

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.

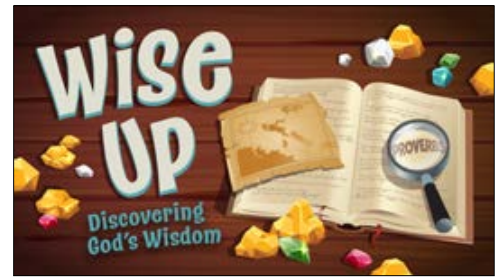
WORD OF WONDER: Listen to God's words and do not turn from them. —from Proverbs 4:5

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Play Stations:
 - Digging for Gems
 - Listen for Wisdom
 - Words of Wisdom Coloring Sheet
- Word of Wonder: Proverbs 4:5
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Circle Time: Treasure Review
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Listening for God's Wisdom
- Game: What's True?



[Wise Up Preschool 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

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.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Wants Us to Listen to Wisdom

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 8

WORD OF WONDER: From Proverbs 4:5

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors (prep only), coloring utensils, bin, sand, gems or rocks that look like gems, digging tools, regular rocks (optional)

RESOURCES: [Words of Wisdom 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: Digging for Gems

Set-up: Set out a bin filled with sand and add plastic gems and jewels (or rocks that look like gems). You can add small digging tools and a sand sifter as well. You can also add regular rocks to the bin.

Play: Let the kids dig through the bin to find the gems and jewels. If you have sand and a sand sifter, let the kids carefully use the sifter to separate the gems and rubies from the sand.

Play Station: Listen for Wisdom

Set-up: Before kids arrive, hide several small items or toys around the room.

Play: Tell kids they will have to listen closely to hear where you have hidden the items. Whispsr the location in one kids ear. Kids can only help each other by whispering. Take turns until all the items have been found. Repeat as time allows.

Play Station: Words of Wisdom 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 gems and diamonds.

Word of Wonder

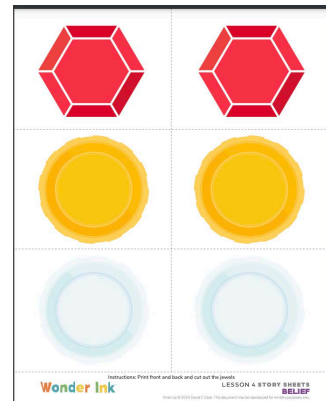
SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors (prep only)

RESOURCES: Jewels Sheet (1 per SG)

WORD OF WONDER

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

—from Proverbs 4:5



Before kids arrive, print the Jewels Sheet (double-sided) onto cardstock and cut out the jewels. The sheet should be printed double-sided so that

when you cut out the jewels, some have the Word of Wonder on the back, and some are blank.

Let's practice saying our Word of Wonder together, and then we're going to play a game! Practice saying the Word of Wonder and doing the motions with the kids.

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

- **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.

Show the kids the jewels you cut out previously and ask them if they can guess what each one is—rubies, silver, or gold. Show them how some of the jewels have words on the back.

Can anyone guess what the words on the back of some of these jewels might say? Allow kids to guess. **It's our Word of Wonder! Let's say it together one more time before we play our game.** Repeat the verse with the kids again.

Each of you will get to choose a card. If you pick a jewel that has our Word of Wonder on it, we will all say the verse and do our motions together. If the jewel is blank, the next person will go.

Gather kids in a circle and lay out the cards in the middle of the group with the jewel side facing up. Go around the circle and let each kid pick out a card. If the card has the Word of Wonder on the back, say the verse with the kids.

You did a great job choosing jewels and repeating our verse! God wants us to choose to listen to His wise words!

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?**

God's Big Story / Snack

SUPPLIES: Bible, Jewels from Word of Wonder Activity

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.

Read Proverbs 8:9–12, 32–35 from an NIRV Bible. Place the blank silver, gold, and ruby cut-outs somewhere where kids can see. Instruct kids to listen to when you read about silver, gold, and rubies and to point to them.

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

Circle Time: Treasure Review

SUPPLIES: pillowcase or bag, fake jewels, coins, items that could be "treasure"

Before kids arrive, place fake jewels, coins, and items that could be treasure in a pillowcase or bag.

"We're learning today that God's wisdom is as important and valuable as jewels and diamonds. I have a special bag with me that has some treasure in it. Let's take turns choosing a jewel from the bag and answering some questions."

Allow kids to take turns pulling a piece of treasure from the bag. Ask a question each time. If you have more kids than questions, you can ask kids to say the Word of Wonder or any other review questions from the lesson.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What words does Solomon use to describe Wisdom?** (*Wise, honest, true*)
- **What does Solomon say Wisdom is more valuable than?** (*Rubies, gold, silver*)
- **Who can help us make hard decisions?** (*Wisdom, God*)
- **Does Wisdom hide from everyone?** (*No, she stands in the open for all to find.*)
- **In what book of the Bible does Solomon teach us about Wisdom?** (*Proverbs*)
- **When might you need to listen to God's wisdom?**
- **What is something wise that you've learned from God or a godly person?**

"We all have times when we need to ask God for help and listen to what He says. God wants us to listen to Wisdom. 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 helping them listen to Wisdom.

Head to Large Group!

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. 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!**

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!**

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.