



## 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: Sticky Path

**SUPPLIES:** toy cars, wax craft sticks, coloring utensils, toy people figures

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: Sticky Path

**Set-up:** Set out wax craft sticks on the table for kids to make paths. Set out toy cars or people figures.

**Play:** Let the kids create paths on the table using the wax craft sticks. Then they can use toy cars or toy people figures to follow the paths.



10:45 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!**

(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.**

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## 10:45 Service

(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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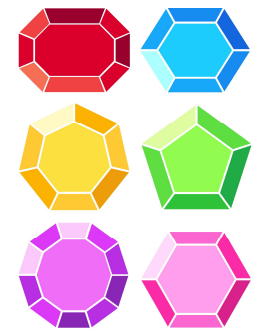
#### Craft: Wisdom Necklace

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only), single hole punch, yarn (16" per kid), hollow pasta noodles (penne or rigatoni work best, 6–8 uncooked noodles per kid), kid-safe scissors (optional, 1 per kid), tape (optional)

Before the lesson, print a [Jewels of Wisdom Sheet](#) and cut out one jewel per kid.  
Ahead of time, cut 16" of yarn for each child.

**In God's big story we learned that we should wear God's wisdom like jewels around our necks, so we never lose it or let go of it. We're going to make a necklace and add this special jewel to remember God's wisdom guides our paths! We don't actually wear God's wisdom on our necks—it's just a way of saying we should keep His wisdom close to us.**

Give each child a jewel cutout or let kids cut their own. Punch a hole at the top of each jewel. Show kids how to string the pasta and jewel shapes onto the yarn. Tape one end of the yarn to the table to aid kids in stringing their necklaces. Then help tie off each necklace once the kids have finished. Set the necklaces aside or allow the kids to wear them through the end of your time together.



Wonder Ink LESSON 3 JEWELS OF WISDOM SHEET FAITH



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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**Closing Activity: Follow the Arrow**

**SUPPLIES:** tape, stickers (1 per kid)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Follow the Arrows Sheets](#) (several copies)

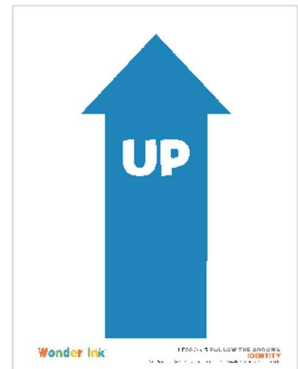
Print several copies of the [Follow the Arrows Sheets](#) and lay the arrows on the floor in a random pattern that makes a path pointing to one spot in the room where the X paper is located. Lay the X on the floor and put a pack of stickers underneath the X paper. You can tape some of the arrows to the walls. Your path can be as simple or as complex as you want.

Encourage the kids to follow the arrows to find the X at the end of the path where the stickers are. They will need to step on each arrow paper that's on the floor.

**I set up a path in our room, and the arrows will guide you just like God's wisdom guides our paths in life. You have to be wise and follow the arrows to find the end. You may even find a treasure at the end of the path under the X! You can't go straight to the X though; you have to follow the arrows.**

Allow the kids to follow arrows to find the stickers underneath the X paper. Give each kid a sticker.

**If we listen to God's wisdom, He will guide our paths and give us wisdom!**



## 10:45 Service

### Prayer and Blessing

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.**

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 God's wisdom shine through you this week and guide your paths so others can see His love.