



# WISDOM FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

## PROVERBS, ECCLESIASTES, SONG OF SONGS

### **Instructions**

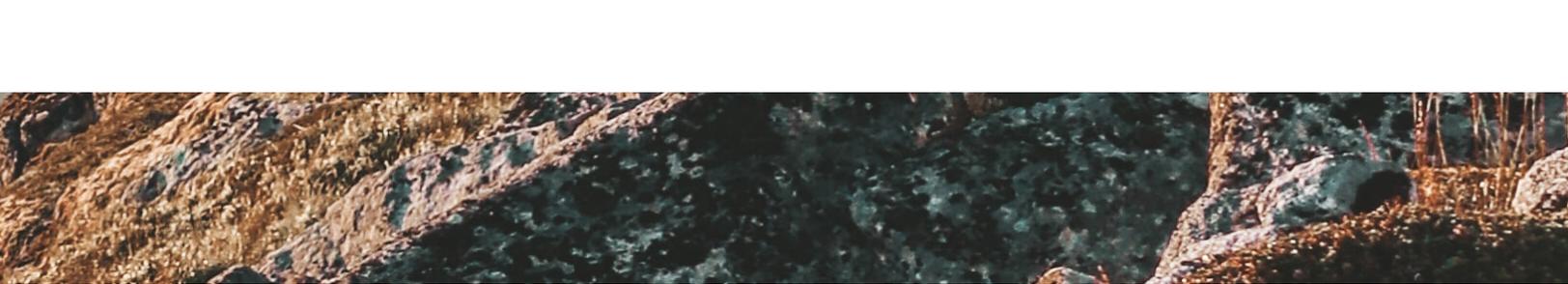
The curriculum we use for elementary aged children goes through the Bible chronologically. Currently we are finishing up the book of Deuteronomy. So that your child can continue their journey through the Bible we will be putting together VERY basic Bible lessons for you to do at home. Below you will find a summary of this week's Bible passage. All you have to do is read it with your kids. Then you will see two different sets of discussion questions. One for older kids (3rd-4th grade range) and one for younger kids (Kinder-2nd grade range). Read the discussion questions with your kids. Remember, discussion is not one sided, it's different people talking together. Give your kids the opportunity to think and speak. I pray the Lord speaks to you and your family as you dive into His word together.

### **Tell the Bible Story**

When Solomon became king, he asked God for help to lead the Israelites. God gave King Solomon wisdom to lead His people. People came from far away to hear Solomon's wise words. The Bible teaches that there are two ways to live: a wrong way, doing what is foolish and evil; and a right way, doing what is wise and good.

Solomon wrote thousands of wise sayings called proverbs. He also wrote more than a thousand songs. In the Book of Proverbs, Solomon said to love and worship God. He told people how to make wise decisions. If people listened to God's words and did what God told them to do, God would bless them and protect them. If they did not listen to God's words and obey them, they would make bad decisions and face consequences for their sins. They would not be happy, healthy, or get along well with Others!

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart," Solomon wrote in Proverbs 3:5. He also wrote other wise sayings like, "A gentle answer turns away anger, but a harsh word stirs up wrath,"



and “Even a young man is known by his actions—by whether his behavior is pure and upright.”

Some people do not always listen to God’s words. Solomon wrote, “Fools hate wisdom and instruction.” He also wrote, “A fool does not want to learn but only wants to say what he thinks,” and “A fool does whatever he thinks is right, but a wise person listens to advice.”

Solomon wrote another book in the Bible called Ecclesiastes. The Book of Ecclesiastes has wisdom for people too. Solomon wrote about money and work and how to live a good life. Many people seek after these things, but these things do not truly satisfy. The most important thing, Solomon said, is to love and obey God.

Solomon taught that there is a time for everything: “a time to give birth and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to uproot; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to tear down and a time to build; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance” (Ecclesiastes 3:2-4).

Solomon also wrote a poem about love. This poem is called Song of Songs. Solomon wrote this poem to celebrate God’s wise plan for love and marriage.

## CHRIST CONNECTION:

*Wisdom in the Bible shows us how to be like Jesus—in how we live, how we speak, and how we think. But wisdom cannot save us. Only Jesus, who perfectly followed God’s wise plan can rescue us from sin.*

### **Discussion & Bible Skills - Older**

Guide your kids to open their Bibles to Proverbs 3. Explain that Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; and Song of Songs are all books in the Old Testament division called Poetry and Wisdom. Most of these books were written by King Solomon. Challenge kids to name all five books in the Poetry and Wisdom division.

Read aloud Proverbs 3:5-6. Ask the following questions. Lead your kids to discuss:

1. Who has the best plan for your life?

*Lead your kids to discuss what types of plans people might make for their own lives.*



*Guide them to recognize that God is in control of all things. Emphasize that God knows how life works best, and He gives us instruction in His Word to show us how to be like Jesus—in how we live, how we speak, and how we think.*

2. Why is it foolish to try to live without God?

*Prompt your kids recall that wisdom comes from God. God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. God knows how life works best. God has all wisdom and knowledge. He knows everything about the past, present, and future. Fools trust in themselves; the wise person trusts in God.*

3. How can you seek to grow in wisdom?

*Lead your kids to recall that if we ask God for wisdom, He gives us wisdom. Emphasize that kids can pray for understanding as they learn about the Bible and read the Bible for themselves.*

## SAY:

*God made King Solomon the wisest man who had ever lived, and people came from all over to listen to his wisdom. Wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying His Word.*

### **Discussion & Bible Skills - Younger**

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them find some of the passages referenced in the Bible story, such as Proverbs 15:1; 18:2; and Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. Discuss in which division these books are found. (Poetry and Wisdom)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. How are a gentle answer and a harsh word different?

*The first stops anger, the second causes anger; Prov. 15:1*

2. What do fools like to show off?

*Their own opinions, Prov. 18:2*

3. Who should fear God and obey His commands?

*All of humanity, Eccl. 12:13*

4. Why is it wise to obey God?

*Guide your kids to discuss who God is and what God knows. Remind them that God*



*knows everything about the past, present, and future. Because God knows everything; is perfectly good; and is sovereign over all; we can trust all His commands. It is wise to obey God because He knows how life works best. He wants what is good for us.*

5. Can we be wise without Jesus?

*Guide your kids to see that although we can show some signs of wisdom, any person who rejects Jesus is making the most foolish decision possible. No matter what we might gain in our current lives, only Jesus can give us eternal life with God. Trusting in Jesus is the ultimate show of wisdom.*

6. Why can't wisdom save us?

*Guide your kids to see that no amount of wisdom can make us perfect or righteous. Only Jesus is perfect and righteous. He died for our sin so that we could be made righteous through Him. Wisdom helps us make good choices and see that we need Jesus, but only Jesus can save us from our sin.*

## SAY:

*Wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying His Word. But even Solomon with all his wisdom could not obey God perfectly. Only Jesus perfectly obeyed all of God's commands. He died for our sin and rose again to make the way for us to be with God forever.*