

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.

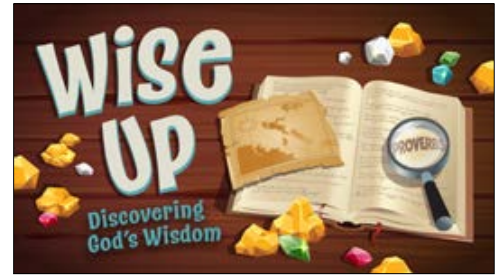
WORD OF WONDER: Listen to God's words and do not turn from them. —from Proverbs 4:5

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Curiosity Activity: Listen Up!
- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





INVITATION

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

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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**

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).



LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

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Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

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!"**

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Our friend, Tac the Cat, needs our help today. Do you think we can help Tac make a wise choice? (Allow kids to respond.) Tac, what do you need our help with?

Tac the Cat: Well, I was talking with my friend, and he asked me if we had any cat treats. We love cat treats! Don't you?

Leader: Well, I don't know about cat treats, but I like people treats! What did you tell your friend?

Tac the Cat: I told him that we do. My mom keeps them hidden up in the cabinet in the kitchen. He said we should ask my mom if we could have some.

Leader: Did you ask her?

Tac the Cat: Yes, but she said no, and that we would have to wait until after dinner. But my friend wanted the treats right then. He said we should sneak and get some from the cabinet when my mom wasn't looking.

Leader: Did you think that was a wise thing to do?

Tac the Cat: I don't think so. Kids, what should I do? Should I listen to my friend and disobey my mom, or should I listen to my mom and wait until after dinner for the treats?

(Allow kids to respond.)

Leader: It can be hard to make a wise choice when our friends want us to do something that we know we probably shouldn't do. Kids, what do you think is the wise choice for Tac to make?

(Allow kids to respond.)

..... Tac, after listening to the kids, what do you think is the wise choice to make?

Tac the Cat: I think I should listen to my mom and obey her. It's not wise to be sneaky.

Leader: Yes, I agree! The wise choice would be to listen to your mom and obey what she says. She has a good reason for you to wait until after dinner for the treat.

Tac the Cat: But what if my friend is mad at me?

Leader: It's important for us to make wise choices even if it upsets our friends. This reminds me of a part of the Bible that talks about listening to Wisdom and good advice from those who follow God.

Tac the Cat: I think I need to hear more about that part of the Bible!

Leader: We will be learning more about listening to Wisdom in our story today!

Tac the Cat: Sounds good! Thank you for your help. I guess I will go talk to my friend and tell him that we should wait until after dinner.

Leader: Good choice, Tac. See you later!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: Has someone ever asked you to do something that you knew you shouldn't do? Allow the kids to respond. How do you know whom to listen to? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God wants us to listen to Wisdom?"

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD WANTS US TO LISTEN TO WISDOM**. Today, we'll discover how God wants us to listen to wisdom."

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

"Let's say these words together."

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat.) Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat.)

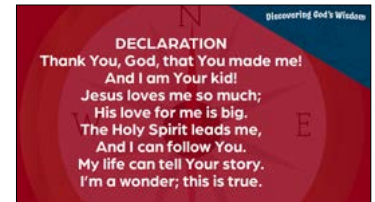
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words with this prayer as a guide if needed **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.**

Worship

"Today, we'll learn about how God wants us to listen to wisdom. Let's sing about listening to God's wisdom together!"

WORSHIP SONGS: EVEN BETTER, FAITHFUL

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Proverbs in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hands together then opening palms up, like opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Proverbs in the Bible."

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

Leader Note: The word "wisdom" is capitalized in some instances of this lesson because Proverbs 8 personifies wisdom as Lady Wisdom.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, tape (prep only)

RESOURCES: [Story Jewels Sheets](#)

Before kids arrive, print the Story Jewels Sheets and hang the jewels on the walls in different areas of your room.

"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.

A man named Solomon gives Wisdom a voice that can only say true words. Kind of like a person has a voice! He says that Wisdom stands out in the open where everyone can find her and invites people to come to learn from her.

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. Sit down next to the picture once you find it. 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. Emphasize the word *silver* to give them an extra hint if needed.

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. Emphasize the word *gold* to give them an extra hint if needed.

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. Emphasize the word *ruby* and that it's red to give them an extra hint if needed.

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."



Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD WANTS US TO LISTEN TO WISDOM**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

God's presence is always with us. God is everywhere, and He created the world with order. Wisdom was a part of that order. When Jesus died and rose again, He defeated sin and restored our lives back into order. Now through Jesus, God's wisdom is revealed and given to us freely. We can know God's wisdom more clearly because of Jesus!"

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.