



LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God's Wisdom Guides Our Paths

SCRIPTURE: [Proverbs 3](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [From Proverbs 4:5](#)

Read [Proverbs 3:1–6](#). Do you ever wish you could know the future? Do you long to know how a journey will end before it starts? A friend once told our mentor, “I think I could trust God more if only I knew how things will work out.” I nodded my head in agreement. Our mentor chuckled, not unkindly, and said, “God doesn’t show us everything that will happen, probably because we wouldn’t believe Him if He did. But He does give us light for the journey. Enough for the next step.”

As followers of Jesus, we get to glimpse the big picture. We know where history is headed. The resurrection of the dead. The renewal of all things. A new heaven and a new earth. And peace—abiding peace. But life in the meantime can be fraught with trouble and anxiety. God, show us the way!

He does, of course, when we trust in Him. He makes our “paths smooth and straight” ([Proverbs 3:6](#)). “Then you will go on your way in safety. You will not trip and fall” ([Proverbs 3:23](#)). God’s wisdom guides our paths. It shows us the way forward. It gives us light for the next step or decision or conversation—and then the next and then the next. And that’s enough. God’s wisdom is enough.

—**Michael Rade**

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LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS
GOD GUIDES OUR PATHS

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

It is ironic to read Solomon's warning, "Do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight" ([Proverbs 3:21](#)). Even Solomon failed to follow this advice when he married foreign women and began worshiping their gods later in life ([1 Kings 11:1–13](#)).

WHAT?

[Proverbs 3](#) teaches trust in God's faithfulness: to those who honor God and show fairness in their dealings, God will show faithfulness in return. This does not mean that God's justice and fairness will always be visible to us.

WHERE?

Wisdom is meant to enter our daily lives wherever we are. Wisdom is not beyond our reach. According to [Proverbs 3:24](#), the wise can live with less fear and more peaceful sleep for showing fair conduct toward others.

WHEN?

Solomon reigned as king over Israel during a time of peace and prosperity, probably in the 900s BC. His father, David, helped make Israel safe from enemies, and Solomon made Israel prosperous. His wisdom brought a "golden age" to Israel.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Solomon was famous for his wisdom, even receiving a visit from the Queen of Sheba. Jesus refers to Solomon when He says that "something greater than Solomon is here" ([Matthew 12:42, NIV](#)). In Jesus, the wisdom of God had arrived in the flesh!



Curiosity

LESSON 3 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

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Play Stations: Car Map

SUPPLIES: maps, toy cars, coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [God Guides Our Paths Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

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: Car Map

Set-up: Set out maps and toy cars. If you don't have hard copies of maps already, you can print them from the internet. For an extra element, consider putting star stickers on the maps for places the kids can "drive" to.

Play: Let the kids use the toy cars to follow the roads on the maps and get to different stops.

Play Station: God Guides Our Paths Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the [Coloring Sheet](#). Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a map on the back.



9:00 Service

Belief

LESSON 3 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:

Dear God, thank You for Your wisdom and the way You guide us. As we learn more about You today, help us choose the right paths. 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 3:1-6 and/or the script below. If you use the script, the map is in your Belief bag.

My son, do not forget my teaching. Keep my commands in your heart.

2 They will help you live for many years. They will bring you peace and success.

3 Don't let love and truth ever leave you. Tie them around your neck. Write them on the tablet of your heart.

4 Then you will find favor and a good name in the eyes of God and people.

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight.

Look at my map! Let's follow it as we learn about God's big story from Proverbs 3.

God's wisdom is great. But why should we seek it? And why should we follow it? Fortunately, Solomon tells us. (Point to the thumbs-up on the map. Then reference the thumbs-up as you explain the following.) When we read the Bible, we see that all wisdom comes from God. And God promises to guide our paths!

9:00 Service

(Point to the heart on the map.) **Solomon tells us not to forget what he teaches. He says to keep all of what we learn in our hearts, so we always remember what God taught us.**

(Point to the necklace.) **Solomon also writes that we should hold tight to God's love and faithfulness, wearing them around our necks like a necklace. Wisdom is beautiful, like a beautiful necklace around our necks.**

(Point to the picture of the head.) **Solomon says God's wisdom can guide our paths. He writes, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight" (Proverbs 3:5–6).**

It's easy for us to want to do things on our own and not ask for help. But if we are wise, we trust God to help us instead. When we obey God and live according to His wisdom, He will help us find the right thing to do, even when it's hard.

(Point to the sun, cloud, water & path.) **God made the earth and the heavens. He created the oceans and the skies. We can trust God because He created us and knows us best!**

We can trust in God and His wisdom. He created the whole world, and He knows all things. When we ask God to help us, He will guide us and help us choose what is right and best, because God's wisdom guides our paths.

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

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

— Proverbs 4:5

Review the verse and encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What does it mean to listen to God?**
- **How can we listen to God's words and follow them?**



Faith

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

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Game: Wise or Unwise

Hide a ball or toy in the room while one kid closes his eyes. Once it is hidden, the child with his eyes closed will open his eyes and search for it. When he is close to where the ball is hidden, the other kids can say, "Wise!" and when he's far away, the kids can say, "Unwise!" Play several rounds with a new seeker each time.

Our game is called Wise or Unwise. You have to be wise to find the hidden ball! I am going to pick one friend to close his eyes, and I will hide the ball while our friends help by saying "Wise" and "Unwise."

Play a couple rounds with the kids.

Wow! You really had to use your senses and knowledge from friends to find the ball, but it would have been hard to find on your own. Just like God's wisdom guides our paths in life, the wisdom from friends helped us know where the ball was!



LESSON 3 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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Responding in Worship: Prayer Path

SUPPLIES: paper (various colors, 4 sheets), marker, tape (optional)

Ahead of time, use a marker to write each of the following words onto the sheets of colored paper: *Friends, Family, Fear, Choices*. Place the papers in a path on the floor to follow as you go on a prayer walk. You may want to tape the papers down to the floor.

We can pray and seek God's wisdom at any time. God will give us wisdom and guide us when we ask. Let's do a prayer walk around a path and ask God for wisdom about different things at each stop in the path. Lead the kids around the room while pausing at various spots in the room to pray for wisdom. Use the prayer prompts below as you walk.

1. Pray for wisdom for friends. **We pray for friends who make the right choices and help us be wise.**
2. Pray for wisdom for family. **We pray for our families to make wise decisions and to trust God.**
3. Pray for wisdom in spite of fear. **We pray that You give us wisdom when we are afraid. God, help guide our paths, and help us trust You even when we are afraid.**
4. Pray for wisdom in our choices. **This week, help us to make wise choices. When we need to decide something, let us remember Your wise words and choose the right path.**

Closing Prayer

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for wisdom.

Dear God, this week, help us remember Your great words and wisdom from Proverbs. Guide our paths this week wherever we go. In Jesus' name, Amen.