

The Wisdom Lab Bible Teaching Script

WEEK
1

Learning aim: Being wise by listening to God is the best and only way to live

Bible reading: Proverbs 1-9

Props needed: Powerpoint slides/prints, big plastic ears, dressing up clothes for a girl/jewellery/wig, white coat/mortar board/dictionary/scroll

I want to ask you a question – who do you listen to?

Have a look at the slides and see if that gives you any ideas
[Show slides/prints and ask children for responses. They will gradually reveal as you click. You might like the children to guess the image] Teachers? Internet? Parents? Friends?

Wisdom is about more than just knowledge, it's about doing life well, making good decisions and knowing what to do in different situations in life.

But where does wisdom come from? Are some people just naturally wise and other people foolish?

Our series this term is called the Wisdom Lab because we are looking at 5 books of the Bible that are sometimes called 'the Wisdom literature' or books of wisdom. So, taking a look at these books would be a good place to start to find out about Wisdom.

Let's take a look at the book of Proverbs.

So King Solomon, who wrote the book of Proverbs, tell us that he has written this book so that you can get wisdom.

Read 1:5

Over and over again in the book of Proverbs we see the word 'listen' so that must be important.

I've got quite big ears but maybe they're not quite big enough to listen to everything there is in the book of Proverbs. *[Put ears on]*. I can hear everything now – even what x is saying at the back!

In Solomon's book he introduces us to some characters. The first two are a father and a son.

[Ask 2 children to represent the Father and the Son. Give the Son an ear to hold, the Father retains the other]

What does the father want the son to know? *[Father raises his ear]*

Read 1:8

Listen to your parent's instruction and teaching if you want to be wise. You might think parents are always bossing you about, telling you to tidy your room, not to shout, to sit nicely at the table.

But the father is talking about something bigger than all of this. He is saying to his son – 'who are you going to listen to in life? Who will you give your ear to?'

See, there are more characters that you could listen to. There are so many people in the world who want to tell us what to think, what to believe, what we should do. Sometimes they don't make it very obvious and you might not even realise they are trying to change your mind. Sometimes it is obvious though.

So the father tells his son about them. *[Father raises his ear]*. Let's meet one of them now.

[Ask a boy to wear a hoodie. Put a hood on the hoodie – put it up]

The first character the Father warns his son about is the sinner. Well we are all sinners, even Christians are sinners, but by this he means someone who loves sin – someone who doesn't love God and doesn't care about what God has said. We might say this is anyone who is not a Christian.

What does the father want the son to do?

Read 1:10

In the first situation, the "hoodie sinner" wants the son to listen to him.

[Ask the Son to give the ear to the "Sinner"]



The Wisdom Lab Drama Script

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1

Props needed: Laboratory backdrop & equipment, white coats and other PPE for actors, bowl, vinegar bottle, baking soda, handheld laser pointer, Mint Mentos or similar, diet Coke or similar, monster mask

Stu: *[Talking to himself]* Just add a little bit of this and *[holds up vinegar bottle]*... oh hello there, my name is Stuart Dent, but you can call me Stu. Stu Dent – do you get it? That's funny because I'm the apprentice, a student here at the Wisdom Lab. Today I'm finishing my formula for 'Instant Wisdom'. If you have one drop of this, you will know the best thing to do in any situation. You will know how to live life well. Never again will you make a bad decision. Now what shall I use? All I need to add is some of this *[putting vinegar in the bowl]* and this *[putting baking soda in bowl]* *[You should now have a bowl that is frothing – practise in advance with different quantities for the right effect. You can add food colouring for extra effect]* Oh, I don't think it was supposed to do that. I must have done something wrong. You see, if only I was wise I would know what to do. I'll just have to try something else.

[Folly enters]

Folly: Hello Stuart.

Stu: Oh, hello Dr Folly.

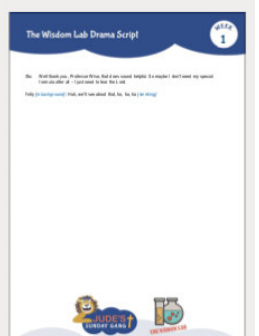
Folly: Please, just call me Polly. What are you doing? Making a mess by the looks of it. I've got a much better idea *[pulls up hoody, dons mask/sun glasses]* Why don't we go to the vending machine and see if we can use my laser cutter to help ourselves to a few cans of drink for free. This little thing can cut clean through glass *[show laser pointer]*.

Stu: I'm not sure that's a good idea.

Folly: You're right. Why waste our time on a vending machine when we could rob a jeweller's?

Stu: Well, I meant that I don't think stealing is a wise thing to do.

Folly: What's not wise about getting rich quick, hey? Think about it. If you have money, then you are happy. What's not smart about that? My inventions mean I can do just about whatever I want.



The Wisdom Lab Discussion Notes

WEEK
1

Open up your Bible at: Proverbs 1-9

We are learning today: Being wise by listening to God is the best and only way to live.

Discussion Questions

1. Who do you listen to (remember – that means to take notice and do what they say) and why?

Teacher

Celebrities

Parents

Friends

Bullies

2. Who are the different people trying to get the son in Proverbs to listen to them?

P _____ (1:8)

S _____ (1:10)

W _____ (1:20)

3. What happens if you ignore Wisdom and listen to sinners instead? (1:32)

4. Who else can we sometimes listen to instead of God? (3:5)

Your o ____ u _____

5. What is true wisdom and where does it come from? (1:7, see also 9:10)

The f ____ of the L ____ is the b _____
of k _____ (or wisdom)

6. What does it mean to 'fear the Lord'? (1:7)

7. Draw the other lines to see what happens if you listen to these voices

PREVIEW ONLY
PLEASE PURCHASE TO
REMOVE WATERMARK

The Lord

3:6

Destruction

Sinners

1:10, 18

Ruin

Wisdom

1:33, 32

Safety

My own

1:33

Success

understanding

Pray

Ask God to help us trust in him.



Take this sheet home with you so you can tell your family and friends about what you learned today. Remember, you can bring in your drawings, jokes, prayers and questions.



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Teacher

Celebrities

Parents

Friends

Bullies

2. Who are the different people trying to get the son in Proverbs to listen to them?

Parents (1:8)

Sinners (1:10)

Wisdom (1:20)

3. What happens if you ignore Wisdom and listen to sinners instead? (1:32) **God will not recognise us as his own people.**

4. Who else can we sometimes listen to instead of God? (3:5)

Your own understanding

5. What is true wisdom and where does it come from? (1:7, see also 9:10)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge (or wisdom)

6. What does it mean to 'fear the Lord'? (1:7)

Understanding that God is great and following his teaching

7. Draw the other lines to see what happens if you listen to these voices

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The Wisdom Lab Activity – Week 1



Here are some famous proverbs or sayings. Which ones are real, which ones are made up and which come from the Bible (ask a leader to help).

A stitch in time saves a hole in your pants

Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it (22:6)

Practice makes perfect

The best things in life are expensive

The early bird catches the cold

It's better to be safe than sorry

Give them an inch and they'll take a mile

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (9:10)

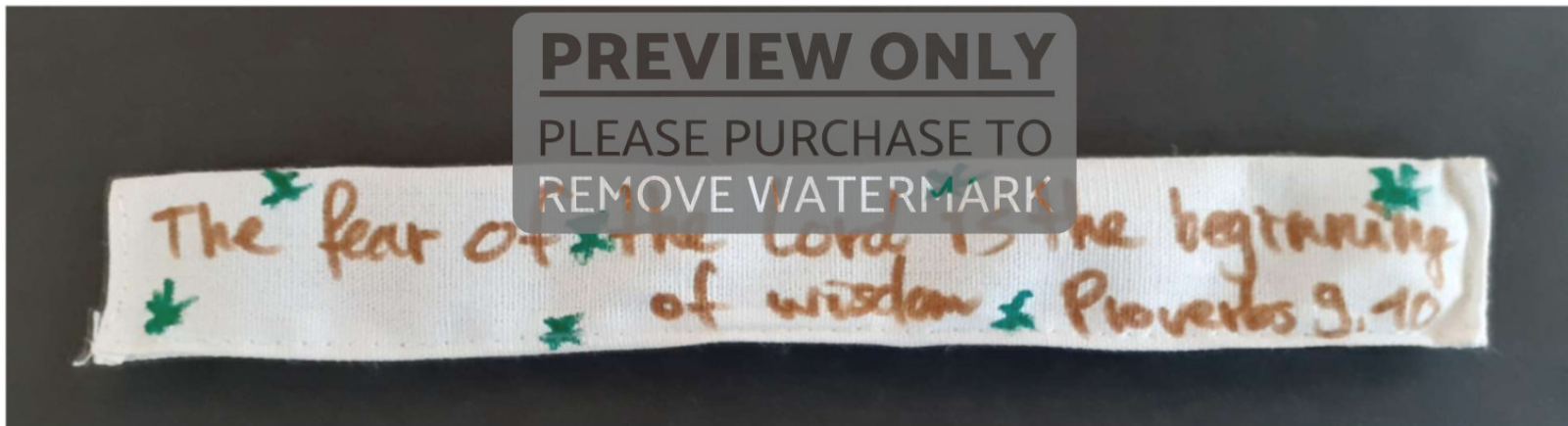
The proof of the pudding is in the custard

Pride comes before a fall (16:18)

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The Wisdom Lab - Memory Verse Bracelet

WEEK
1



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Who do you listen to?



WISDOM

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL
YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT
ON YOUR OWN
UNDERSTANDING;
IN ALL YOUR WAYS
ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE
WILL MAKE YOUR PATHS

Who do you listen to?



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The Wisdom Lab Parents Notes

WEEK
1

To discuss with your child

Today we've had a look at: Proverbs 1

We are learning today: Being wise by listening to God is the best and only way to live

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding: In all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight."

Proverbs 3:5-6

About the passage

If you had to make a big decision in life, where would you get your advice from? If you really did not know what to do and you needed help, you weren't sure what was the right thing to do, where would you turn?

Our series this term is called the Wisdom Lab because we are looking at 5 books of the Bible that are sometimes called 'the Wisdom literature' or books of wisdom. Taking a look at these books would be a good place to start to find out about Wisdom.

Knowing God, and putting him above all other things is the best way to live. Which makes sense, doesn't it? If you wanted to know how to work a microwave, you would look at the maker's instructions. And in a similar way, if you want to know how to live well, you should look at the creator's instructions. God created life, he made the world. Of course, he would know the best way to live.

Questions

To answer the questions, you could open the Bible with your children.

What is true wisdom and where does it come from? (Proverbs 1:7, see also 9:10)

What happens if you ignore Wisdom and listen to sinners instead? (Proverbs 1:32)

What does it mean to 'fear the Lord'? (Proverbs 1:7)

PRAY that God helps you to trust in him.

