



## 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.*

#### LESSON AT A GLANCE

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**SCRIPTURE:** [Proverbs 1](#)

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

## Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** modeling clay, feathers, googly eyes,

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Coloring Sheet](#)

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 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: Create an Owl

**Set-up:** Set out play dough and owl-creating supplies such as feathers and googly eyes.

**Play:** Encourage kids to create owls using the play dough. Discuss with them what an owl looks like. Comment that owls have big eyes and lots of feathers. Encourage kids to use the feathers and googly eyes to add to their owls.



#### Play Station: Wisdom Comes from God 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 picture of a compass. Use a compass app to show each direction.



9:00 Service

## 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 clues 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

### Script:

**Today we're going to go on a treasure hunt! I've collected clues about the treasure and put them in my special bag. Let's see what the clues are ...**

As you pull each puzzle piece out, encourage kids to identify what the picture is and how they think it might relate to wisdom. Use the notes below to elaborate on each puzzle piece and to prompt discussion. The puzzle pieces are as follows:

- King Solomon (**crown**). Say: **King Solomon, David's son, was one of the wisest men to ever live. God gave him wisdom. He wrote part of the Bible in a book called Proverbs.**
- Wisdom can help us live God's way (**thumbs-up**). Say: **Wisdom can help us understand what is good and help us avoid making silly decisions. Wisdom is knowledge and understanding that comes from God.**
- We can listen to advice from people in charge of us (**adults**). Say: **We should be careful whom we listen to for advice. We know that we can listen to wise people in our lives, such as our parents, people in charge of us, and most importantly God.**
- We can become wise by learning God's ways (**Bible**). Say: **When we take time to know God and learn His ways, our lives will change, and we can live the way He tells us to live. The Bible tells us about God and how He wants us to live.**
- The book of Proverbs teaches us about wisdom (**person/emoji with a thinking face, hand on chin**). Say: **The Bible teaches us many things, and Proverbs is a book in the Bible that teaches a lot about wisdom. Proverbs teaches us that God is the source of wisdom and we can come to Him for wisdom.**
- God is the best source of wisdom (**lightbulb**). Say: **Wisdom will always come from God. God is wise and all-knowing.**

**Can you help me put this puzzle together? There is a special message on the back.** Allow kids to fit the pieces and tape them together. Turn the puzzle over and read the Wonder Truth aloud from the back of the puzzle: **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?**



## Faith

### LESSON 1 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 Advice

We listen to many people for direction and advice in life—parents, teachers, friends, and maybe coaches, classmates, or teammates. Some people give wise and good advice, and some may give advice that isn't wise or best. It's important to know how to decide whether something is wise or unwise. We know that wisdom comes from God, and we can ask Him for help.

Direct kids to form a line across the room. **Let's practice determining whether advice is wise or not. I will say something, and you can decide whether it's wise advice. If it is wise, you can take one step forward. If it is not wise, then you take a step backward. Ready?**

Use the list below for examples of wise and unwise advice. You can add your own examples to this list as play continues. Remind kids to take one step forward for wise advice and one step backward for unwise advice. **Is it wise or unwise to:**

- **Be kind by sharing your toys?** (*wise*)
- **Obey your parents?** (*wise*)
- **Take someone else's toy?** (*unwise*)
- **Lie to your parents?** (*unwise*)
- **Tell the truth?** (*wise*)
- **Laugh when someone falls down?** (*unwise*)
- **Help someone up when he falls down?** (*wise*)



## 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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### Responding in Worship: Wisdom Wheel

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only), coloring utensils, brads (1 per kid)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Wisdom Wheel Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Ahead of time, print a [Wisdom Wheel Sheet](#) for each kid and cut out the wheels. Give each kid a picture, a brad, and coloring utensils. **Look at your circle. It has three sections on it. What pictures do you see?** Allow kids to respond. Continue until kids have identified the three sections of the wheel: a brain, a Bible, and kids being kind. Encourage kids to color each section as it is identified.



**These are three ways God invites us to become wise: knowing God, reading the Bible, and living the way God shows us. Let's put our wheel together.** Direct kids to put the cover of the wheel on top and connect it using a brad. Give assistance to kids as needed.

**Share which of these three ways of becoming wise might be the hardest for you: knowing God, learning God's ways from the Bible, or living the way God wants. Look at your wheel and turn the top so only that one picture is showing.** If kids are hesitant, offer further explanation for each section and offer your own choice.

**We are all learning how to become wise, and we know that wisdom comes from God. Take a minute to quietly talk to God and ask Him to give you wisdom in the area you chose on your wheel this week.** Allow kids time to quietly pray and ask God for wisdom.

## 9:00 Service

### 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.