

Practice Using God's Wisdom

Quarter 9 • Lesson 3

Focus on Spiritual Formation

1. *Connecting*: Do an activity to learn the importance of study.
2. *Teaching*: Learn about Solomon's habits of studying, observing, and reflecting (Proverbs).
3. *Responding*: Write a personal proverb.

SUPPLIES

- Bible
- 3 leaves (each one from a different kind of plant)
- Proverbs list (from end of lesson)

Optional Supplies:

- Memory Verse Poster
- *The Action Bible*, image of Solomon's proverbs
- *The Action Bible*, page 357
- Paper
- Pencils
- Student Pages

Tear out the Proverbs list from the end of this lesson. Tear or cut apart the different topics so you will have 1 topic for 7 different groups.

Teacher Devotion

*My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,
turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding—
indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,
and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,
then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.
For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.*

Proverbs 2:1–6

God's wisdom is so valuable that you should seek it as a treasure. Ask Him for His wisdom and then work to understand what He has given to you. Read the verses from Proverbs 2. Notice all the things God calls us to do: accept His words, store up His commands, listen to wisdom, apply and understand it, ask for insight and understanding, look for it as hidden treasure. Wisdom does not come without work on our part. Seek God and He will help you.

Family Connection: Let the families know that their children will be learning skills to help them gain wisdom. Family members can ask their children to share the skills they learned: studying, observing, and reflecting.

LESSON TIME

1. Connecting: Do an activity to learn the importance of study.

Greet the children with a high five today to let them know you are excited they are in class. Ask them about their wisdom situations from the previous lesson.

Once everyone has arrived, divide the children into 3 groups. Give each group one of the leaves you brought. Tell them their groups have 1 minute to discover everything they can about their leaves. They should handle them carefully as they will use them again later in the lesson.

Teacher Tip: Most likely the children will quickly look at the leaf or plant and act bored. That is okay. They will learn the valuable skills of studying, observing, and reflecting in today's lesson.

After a minute, ask someone from each group to share what the group discovered about their leaf.

- **What did you discover about your leaf in just 1 minute?**

You did not have much time to study your leaf. When we have time to study something, we can learn more about it. Today we will learn more about wisdom and how to develop habits that will help us to grow in wisdom.

Set aside the leaves for use at the end of the lesson. Have the children remain in their groups.

2. Teaching: Learn about Solomon's habits of studying, observing, and reflecting (Proverbs).

Remember that when he became king, Solomon asked God to give him wisdom. That was a very good thing to do. God is the source of all wisdom. So if you want to be wise, you should always start by asking God for wisdom.

What do you think Solomon did after he asked God for wisdom? Do you think he immediately became wise? No! Solomon needed to develop his heart and mind in order to become wise. Let's learn some of the wise habits Solomon practiced to develop his heart and mind. We will learn about 3 habits Solomon used: study, observation, and reflection.

If you are using the Memory Verse Poster, show it to the students.

One of the books of the Bible that Solomon wrote is Ecclesiastes. In it, he describes some of the ways he gained wisdom. One thing Solomon did was to study. Solomon wanted to understand facts about things and why those facts were important. He wanted to know how learning them could lead to a good and useful life. Everyone shout, "Study" with me now.

Allow the children to shout, "Study."

Another thing Solomon did was to observe. To observe means to watch carefully. Solomon did not quickly look at the world around him and make decisions. He took time to study the world. He noticed how people worked. He paid attention to the ways animals behaved. He examined what happens in relationships between friends and family. For example, Solomon observed people who talk before they think. He realized that the biggest fool is smarter than someone

who does that! Another time, he observed ants. He said that we can learn many things from them. Because they work hard and store up food for the future, they always have enough food to eat. Everyone shout, "Observe" with me now.

Allow the children to shout, "Observe."

Another thing Solomon did was to reflect. To reflect means to think, meditate, or ponder. It means to quietly focus your thoughts on something in order to gain deeper meaning from it.

For example, Solomon reflected on what it means to die. Lots of people try not to think about death. But Solomon said you could learn more wisdom at a funeral than at a party. Why? Because everyone will die sometime. If we realize that, we will live more carefully. We will not waste our lives on unimportant things. Everyone shout, "Reflect" with me now.

Allow the children to shout "Reflect."

Solomon studied, observed, and reflected. In these ways, with God's help, he became wise. Kings, queens, and other important people travelled from all over the world to visit him. They wanted to hear his great wisdom.

Solomon wrote about many interesting and important subjects that he studied, observed, and reflected on. For example, he wrote about friendship, money, honesty, happiness, anger, helping others, arguing, and pride.

Listen to some of the proverbs Solomon wrote on these topics.

Friendship

*Whoever wants to show love forgives a wrong.
But those who talk about it separate close friends.*
Proverbs 17:9, NIV

Money

*You should want a good name more than you want great riches.
To be highly respected is better than having silver or gold.*
Proverbs 22:1, NIV

Honesty

An honest witness does not deceive, but a false witness pours out lies.
Proverbs 14:5

Anger

*Whoever is patient has great understanding,
but one who is quick-tempered displays folly.*

Proverbs 14:29

Helping Others

*Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor
will also cry out and not be answered.*

Proverbs 21:13

Arguing

*An angry person stirs up fights.
And a person with a bad temper commits many sins.*

Proverbs 29:22, NlrV

Pride

If you are proud, you will be destroyed. If you are proud, you will fall.

Proverbs 16:18, NlrV

- Which proverb did you like the most? Why?

Optional: If you are using *The Action Bible*, have the children read the story on page 357.

3. Responding: Write a personal proverb.

Give each of the 3 groups a different leaf from the one they had earlier.

Let's try using these 3 habits of study, observation, and reflection with these leaves. You will have 3 minutes to study, observe and reflect on your leaf. It is still not a lot of time, but try and discover as many things about your leaf as you can. Be sure that every team member adds something to your discussion. What do you notice? Here are some questions to help you:

- Does this leaf have a particular smell?
- How does the leaf feel? If you tear a small piece off, does liquid leak out? Is it tough or fragile?
- What shape does the leaf have? How big is it? What colour is it?
- Is this leaf from a plant that is useful in any way?
- Why do you think God made the plant this leaf is from?

After time is up, ask each group to share what they discovered as they studied, observed, and reflected on their leaves. Congratulate the groups for using these good habits.

God wants you to ask Him for wisdom. He wants you to think creatively and make good decisions. He wants you to practice using wisdom. One way you can become wiser is to study, observe, and reflect on something—then write your own proverb about what you discovered!

Think over the things you have learned about wisdom. We will take a few minutes to write our own proverbs. What wise thing do you know that you can share with a friend? Your proverb can be short or long.

Pause for a couple minutes for the children to think of their own proverbs. Then ask for volunteers to share their proverbs with the class. If you do not have much time or have a large number of children, have them share their proverbs with 1 other child.

Optional: If you are using the Student Pages, the children can write their proverbs on them.

Close class by speaking this blessing based on Proverbs 1:1–3 over the children.

Blessing: May the Lord help you learn and grow in wisdom for understanding and living life in a right and good way.

Lead the children in singing this quarter's song, if possible.

"Agnus Dei" by Michael W Smith <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVFzxazTQNM>