

LESSON 1

**WISDOM COMES FROM GOD**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Wisdom Comes from God

**SCRIPTURE:** Proverbs 1

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** God—the source of all wisdom—calls us to live wisely. In the book of Proverbs, God invites us to become wise, to learn His ways, and to walk in His ways.

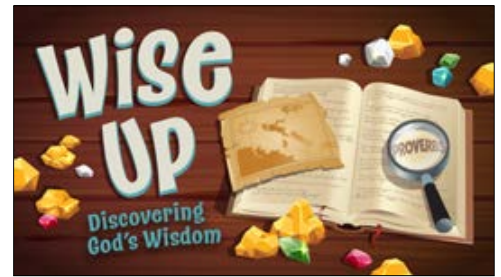
**WORD OF WONDER:** Listen to God's words and do not turn from them. —from Proverbs 4:5

**CURIOSITY**

**BELIEF**

**FAITH**

- Play Stations:
  - Create an Owl
  - Wisdom Comes from God Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Change Directions
- Word of Wonder: Proverbs 4:5
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Circle Time: True Direction
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Wise Owl
- Game: Wise or Unwise Advice



[Wise Up Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



## 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**

Care & Support Ministry Assistant; Itinerant Preacher  
Contributor to Wonder Ink

**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).



LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

- WONDER TRUTH: Wisdom Comes from God
- SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 1
- WORD OF WONDER: From Proverbs 4:5

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: play dough, feathers, googly eyes, scissors (prep only), marker, paper (4 sheets), tape, paper plates (1 per kid), brads (1 per kid), coloring utensils

RESOURCES: Compass Arrow Sheet (1 per 4 kids), Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

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: 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.

## Curiosity Activity: Change Directions

"We're going to see if you can get from one side to the other side. The catch is that I will give you directions, and you can only move according to my directions."

Read the directions at random, trying to ensure the kids don't make it to the other side of the room.

- Take two steps to the left.
- Take one step forward.
- Take three steps to the right.
- Take two steps backward.
- Spin around three times.
- Take five steps forward.
- Take two steps to the right.
- Take four steps backward.
- Take three steps forward.
- Take two steps backward.

"It might take forever for you all to reach the other side of the room! You took direction from me, the leader of the game. Sometimes in life we make our own decisions instead of listening to God or wise leaders. Sometimes we leave our decisions up to chance or try to just figure something out. Sometimes we listen to our friends or people who aren't wise. We'll learn today about the One we should listen to and seek for direction in life. We should seek God's wisdom because He is the source of wisdom. Today's Wonder Truth is **WISDOM COMES FROM GOD**. It's always wise to include Him in our choices."

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** paper direction signs (from Play Station)

"Today's Word of Wonder comes from Proverbs, where we find many examples of how we can become wise. We know that wisdom comes from God, and God's Word—the Bible—is one way we can know God's wisdom. Let's say our verse together."

### WORD OF WONDER

Listen to God's words and do not turn from them.

—from Proverbs 4:5

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you using the actions below.

- **LISTEN TO**—Point to ears.
- **GOD'S WORDS**—Point up.
- **AND DO NOT**—Shake your head.
- **TURN FROM THEM.**—Look behind you.
- **FROM PROVERBS 4:5**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

**"Now you'll take direction from me as you say the verse in different ways. I'll point to a direction in the room, and you'll walk in that direction while saying the verse in different ways.** Refer to the signs from the Play Stations. Say "North," "South," "East," or "West" and encourage the kids to walk in the direction you call out while saying the verse in a variety of voices:

- loud voice
- quiet voice
- squeaky voice
- growling voice
- sad voice
- happy voice

**Great job saying our Word of Wonder today! Let's say it together one more time as a group."**

Lead kids in saying the verse together.

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?**

## 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. I want you to listen closely and give a 'thumbs up' each time you hear the words 'wisdom', 'wise', or 'wisely'."**

**Read Proverbs 1:1–9, 20–23 from an NIV Bible.**

## Circle Time: True Direction

**SUPPLIES:** paper compass (paper plate, brad, arrow), or game spinner

Gather the kids into a circle and have them sit down. Get the paper compass from the Play Station or use a game spinner. **"Today we've learned that wisdom comes from God. Sometimes we can become distracted and look to other people for wisdom. But God is the best source of wisdom, and we can find His wisdom in the Bible**

**Let's play a game using a compass. Do you know what a compass is?** Allow the kids to respond. **A compass tells direction. If you're hiking and get lost, it can tell you which way to go. In life, God gives us direction and wisdom and shows us where to go.**

**We're going to play a game with a pretend compass. You'll spin the arrow, and when it stops spinning, we'll see where the arrow is pointing. If it points to you and you want to answer a question, raise your hand."**

Spin the arrow on the paper compass and allow kids to volunteer to answer a question. Continue playing until all discussion questions have been answered.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- **What does the book of Proverbs teach us about?** (wisdom)
- **What is wisdom?** (knowledge and understanding from God)
- **Whom does wisdom come from?** (God)
- **Who was one of the wisest men to ever live?** (King Solomon)
- **Who can give us good advice?** (parents, people in charge of us, God)
- **How can we become wise?** (knowing God, learning God's ways, living the way God shows us to in His Word)
- **What do you need God's wisdom for this week?**

**Leader Tip:** Sometimes it can be challenging for kids to apply biblical truth to real life. Be ready to model this application for them by sharing simple examples from your own life or other examples that you know are relevant to your kids to illustrate seeking God for wisdom and receiving wisdom from the Bible.

**"Sometimes it can be hard to make wise choices, especially when those around us might be telling us to do something different. It's important to check our choices to see if they are wise. We know that our wisdom comes from God. Let's talk to God now in prayer!"**

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for giving us wisdom.

**Head to Large Group!**



## Responding in Worship: Wise Owls

**SUPPLIES:** brown lunch bags (1 per kid), glue sticks, coloring utensils, kid-safe scissors (1 per kid), googly eyes (optional, 2 per kid)

**RESOURCES:** Owl Puppet Template (1 per SG); Wisdom Sheet (1 set per kid)

Ahead of time, use the Owl Puppet Template to cut out the shapes. One set per kid. Cut out the wisdom sheet phrases, one set per kid.

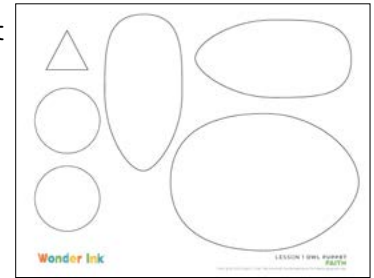
**"Have you ever seen an owl?"** Allow kids to respond. **What are some things you know about owls?"** Allow kids to respond. Use the following facts to encourage conversation:

- Owls are nocturnal (awake at night).
- Owls can move around in the dark.
- Owls can turn their heads almost all the way around.
- Owls cannot move their eyes—only their heads.
- Owls make many sounds—not just hooting.

**"Owls are amazing creatures that God made! Did you also know that owls are sometimes considered symbols of wisdom or learning? Owls may represent wisdom to some people, but we know God is the true source of wisdom. God is all-knowing! Let's make an owl puppet as we think about God's wisdom."**

Hand out the owl puppet template and wisdom pieces to the kids and have them use coloring utensils to begin coloring the owls. As kids finish, help them glue/tape the owl pieces to the brown bags. so the face is on the folded piece. Then, help them glue/tape the wisdom sheet pieces to the back. Once kids have created their owls, show them how to put their hands inside the bags and use them like puppets.

**Let's say our Word of Wonder together using our owl puppets! "Listen to God's words and do not turn from them." —from Proverbs 4:5.** Lead kids in using their puppets to say the Word of Wonder. End by encouraging kids to ask God to help them make wise choices this week.



## 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)