teaching instead of *silver*. Allow kids to find the picture of the piece of silver on the wall.

Great job finding the piece of silver. In [Proverbs 8](#), Solomon says that Wisdom stands at a high place where everyone can hear and find her. She wants everyone to be able to find her!

Wisdom also says we should choose to listen to her knowledge, which is worth more than *gold*. Allow kids to find the picture of the piece of gold on the wall.

That's a piece of gold! Wisdom is more valuable than gold! Wisdom only says what is wise, honest, and true. Wisdom respects God and hates evil. She doesn't like things that are sinful, such as bragging or being proud.

Did you know that wisdom is worth more than red *rubies*? Allow kids to find the picture of the ruby on the wall.

Just like you listened to me say the words *rubies*, *silver*, and *gold*, you can listen to Wisdom! God wants us to listen to His wisdom.

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

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

— Proverbs 4:5

Practice saying the Word of Wonder and doing the motions with the kids.

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

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- What is some wisdom that God shares with us in the Bible?
- Why do you think it is important to listen to God?



Identity

LESSON 4 **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: Wisdom Says

Gather kids to play a game like Simon Says, but instead it will be called Wisdom Says.

We are going to play a game of Wisdom Says. I'm going to be Wisdom, and you need to listen to what I say. If "Wisdom Says" to do something, you do it. If Wisdom doesn't say something, then you should not do it.

Call out different things for the kids to do, such as clapping their hands, running in place, jumping up and down, sticking out their tongues, touching their toes, doing jumping jacks, spinning in a circle, touching a wall, etc. Before saying some of the commands, start with "Wisdom Says," and with others, just give the command.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for helping us listen to Wisdom.

Let's talk to God.

God, help us always listen to Your Wisdom. Help us to remember that what You say is always wise, always honest, and always true. When we aren't sure what to do, help us listen to what You have to say. 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 you go forth this week listening for God's Wisdom. May you know that He will only speak what is wise, what is honest, and what is true. May you always be willing to listen to what He says.