

## LESSON 4

# WORDS OF WISDOM

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Wants Us to Listen to Wisdom

**SCRIPTURE:** Proverbs 8

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** Solomon writes in a unique way: he gives wisdom a voice through Lady Wisdom. God wants us to think about the voice of wisdom, which calls out to everyone to listen to and learn God's ways.

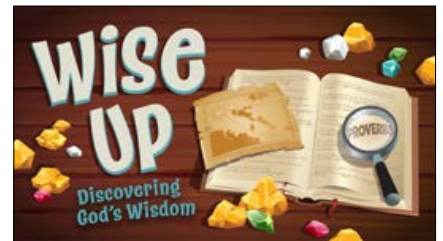
**WORD OF WONDER:** Take hold of my words with all your heart. Keep my commands, and you will live. Get wisdom, and get understanding. Don't forget my words or turn away from them. —Proverbs 4:4b–5

## CURIOSITY

## BELIEF

## FAITH

- Welcome Question: What do you think is the most valuable thing in the world?
- Curiosity Questions
- Interactive Game: Hot Lava
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- Word of Wonder: Proverbs 4:4b–5
- Word of Wonder Activity
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Proverbs Interactive Reading



[Wise Up Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

### 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

**WONDER TRUTH:** Proverbs 4:4b-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**

Care & Support Ministry Assistant; Itinerant Preacher

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**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).

### Small Group

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

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Wants Us to Listen to Wisdom

**SCRIPTURE:** Proverbs 8

**WORD OF WONDER:** Proverbs 4:4b-5

### Pre-Service (15-20 min)

**RESOURCES:** [Coloring Page](#)

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

*Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.*

**While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..**

Pose the following "I'm curious" questions. Say "I'm curious..." before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

- **If you could have any one thing in the whole world, what would it be?**
- **What makes something valuable?**

### Small Group Begins: Welcome Question 2-3 min

**SUPPLIES:** whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils

As kids arrive, invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question:

**"What do you think is the most valuable thing in the world?"**

Right at your service time, move into Small Group time by sharing your own answers and allowing kids to talk about their answers.

## Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids 5–8 min

Invite kids to grab their Bibles, and open their Bibles to Proverbs 8. Tell the kids that today you'll read from the book of Proverbs. Proverbs are wise words, some of which were written by King Solomon. They teach us how to gain wisdom and how to live God's way. Encourage adult/student volunteers to help kids find the passage.

**Read Proverbs 8:9–12, 32–35 aloud from an NIV Bible. Instruct kids to listen for you to say the names of precious jewels. When they hear them, they will hold out their hand like they are holding precious treasure.**

- **Solomon wrote Proverbs 8 in a way that invites us to use our imaginations. Whom does he ask us to imagine is speaking wisdom to us?**
- **What does Solomon say Lady Wisdom wants us to do?**
- **What kinds of words does Lady Wisdom say?**
- **Why is wisdom more valuable than silver or gold?**
- **Wisdom belongs to God and was around long before God created us. Do you think wisdom can help us make hard decisions? Why or why not?**
- **Let's all go around and share one thing we learned today about what it means to be wise.**
- **What wisdom do you need from God right now?**

**"Solomon teaches us how important it is to listen to wisdom so we can know what is right and true and learn to live God's way. That's why wisdom is so valuable! God wants us to listen to wisdom, because He knows what an important difference it can make in our lives. Let's pray to God and ask Him for His wisdom!"**

## Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Ask kids to share their prayer requests. Remind them that God cares about every aspect of their lives. Invite the kids who are comfortable to pray out loud. Encourage them to ask God for wisdom in the situations they face, because God wants us to listen to wisdom.

## Small Group Discussion: Older Kids 8–12 min

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid)

Invite kids to grab their Bibles, and find Proverbs 8. Tell the kids that today you'll read from the book of Proverbs. Proverbs are wise words, some of which were written by King Solomon. They teach us how to gain wisdom and how to live God's way. Encourage adult/student volunteers to help kids find the passage.

**Give a brief overview of the history and context using the info on page 3 of this guide.**

**Ask the one kid reader to read verses 1–12 and a second to read verses 32–33. Encourage all the kids to follow along.**

- Solomon wrote Proverbs 8 in a way that invites us to use our imaginations. What is Lady Wisdom like? What does she help us think about?
- What kinds of words does Lady Wisdom speak?
- Why is wisdom more valuable than silver or gold?
- Why does Lady Wisdom hate bragging, pride, and twisted words?
- Wisdom belongs to God and was around long before God created us. Do you think wisdom can help us make hard decisions? Why or why not?
- How can you use wisdom to make decisions in your life?
- What wisdom do you need from God right now?
- Let's all go around and share one thing we learned today or this series about what it means to be wise.

**"Solomon teaches us how important it is to listen to wisdom so we can know what is right and true and learn to live God's way. That's why it's so important to God that we listen to wisdom. Let's pray and ask God for His wisdom."**

## Prayer Time: Older Kids

Ask kids to share their prayer requests. Remind them that God cares about every aspect of their lives. Invite the kids who are comfortable to pray out loud. Encourage them to ask God for wisdom in the situations they face, because God wants us to listen to wisdom.

## Older Kids – Notes Page

\*\*Complete the Notes Page with kids. Helping them to fill out all of the spaces. This is an important way for parents to see what their kids are learning each way and have meaningful conversations at home!

## WORD OF WONDER

Take hold of my words with all your heart.  
Keep my commands, and you will live. Get wisdom,  
and get understanding. Don't forget my words or  
turn away from them.

—Proverbs 4:4b–5 (NIRV)

### Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid)

**"The Word of Wonder for the Wise Up series is Proverbs 4:4b–5. Today we learned how important it is for us to listen to wisdom. The Word of Wonder reminds us that God's words give us that wisdom. Let's read the Word of Wonder together!"**

Invite kids to open their Bibles to Proverbs 4:4b–5. Read the verses several times together. (Explain that the “b” simply means we are starting at the second half of verse 4.) Encourage the kids to “raise their voices,” just like Lady Wisdom! Talk about these questions together.

- **According to the Word of Wonder, what will happen if we keep God's commands?**
- **How can we take hold of God's words in our hearts?**

### Word of Wonder Activity

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid)

Have kids open their Bibles to Proverbs 4:4b–5. **"Listen carefully as I say the verses again. I'm going to leave out some words—I need you to fill them in for me. Can you do that? You will need to really listen!"** Read the verse again, pausing instead of saying key words (such as word, heart, commands, live, wisdom, understanding, and turn away), allowing the kids to fill them in for you.

**Leader Tip:** For Older Kids. Invite a few kids to have a turn saying the verse and leaving out words they choose.

**Great job listening and remembering God's words!**

**Large Group!**

## Responding in Worship: Proverbs Interactive Reading

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per extra leader, optional)

**RESOURCES:** [Wise Up Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

You can arrange this activity in one of two ways. Either gather the kids together and read each passage of Scripture over them as a group or divide into smaller groups and have kids travel to different stations, each overseen by a different leader. Consider playing music from the [Wise Up Elementary Spotify playlist](#) in the background.

**Leader Tip:** Invite adults of different ages, ethnic backgrounds, and accents to read Scripture at each station to subtly make the point that wisdom is for everyone.

**"It's important to make space to listen to God through His Word. We are going to listen to some verses from Proverbs. Let's begin with Proverbs 8:6, where Lady Wisdom talks to us. When you hear the word *listen*, put your hand to your ear like this. (Demonstrate cupping ear with hand.) Then hold your hands in front of you like you are about to receive a valuable gift. (Demonstrate by holding your hands out, palms up.) Remember, God's wisdom is worth more than silver or gold! As you hold open your hands, spend a moment asking God to show you how you can live out His wisdom in your life.**

Passage 1: **"Listen! I have things to say that you can depend on"** (Proverbs 8:6a). **"Those who talk about others will tell secrets. But those who can be trusted keep the secrets of others"** (Proverbs 11:13). Remind kids to cup their hands to their ears, then hold out their hands to receive God's wisdom. Give the kids a few moments of reflection time. **How might God be inviting you to live out His wisdom?** Invite kids to share their ideas. **We practice wisdom when we show our friends that we are trustworthy by what we say and do. Our friends should be able to trust us to say kind things, even when they are not around.**

Passage 2: **"Listen! I have things to say that you can depend on"** (Proverbs 8:6a). **"Starting to argue is like making a crack in a dam. So drop the matter before a fight breaks out"** (Proverbs 17:14). Remind kids to cup their hands to their ears, then hold out their hands to receive God's wisdom. Give the kids a few moments of reflection time. **How might God be inviting you to live out His wisdom? Invite kids to share their ideas. Sometimes we get into arguments about things that don't really matter. Wisdom invites us to step back, or take a break, from situations instead of starting a fight that might get bigger and bigger.**

Passage 3: **"Listen! I have things to say that you can depend on"** (Proverbs 8:6a). **"A foolish person turns their back on their parent's correction. But anyone who accepts correction shows understanding"** (Proverbs 15:5). Remind kids to cup their hands to their ears, then hold out their hands to receive God's wisdom. Give the kids a few moments of reflection time. **How might God be inviting you to live out His wisdom?** Invite kids to share their ideas. **God gives us parents to teach and correct us. It's wise to listen to them.**



**Leader Tip:** God designed families to be small pictures of His love. Families are to be healthy, protected places where nurture and discipline help kids grow. But sadly, sin often gets in the way, and no family is perfect. Some kids in your group may have adults in their lives whose instructions are neither wise nor godly. If you notice any kids struggling with this part of the worship response time, make it a point to talk with them after the lesson. Assure them they are not alone, and that God's wisdom never seeks to harm others. Be sure to invite your ministry leader into the conversation.

Passage 4: **“Listen! I have things to say that you can depend on”** (Proverbs 8:6a). **“Let another person praise you, and not your own mouth”** (Proverbs 27:2a). Remind kids to cup their hands to their ears, then hold out their hands to receive God's wisdom. Give the kids a few moments of reflection time. **How might God be inviting you to live out His wisdom?** Invite kids to share their ideas. **It can be tempting to brag, but it's wise to show humility when we talk about ourselves.**

**Hold your hands out one more time. Ask God to show you one way you can be wise this week. When you think of something, close your hands together and pretend like you are putting that gift of wisdom in your pockets to take with you.”**