

2

SERIES: PROVERBS FOR KIDS

Wise vs. Unwise

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Lesson Overview

Today we're talking about the difference between wise and unwise kids. We've been learning from the book of Proverbs which is full of God's wisdom that we need to make good choices and to live a life that honors God. Unwise kids don't care about God's wisdom. They think they are smarter than God and so they ignore him and don't obey. But wise kids understand that God's way is best. Wise kids are smart because they trust in God's perspective over their own. That's why wise kids are known for listening and obeying God and their parents. And, they are also known for being kind to their friends. So, be a wise kid and follow God's way. If you do that, the Bible says you can live a long life.

Classroom Agenda

- (5 min) PLAY: Let kids start working on Activity Page #1. (2nd-5th puzzle answers: 4 Across: Solomon, 1 Down: Bible, 2 Down: Wise 3 Down: Proverbs)**
- (5 min) WARM UP: Make a list of wise choices kids can make. Make a list of unwise choices kids can make. Why should we stick with the wise choices?** (Tip: A wise choice is anything that makes God happy. Wise choices are found in the Bible as the things we should do. Unwise choices are things that make God sad.)
- (5 min) PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
- (20 min) LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
- (2 min) RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
- (3 min) KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: Unwise kids end up making bad choices that can really hurt them. When kids ignore God and do things their own way, they are putting themselves in danger. For example, an unwise kid might choose to lie to their parents. When they get caught, they get in big trouble and then their parents don't trust them. God knows what's best for us and he wants to help us and keep us safe. So we need to listen and obey what he says.)
 - Bonus Questions:** Why is it important to follow God's way over our own? **4-5th:** What are some consequences of unwise choices?
- (5 min) EXPLORE: Read [Jeremiah 29:11](#). What does it mean to you that God has a plan for your life? How does our obedience affect this promise?** (Answer: Isn't that amazing that God has a plan for you! He loves you so much that he created you with unique abilities to carry out the special plan and purpose he has for your life. But, if you don't listen and obey God, you will never know the plan he has for you. If you're too busy making your own plans, you'll miss out on God's plan.)
- (10 min) PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
- (5 min) CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGOD.org/kids to find this week's lesson video.

Big Idea

Wise kids know how to listen and obey.

Key Question

What happens to unwise kids?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 3:5 | Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: BE WISE TIC TAC TOE

Instructions:

- Divide the class into two teams. Assign each team either an "X" or "O".
- Draw a tic tac toe board on the whiteboard.
- Choose one team to go first. Ask a question from below. If correct, they get to put their symbol on the board. If wrong, the other team gets a chance. First team to get 3 across wins.

Supplies needed:

Whiteboard and markers.

Questions:

1. Who wrote Proverbs? (Solomon)
2. Who died on the cross for our sins? (Jesus)
3. T or F Proverbs mean bad advice. (F)
4. When you listen and obey, you are a ___(wise) kid.
5. Who should we obey? (God, parents, teachers)
6. Where did Jesus die for our sins? (Cross)
7. What's the Big Idea today? (See teacher notes)
8. A wise kid is ___(kind) to friends.
9. T or F: Wise kids listen and obey. (T)
10. Is the book of Proverbs in the OT or NT? (OT)

Bonus Activity: "Find the Book"

Have class get into pairs. Give each pair a Bible. Have kids race to find the books below. First to find has to say if it's in the OT or NT. **Books:** Psalms, Luke, Titus

OPTION 2: BIBLE JEOPARDY

Instructions:

- Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a bell or ringer.
- Read a question from below. First team to ring in gets to answer. If correct, they get a point. If wrong, the other team gets a chance to answer. Team with the highest points wins.

Supplies needed:

Bells or ringers

Questions:

1. Who wrote Proverbs? (Solomon)
2. Who died on the cross for our sins? (Jesus)
3. T or F Proverbs mean bad advice. (F)
4. When you listen and obey, you are a ___(wise) kid.
5. Who should we obey? (God, parents, teachers)
6. Where did Jesus die for our sins? (Cross)
7. What's the Big Idea today? (See teacher notes)
8. A wise kid is ___(kind) to friends.

9. T or F: Wise kids listen and obey. (T)
10. Is the book of Proverbs in the OT or NT? (OT)

Bonus Activity: "Bible Hangman"

Words or phrases: Wisdom, Proverbs, Solomon

2

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Hey kids! Last week we learned about how the Proverbs can give kids lots of wisdom. Do you know the difference between a wise kid and a not-so-wise kid? Not-so-wise kids always talk, and talk, and talk. Wise kids always listen, and listen, and listen. Not-so-wise kids don't obey their parents, but wise kids always do what they're told. Let's look at some other things we know about wise kids.

Wise kids are smart

That means that you don't just follow your own path. You should talk to God about your life, and listen to what he has to say. That's how you become a wise kid! So even if you don't always get the best grade on your spelling test, you can still be very wise. But that's not all we have to learn about being a wise kid!

Wise kids have kindness deep down

When you start to see things God's way, your whole heart changes. Let's look at what the proverbs have to say about that.

Proverbs 3:3 *Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart.*

Wise kids live a long time

Your parents also want to protect you from danger so you should listen to them, too. True wisdom is about listening and obeying. So, be a wise kid who is a good listener and is also obedient and maybe you'll live to be 108!

Questions:

1. *What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?*
2. *Make a list of wise choices kids can make. Make a list of unwise choices kids can make. Why should we stick with the wise choices?*
3. *Why do you think we should trust God's perspective over our own?*
4. *Why is it important to be kind?*
5. *Why is obedience important to a kid?*
6. *Read [Jeremiah 29:11](#). What does it mean to you that God has a plan for your life? How does our obedience affect this promise?*

Bonus Questions: Use these passages to have more conversations this week.

1. *Read [Psalm 9:10](#). How does knowing God help you to trust him more?*
2. *Read [Proverbs 28:26](#). How does obeying God keep us safe?*

Instructions: Solve the puzzle and color the picture.

Across
 4. author of Proverbs

Down
 1. Book full of God's words
 2. listen and obey good advice
 3. fancy word for wisdom

Big Idea
 Wise kids know how to listen and obey.

Key Question
 What happens to unwise kids?

Memory Verse
 Proverbs 3:5 | _____ in the
 _____ with all your
 _____; do not depend on
 _____ own understanding.

