



MOSAIC Gospel Project

Volume 4, Unit 12, Lesson 2: Wisdom for God's People

Bible Passage: Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; Song of Songs

Personal Preparation

Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; and Song of Songs are three books spanning more than 50 chapters of the Bible. This week's study follows the story of Solomon, the primary writer of these books. While three books of the Bible are certainly a lot to cover in one session, this brief overview will reveal the wisdom of God for his people as he works out his wise plan for our salvation. True wisdom comes from God (Prov. 2:6). God made Solomon the wisest man who had ever lived, and people came from all over to listen to his wisdom (1 Kings 4:29-34; 10:1-9). He wrote most of the book of Proverbs, which offers practical advice for living wisely. Solomon ruled Israel with great wisdom, but he still turned away from God and pursued his own desires.

Israel needed someone greater than Solomon. God's plan included that: "Something greater than Solomon is here!" (Matt. 12:42; Luke 11:31). Jesus not only taught God's wisdom, he displayed it perfectly.

The Book of Ecclesiastes teaches us to think carefully about how we should live our lives. Solomon was searching for something to give meaning to his life. In the end, Solomon discovered that following God was—and is—the only way to find real happiness.

Finally, King Solomon wrote Song of Songs, which reveals God's wisdom for relationships—specifically, between a husband and a wife. In the New Testament, the book of Ephesians says that Jesus loves the church as a husband loves his wife (Eph. 5:22-28).

These books are the inspired words of God. The wisdom offered is not merely suggestions for living; it is part of God's plan for our sanctification. 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.

Thank God for providing us with wisdom in the Scriptures. Thank him for sending Jesus to save us because our own wisdom cannot. Pray that the individuals would seek wisdom from the Lord. Pray that they would see how even wisdom cannot save them and that they would put their hope in Jesus.

Memory Verse

Begin the lesson by reviewing the memory verse with the group.

James 1:5

"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking."

Points of Emphasis

1. Wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying his Word.
2. God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

Activity #1

Lead the group to begin working on the activity sheet. Feel free to let the individuals continue working as you teach the lesson.

Video

Solomon became king after David died. Solomon had the chance to ask God for anything, but he asked for wisdom. God gave Solomon wisdom to lead his people. Solomon became the wisest man of his time. He wrote hundreds of songs, poems, and wise sayings. He wrote books in the Bible, too! Most of Proverbs, and all of Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs were written by Solomon through the Holy Spirit's inspiration.

Play the video for the lesson titled "Wisdom for God's People."

Bible Lesson

Last week, I offered a definition of wisdom. I said that wisdom is understanding the best way to use the information you know. But there's a more specific definition that we can find by studying Solomon's teachings: Wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying his Word. Think about that for a second.

What do you think it means to fear the Lord? Do you think it means we cower and avoid God because we think he might hurt us? No! God loves us. Fearing the Lord has to do with understanding that God is holy. He is perfect, complete, and totally separate from sin. Fearing the Lord also has to do with understanding that we are sinful and guilty before God.

Here's an example: When you disobey your parents, do you sometimes feel a sense of fear when you imagine what consequences you might face? I know I did! Even though I love my parents, and I know they love me, I knew they would discipline me when I did something wrong. It's similar with God. We can trust that God disciplines us because he loves us and wants what is best for us. He doesn't want to hurt us; he wants to teach us. And what better teacher than God? What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

Activity #2

Guide the group to finish working on the activity sheet. Review the memory verse with the group and help them learn it. Encourage the individuals to write the verse using the Velcro pictures.

Christ Connection

Wisdom in the Bible shows us how to be like Jesus—in how we live, how we speak, and how we think. Wisdom from the Bible will help us understand who Jesus is and what he has done for us, but wisdom cannot save us. Only Jesus, who perfectly followed God's wise plan, can rescue us from sin. When we have faith that Jesus is God's Son who died for our sins and rose again to defeat death, God forgives our sin and gives us new life. The Holy Spirit comes to live in us and help us have more wisdom to fear God and obey his Word.

Review Questions

(Optional: Play the Questions from Kids (QFK) video to continue the discussion on wisdom. Today's episode asks if God cares how we live.)

Group A

Early Learner

Encourage the individuals to point to the pictures provided or to draw in order to answer these questions.

1. **Who wrote most of the Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs?** Solomon
2. **Does God bless those who listen to his words and do what he says to do?** Yes
3. **Do fools listen to wisdom?** No
4. **Do wise people listen to wisdom?** Yes

Group B

1. **How are a gentle answer and a harsh word different?** The first stops anger, the second causes anger
2. **What do fools like to show off?** Their own opinions
3. **Who should fear God and obey his commands?** All of humanity

4. **Why is it wise to obey God?** Guide the individuals to discuss who God is and what God knows. 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?** 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?** 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.

Group C

1. **Who has the best plan for your life?** Lead the individuals 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. God knows how life works best, and he gives us instructions 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?** 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?** If we ask God for wisdom, he gives us wisdom. Emphasize that we pray for understanding as we learn about the Bible and read the Bible for ourselves.

Group D

Advanced Learner

1. **What does this story teach us about God?** Wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying his Word. God created everything, so he knows how life works best. The Bible tells us about God's plan for money, relationships, work, and so much more.
2. **What are the two ways to live?** There is a wise way and a foolish way. Doing what is foolish and evil is the wrong way to live. Doing what is wise and good is the right way to live. We look to God and his Word to know what is wise and good.
3. **Does God really care how we live?**
4. **How can you obey your parents and others this week to show true wisdom?**

Prayer

Father, we believe that you are wise, powerful, and good. You know all there is to know, and you always do what is best. We praise you because of who you are and what you have done. Help us to obey you. Give us wisdom to know what you want and courage to obey your commands. Amen.

