



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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Curiosity Activity: Listen Up!

Let's see how good you are at listening! I'm going to clap a rhythm, and you can clap that same rhythm back to me.

Start with a simple rhythm—two claps in a row. Encourage kids to repeat the two claps back to you. Remind the kids to be listening carefully to your claps so they know what to repeat. You can make the rhythms more complicated as you go. Include fast and slow beats and different numbers of claps.

You did a great job listening to me! Is it easy to listen and do what a leader says? Allow the kids to respond.
Did you know that God wants us to listen to Wisdom just like you listened to me? We are going to learn more about what Wisdom says and why we should listen to God's wisdom!



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

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?



Faith

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

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Game: What's True?

Have kids stand against the walls of the room and have two leaders stand in the middle of the room with space between them.

God's Word tells us that Wisdom stands out in the open where everyone can find her—just like we are! It also says she invites people to come learn from her. Today you're going to get the chance to learn from your leaders. We're going to play a game. We're each going to say something. You must decide which of us has said something that is true and right. Once you have heard what both leaders have to say, you will run to the leader whom you think said something right and true.

Leader 1: God made the world.

Leader 2: The world created itself.

Allow kids to respond by running to either leader. **Right, God made the world! Leader 1 was speaking with wisdom!**

Leader 1: God's Word is called the Babble.

Leader 2: God's Word is called the Bible.

Allow kids to respond by running to either leader. **Right, God's Word is called the Bible! Leader 2 was speaking with wisdom!**

Leader 1: Tac is a dog.

Leader 2: Tac is a cat.

Allow kids to respond by running to either leader. **Right, Tac is a curious cat! Leader 2 was speaking with wisdom!**

10:45 Service

Leader 1: We should listen to what our parents say.

Leader 2: We shouldn't listen to what our parents say

Allow kids to respond by running to either leader. **The Bible tells us to obey our mom and dad. We should listen to what they say! *Leader 1* was speaking with wisdom!**

Leader 1: God loves everyone.

Leader 2: God only loves some of us.

Allow kids to respond by running to either leader. **God loves all of us! *Leader 1* was speaking with wisdom!**

Leader 1: God wants us to listen to wisdom.

Leader 2: God does not want us to listen to wisdom.

Allow kids to respond by running to either leader. **Our Wonder Truth for today says God wants us to listen to wisdom. *Leader 1* was speaking with wisdom!**

God job listening for Wisdom to speak! The Bible tells us about God's wisdom, and we should listen to it. God wants us to listen to His wisdom.



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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Responding in Worship: Listening for God's Wisdom

SUPPLIES: egg shakers (or plastic eggs filled with rice or beans, 1 per kid)

You can purchase egg shakers or make your own. To make your own egg shakers, fill plastic eggs with uncooked rice or beans and secure them shut (or tape them). Give one egg shaker to each kid. **We're going to spend some time listening for God's wisdom and worshiping Him. I am going to give each of you an egg shaker. Hold it quietly in your hands until I give you more instructions.**

Hand out the egg shakers to the kids.

The Bible is filled with God's wisdom. God's wisdom is wise, honest, and true. I'm going to say some phrases that may or may not be a part of God's words from the Bible. If you think the words I am saying are wise, honest, and true, sit very quietly and listen. If you think the words I'm saying are not wise, honest, and true, shake your egg and make it very noisy. So if I said grass is purple, what would you do? Allow kids to respond. **Right, you would shake your egg because grass isn't purple, it's green! But if I said God loves you, what would you do? Allow kids to respond. Right, you would sit quietly because that's true!**

Continue with the following statements:

- **God's Word says that we should be good at listening.** (Kids sit quietly.) **Great job listening and being quiet! James 1:19** says: "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."
- **God's Word says that we should not obey the Bible.** (Kids shake eggs). **Great job making noise! Let's listen to what the Bible really says. Luke 11:28** says: "Blessed are those who hear God's word and obey it." We should do what the Bible says and obey God's Word.
- **The Bible says we should listen to God's Word and do what it says.** (Kids sit quietly.) **Great job listening and being quiet again! James 1:22** says: "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves."

10:45 Service

Do what it says.” We should listen to God’s Word and do what it says!

People who listen to God’s Word are not wise. (Kids shake eggs.) Good job making noise. Listen to these true words. [Matthew 7:24](#) says: “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

- **God wants us to listen to wisdom. (Kids sit quietly.) Great job! People will sometimes tell you things that are wrong and unwise, but God will always tell you what is right and true!**

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.