



## 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**

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**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](#)).



## Curiosity

### LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

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## Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only), marker, paper (4 sheets), tape, paper plates (1 per kid), brads (1 per kid), coloring utensils

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Compass Arrow Sheet](#) (1 per 4 kids)

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: Compass

**Set-up:** Before kids arrive, print the [Compass Arrow Sheet](#) on cardstock and cut out the arrows. Place an arrow, paper plate, and brad at each seat. Write "NORTH," "SOUTH," "EAST," and "WEST" on separate sheets of paper and hang each one on a wall of the room. (Set aside supplies, which will be used later.)

**Play:** Direct each kid to create a compass by attaching the arrow to the center of the paper plate, using a brad. Help them write "N," "S," "E," and "W" in the appropriate spots on their compass to indicate the cardinal directions. Encourage kids to spin the arrow on their compass and find the wall with the corresponding direction.





## Belief

### LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

*Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.*

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### Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for bringing us here today. Help us listen closely to hear from You and how You give us wisdom. Thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide us closer to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

### God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

#### TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Read Proverbs 1:1-7 and/or the script below. If you use the script, the clues are included in your Belief bag.

<sup>1</sup>These are the proverbs of Solomon. He was the son of David and the king of Israel.

<sup>2</sup> Proverbs teach you wisdom and instruct you.

They help you understand wise sayings.

<sup>3</sup> They provide you with instruction and help you live wisely.

They lead to what is right and honest and fair.

<sup>4</sup> They give understanding to childish people.

They give knowledge and good sense to those who are young.

<sup>5</sup> Let wise people listen and add to what they have learned.

Let those who understand what is right get guidance.

<sup>6</sup> What I'm teaching also helps you understand proverbs and stories.

It helps you understand the sayings and riddles of those who are wise.

<sup>7</sup> If you really want to gain knowledge, you must begin by having respect for the LORD.

But foolish people hate wisdom and instruction.

# 10:45 Service

## Script:

Today we're going to go on a treasure hunt! I've collected clues about the treasure and put them in my special bag. Let's see what the clues are ...

As you pull each puzzle piece out, encourage kids to identify what the picture is and how they think it might relate to wisdom. Use the notes below to elaborate on each puzzle piece and to prompt discussion. The puzzle pieces are as follows:

- King Solomon (**crowns**). Say: **King Solomon, David's son, was one of the wisest men to ever live. God gave him wisdom. He wrote part of the Bible in a book called Proverbs.**
- Wisdom can help us live God's way (**thumbs-up**). Say: **Wisdom can help us understand what is good and help us avoid making silly decisions. Wisdom is knowledge and understanding that comes from God.**
- We can listen to advice from people in charge of us (**adults**). Say: **We should be careful whom we listen to for advice. We know that we can listen to wise people in our lives, such as our parents, people in charge of us, and most importantly God.**
- We can become wise by learning God's ways (**Bible**). Say: **When we take time to know God and learn His ways, our lives will change, and we can live the way He tells us to live. The Bible tells us about God and how He wants us to live.**
- The book of Proverbs teaches us about wisdom (**person/emoji with a thinking face, hand on chin**). Say: **The Bible teaches us many things, and Proverbs is a book in the Bible that teaches a lot about wisdom. Proverbs teaches us that God is the source of wisdom and we can come to Him for wisdom.**
- God is the best source of wisdom (**lightbulb**). Say: **Wisdom will always come from God. God is wise and all-knowing.**

Can you help me put this puzzle together? There is a special message on the back. Allow kids to fit the pieces and tape them together. Turn the puzzle over and read the Wonder Truth aloud from the back of the puzzle: **WISDOM COMES FROM GOD.**

## Word of Wonder

### WORD OF WONDER

**Get wisdom and get understanding. Don't forget my words or turn away from them.**

— Proverbs 4:5

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

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?**



## Faith

### LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

*Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.*

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### Craft: Owl Puppet

**SUPPLIES:** brown lunch bags (1 per kid), glue sticks, brown crayon, owl wings, mini muffin cups, black circles, brown triangle, orange triangle, white oval

**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 pictures to the kids and have them use coloring utensils to begin coloring the owls. As kids finish, help them cut the pieces apart and glue them to the brown bags. 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! "Get wisdom and get understanding. Don't forget my words or turn away from them." — 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.





## LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

*Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.*

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## Closing Game: Follow the Compass

**SUPPLIES:** paper compass (from curiosity activity) or compass app on phone

Use the paper compass or another compass (real or phone app) to determine in which direction kids will move.

**Let's play a game to see how well you can follow directions! I will spin the compass, and whatever direction the arrow is pointing, you'll move in that direction following my instructions.**

Point out the direction signs used in Play Stations and Word of Wonder. Spin the compass and tell kids to take a specific number of steps in that direction. Examples: five steps to the north, two steps east, six steps west, etc. Play several rounds.

**Leader Tip:** Consider adding to this game by giving the kids instructions on how they will move the specified number of steps in the specified direction (crawling, hopping, walking backward, etc.).

## Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for giving us wisdom in every situation—big or small.

**God, thank You for always being with us. Help us become wise and use the wisdom that You give us in everything we do—big or small. Thank You for Your gift of wisdom. 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 our loving God, who gives us true wisdom, make you wise in all you say, think, and do.