

Year 4

God is Wise 4 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- The definition of wisdom: “Wisdom is to know the right thing to do, and to do it.”
- That God expects us to care for our planet.
- That we can ask God for wisdom, rather than just relying on our own good ideas.
- That the wisest choice in life is to put God at the centre of our life.
- That wisdom is about making wise choices.

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Safe and healthy

Link between “God is Wise” and classroom topics:

Our response to God’s wisdom is to show wisdom ourselves. Following hygiene and safety rules is an example of wisdom.

Values:

responsibility, fairness and respect for truth and justice; lifelong learning, goodness, discernment, humility

God is Wise

Week 1

Choose to care for our planet

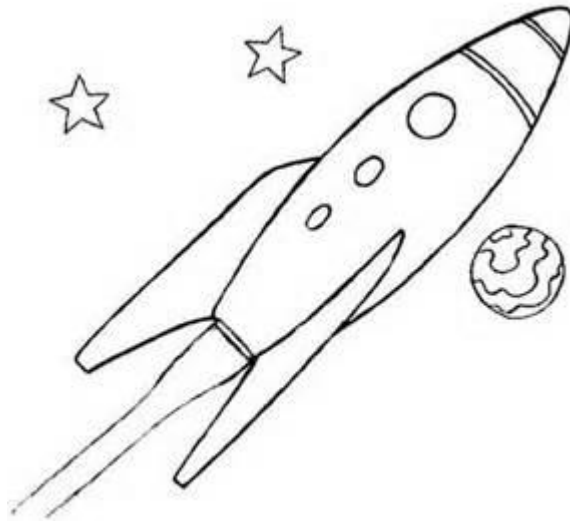
Bible references

Psalm 24:1-2 The earth is the Lord's and all that is within it.

Psalm 50:10-12 Every animal in the forest is mine and the cattle on a thousand hills.

Introduction: Our world is like a spaceship

Ask the children if they have ever seen a picture of a spaceship. Draw one for them:



In 1962 a book was written by Mr. Buckminster Fuller called "Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth". This was not a book about spaceships, but a book that explained that the Earth is like a spaceship flying through space. The spaceship has only a certain amount of resources and cannot be resupplied once the resources run out.

This is what he wrote: "Many people these days wonder what it is like to be on a spaceship. They don't realise that they are on a spaceship. Humans have been on a spaceship all this time. It is a tiny little spaceship, only 8,000 miles in diameter (across). It is also a lonely little spaceship. The nearest star is 92 million miles away, so far away that it takes two and a half years for its light to come to us. And yet this tiny spaceship is so wonderfully designed that it provides everything people need for their journey through space."

Discussion

What would it be like to travel on a spaceship?

What would we need to take with us?

Why would we have to use everything very careful and not waste anything?

How would we store our rubbish?

Who designed our earth spaceship?

What are some of the things the designer provided for our journey through space?

Bible lesson: The earth is the Lord's

Read Psalm 24:1-2

Who does the earth belong to?

Who do all the earth's resources belong to?

Who are the caretakers of the earth?

Who do the people of the earth belong to?

Why does this Psalm say that the earth was founded upon the waters? (Genesis 1:2)

Read Psalm 50:10-12

Who owns the animals?

Who owns the world and everything in it?

How can we be wise in the way we use the following:

Water

Food packaging and plastic bags

Electricity

Glass

Metal

People who didn't care for God's world and God's people

Make a copy the following scenarios and cut them up. Divide the class into eight groups.

Give each group one scenario. Ask the group to act out the scene using mime. Each group is to choose a leader as well as one person who will explain to the class what is happening.

Scenario 1

A family went to Suva point for a picnic. They finished eating and swimming and left their lunch papers, plastic bags and empty drink cans and glass bottles lying on the beach. The tide came up and carried the rubbish out to sea. Next weekend they went to the beach at Deuba. Lying on the beach they found rubbish washed up by the tide. The sea had broken a bottle on the rocks and buried the glass just under the sand. One of the children stepped on the glass, cut his foot badly, and had to go to Navua Hospital to have stitches and a tetanus injection. The wound hurt very badly. The family was sorry they hadn't carefully put their rubbish into the bin.

Scenario 2

A passenger threw a glass drink bottle out of a bus window. It hit the windscreen of the car following, and the glass from the bottle cut people.

Scenario 3

A child threw a glass bottle out of a car window. It smashed on the road, cut someone's car tyre and their vehicle went out of control. It was a bad accident and the mother of the family died.

Scenario 4

A family went to the beach for a picnic. They put all their rubbish in a plastic bag and threw it all, including the plastic bag, into the sea. A beautiful dolphin saw the plastic bag floating way out to sea and thought it was a jelly fish. It swallowed the plastic bag and died a very slow, painful death.

Scenario 5

A bus company didn't fix their bus properly, and as it went up the hill it blew huge clouds of black smoke out of the exhaust pipe. The smoke drifted into homes of the people living on each side of the road, and soon a little child was sick with asthma.

Scenario 6

A sugar mill was not careful and let a lot of waste material spill into the river. Soon all the fish were dead and people couldn't gather and eat shellfish from the river.

Scenario 7

A ship in the harbour pumped oily waste into the harbour, and people fishing along the sea wall got sick when they ate the fish they caught.

Scenario 8

Some families didn't pack their rubbish carefully into plastic bags, and dogs came and pulled the rubbish all over the footpath. The children had to step over the rubbish to go to school. Mosquitoes were attracted to the rubbish and some children caught dengue fever.

God is Wise

Week 2

Ask God for wisdom.

Don't rely on your own good ideas.

Bible references

Proverbs 3:5-8 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and don't rely on your own understanding.

James 1:5 Ask God for wisdom.

Proverbs 2:6-10 Only the Lord gives true wisdom.

1 Corinthians 3:18-19 The wisdom of this world is foolishness to God.

Genesis 6-8 Noah relied on God's wisdom for the construction of the ark.

Genesis 6:2 Noah did everything just as God commanded.

Genesis 11 The people of Babel depended on their own wisdom.

Introduction

Ask the children for examples of people who are very wise.

Ask them if they think a scientist is wise.

Conduct a scientific experiment. Ask students to try to explain how the experiment works, e.g. make a paper plane and fly it in the air; use a magnet to pick up some pins.

Discussion

Scientists have to be wise to understand scientific principles. How wise is a scientist compared to God? Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-19

Sometimes we confuse being 'wise' with being 'clever'. A scientist or an inventor can be very clever, but they may not be wise. Wisdom is making the best choices in life. The best choice anyone can make is to listen to God.

Because God is the source of all wisdom, it is important that we ask Him for wisdom in all we do. Being clever without God is not being wise at all. The wisest thing we can do is to ask God to be in charge of our life.

Bible lesson: Noah listened to God, but the people of Babel did not.

In the early days of the history of the world, the people that God created decided that they did not want to listen to God. They were involved in all kinds of evil. There was only one family who loved and served God. That was Noah's family. Because Noah listened to God, God was able to give him instructions on a rescue plan for his family and the animals of the world.

Was the building of the ark Noah's idea or God's?

What might have happened if Noah refused to listen to God's instructions?

What if he decided to build it his own way?

About 150 years after the Great Flood, all the people of the world lived in the Middle East. They all spoke the same language. You would think that they would have learned never to go

away from God because they knew about God's judgement of sin at the event of the Great Flood. But once again the people of the world decided that they didn't need God. They wanted to do their own thing. They were filled with pride. They thought more of themselves than of God. And so they wanted to build a tower.

"Let us make a name for ourselves," they said.

They began to work very hard. They made bricks and mortar. Little by little the tower began to grow higher and higher into the sky.

But God saw what they were doing. God knew that the people were building the tower because they wanted to do without God. He knew that they wanted to be strong for themselves. They did not want to listen to God. They did not want to obey Him.

God said, "The people are all one group and they all speak the same language. If I do not stop them they will become wicked."

So God stopped the people from building their tower. He did this by changing their language. Instead of one language, there were many languages. They could not understand each other. They could not go on with their tower, so the building of the tower was stopped.

Soon the people who spoke one language went together to one place, and the people who spoke another language went to another place. After a while the people were scattered all over the earth. The people called their unfinished tower, the Tower of Babel because Babel means 'noise' or 'confusion'. When God changed the languages there was truly babble or a confusion of languages. Today, people from different countries still speak different languages.

Discussion

How do we know that Noah was wise?

How do we know that the people who built the tower were not wise?

When did all the people of the earth have the same language?

Why did God change the language?

God is Wise

Week 3

The wisest choice

Jesus at the centre of our life

Bible references

Matthew 16:26 Will a person gain anything if he wins the whole world but loses his life?

Psalm 16:7-8 The importance of allowing God to guide us.

Proverbs 9:10-12; Proverbs 10:13, 14 & 19 Wisdom in speech.

Proverbs 14:16-17 Wisdom in actions.

Proverbs 8:11 Wisdom is better than riches.

Matthew 19:16-29 The rich young ruler's choice.

Introduction

Enlarge the drawings below, or refer to the student work books. Discuss the drawings with the class. How do we put God at the centre of our lives? What might happen if we put self at the centre of our lives?

Bible lesson: The Rich Young Ruler

Read the story from Matthew 19:16-29.

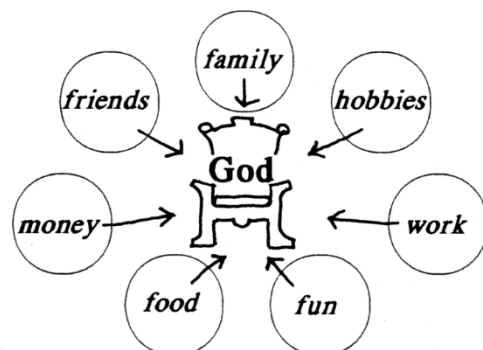
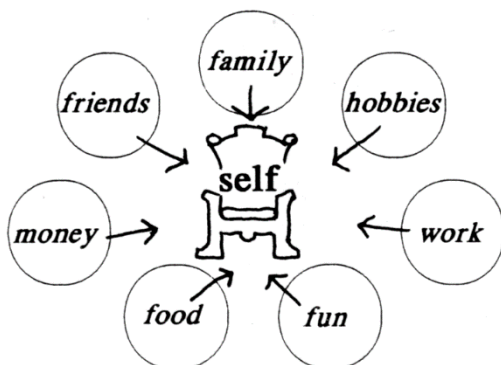
What was the choice?

Did Jesus mean that everyone has to sell all they own to become a Christian?

Why did Jesus say this to the rich young ruler?

Discussion

Discuss the meaning of these pictures.



God is Wise

Week 4

Choose who you will serve

Bible references

Joshua 24:14-16 A choice between the true God and false gods.

Matt 7:24-27 A choice between building your life on the rock or the sand.

Bible lesson

The true God or false gods? Joshua Speaks to the People at Shechem

God chose Moses as a great leader who would lead the people of Israel to their new land. But Moses died just before entering the land and it was Joshua who led the people into the land and was their leader for many years after that. As an old man, just before his death, Joshua gathered the people together at a place called Shechem, for one final message from God. Joshua knew that God was holy and that He had warned the people many times about worshipping false gods. This was Joshua's message to the people:

"This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, has to say:

You lived in the desert a long time. Then I brought you to the land of your enemies, who lived on the east side of the Jordan. They fought you, but I gave you victory over them. Now you are living in a land where there is plenty to eat."

"Now then," Joshua continued, "honour the LORD and serve him sincerely and faithfully. Get rid of the gods which your ancestors used to worship in Mesopotamia and in Egypt, and serve only the LORD. If you are not willing to serve him, decide today whom you will serve, the gods your ancestors worshiped in Mesopotamia and Egypt or the God of Israel. As for my family and me, we will serve the LORD."

The people replied, "We would never leave the Lord to serve other gods!

Joshua said to the people, "If you leave Him to serve foreign gods, He will turn against you and punish you. He will destroy you, even though he was good to you before."

The people said to Joshua, "No! We will serve the Lord."

"You have made a promise to God," said Joshua. "I will write God's commands on this stone. This stone will be your reminder never to worship other gods."

Then Joshua sent the people away, and everyone returned to their own part of the land.

Discussion

What was the choice?

Why do you think the people of Israel in the past wanted to worship the gods of Mesopotamia and Egypt?

Why is it so important to God that we worship only Him?

Some people may not actually worship carved gods, but they may worship things like sport or possessions. How can these things become false gods?

The decision to throw away false gods was a life-time decision. What is the greatest life-time decision people can make today?

When we decide to have Jesus at the centre of our life, we have a source of wisdom for all of life's decisions. How does God help us make important decisions in life?

What important decisions may we have to make in the future?

How do we know when God is telling us something?

It is wise to do what Jesus tells us to do

Read Matt 7:24-27

Verse 26 tells us about the foolish man whose house fell down.

Why did his house fall down?

How can people be like the foolish man? (Some children may say 'because they don't follow Jesus'. That is true but a better answer is 'because they hear the words of Jesus and do not obey them.')