

Year 1

God is Wise 4 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- Wisdom is doing the right thing
- To be wise is to obey what is true and right
- To obey God is to do what God tells us to do
- We find out what God wants us to do by reading His Word, the Bible

For the teacher: Wisdom is “the ability to judge correctly and to follow the best course of action, based on knowledge and understanding”.

A good definition for the children to learn: “Wisdom is knowing the right thing to do, and doing it.”

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Healthy food choices

Link between “God is Wise” and classroom topics:

Students will be encouraged to make wise choices, including healthy food choices.

Values:

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

God is Wise

Week 1

It is wise to obey God

Bible References

Exodus 20:1-17 The Ten Commandments: Worship no god but me; do not misuse my name; keep one day for the worship of me; love your father and mother; do not kill or steal; do not lie; do not want things that belong to others.

Proverbs 3:5-7 Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Obey the Lord and stay away from all that is wrong.

Mark 12:30-31 The Greatest Commandment: love the Lord your God with all your heartand love other people as much as you love yourself.

Bible Lesson: God gives rules to His people

In Bible times, before the birth of Jesus, God chose special people to be leaders of the people of Israel. One of these leaders was Moses. The people of Israel were travelling. They carried all their belongings with them including their tents.

At one time they were staying in tents near a mountain when something very special happened. Moses heard God speaking to Him.

God told Moses: "Go up to the top of the mountain. I want to tell you something important."

Moses went up the mountain. The mountain shook and a big cloud came over the mountain top. There was thunder and lightning. God was there on the mountaintop.

God talked to Moses. He said, "I am going to give you some special rules for the people of Israel. I want you to remember these rules. Here are the rules:

1. Do not worship any other gods. Only worship the true God, the God of Israel.
2. Do not make a god out of wood, metal or any other material.
3. Do not swear.
4. Keep one day of the week especially for God.
5. Love Mum and Dad.
6. Do not kill.
7. Love the person you marry.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not lie.
10. Do not want the things that belong to other people.



God wrote the rules on two flat pieces of stone. Moses carried the pieces of stone down the mountain and told the people what God had said.

Discussion

What does it mean when Mum and Dad ask you to **obey** them?

Obeying, or being obedient, means that we do what they say.

What are some of the things that your Mum and Dad ask you to do?

Do you sometimes say, "Not now...later!" That is not really obeying.

Sometimes Mum or Dad ask you **not** to do things. Can you think of some?

Your parents ask you to do, or not to do certain things because they love you and know what is best for you. They also know much more than you do.

The Bible says that children should obey their parents. God is our Heavenly Father and we should obey Him too. He knows much, much more than any person in the whole world. He is so big and great, and knows what is best for us too.

God tells us what He wants us to do in a special book. Do you know what the book is called?

(Show and discuss various Bibles, including children's story Bibles. Ask whether children know any stories in the Bible.)

The Bible says we should "love God with all our heart". What do you think this means? It also says we should love other people. That means being kind to everyone. The Bible also tells us about some special rules called the Ten Commandments. These are the rules given to Moses, and the rules that Christians still follow today.

Obeying God is doing what is right. We do the right thing when we obey Mum and Dad.

Game: Traffic lights

(This game shows the meaning and importance of obeying laws)

When we drive a car or walk across a road, there are certain rules we must obey. Do you know how to obey traffic lights?

red.....stop

yellow.....wait

green.....go

In this game there is a certain position for each coloured light.

R.....Y.....G

When the game leader says 'red', everyone lines up in the RED position. The leader calls another colour and the players move to line up in the new position. Anyone moving in the wrong direction is out.

Alternative game: Simon says

Teacher says for example, "Simon says hands on heads." But sometimes the teacher will say just "hands on heads". Children must only obey the actions when Simon says. Otherwise they are out.

Activity

Draw some ways in which we can obey God and our parents.

OR

Make a book, by folding a page into four. Use the following outline: *(Child draws a picture for each idea.)*

- **It is wise to obey God and to love other people.**
- **It is wise not to want everything we see.**
- **The Bible tells us to love God and not to steal, kill or tell lies,**
- **and to obey Mum and Dad.**

God is Wise

Week 2

Obeying God keeps us safe.

Bible References

Jonah 1:1-3 The Lord spoke to Jonah and said "Go to the great city of Nineveh and speak against the people who are very wicked". Jonah, however, set off in the opposite direction.

Colossians 3:20 Children obey your parents.

1 Peter 1:14 Be obedient to God

Deuteronomy 11:22 Obey faithfully all the laws that I have given you.

Bible Lesson: Jonah and the Whale

God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. God said, "Tell the people about their sin."

Jonah said, "I do not want to go."

Jonah did not obey God. He went to get on a ship.

The ship went out to sea. There was a big storm. The ship went up and down. Jonah fell out of the ship. He fell into the sea. A big whale came.

Jonah was inside the whale.

"Help, God. Help me," said Jonah.

Jonah was inside the whale for three days. Then Jonah came out of the whale. He landed on the sand.

"I am glad I am out of that whale," said Jonah. "I wish that I had obeyed God. It is wise to obey God. I will go to Nineveh. I will tell the people about their sin."



Story: The Spider's Web

This is a made-up story about a beetle. It shows the foolishness of disobeying those who love and care for us.

Belinda Beetle belonged to a very large family. Like all beetles, she had four wings: two underwings for flying, and two upper ones for covering and protecting the special flying wings. Right down her back was a straight line where the two wings met. Belinda was a shiny beetle with six long legs and two feelers. She was very proud of her beautiful colours...so beautiful that she could almost have been used as a decoration on a Christmas tree.

Belinda would spend most of her day climbing trees and munching on the juicy green leaves. Sometimes she would see beautiful spiders' webs shining in the sunshine. "How I would love to touch a beautiful spider's web," she thought, but knew she mustn't, as her father and mother had told her NEVER, NEVER TO GO NEAR SPIDERS' WEBS.

"A spider's web is very sticky," they would say. "If you touch it you will get caught in it and not be able to get out again."

Belinda was a very curious little beetle. She was so curious that one day she just couldn't resist going near a spider's web. "If I'm very, very careful," she thought, "I'm sure I could touch the web without getting caught."

Belinda reached out one of her six long legs. She touched the web, then quickly tried to pull back again. She pulled and pulled, but she only became more entangled in the web. There she was, stuck in the beautiful shiny spider's web. Now Belinda knew why her mother and father told her to NEVER, NEVER GO NEAR SPIDERS' WEBS....and now she knew that she should have obeyed.

Who should we obey? (*God, parents, teachers*)

Who should we not obey? (*Strangers, people who ask us to do wrong things, Satan.*)

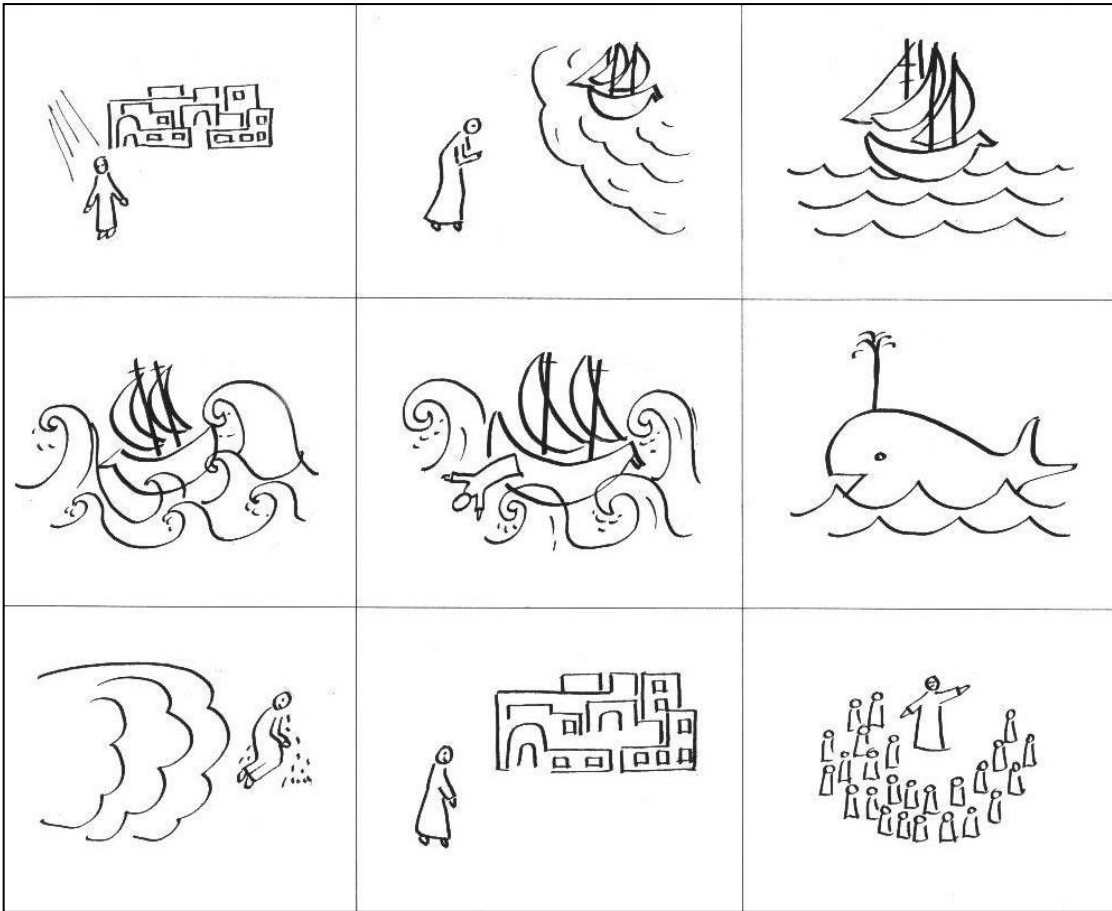
How should we obey? (*Quickly, cheerfully, without arguing*)

Why should we obey? (*God asks us to. He knows best*)

Activity: Picture sequencing.

Use the following pictures as a jigsaw activity. The pictures are in the right sequence but you can cut up the squares and jumble them. Then ask the children to put them in the correct sequence.

Ask the children to work in pairs. They can take it in turns to say what's happening in each picture.



God is Wise

Week 3

Learning to obey

Bible reference

Genesis 3

Bible Lesson: Something bad, Something sad

Earlier this term we learned in the Creation story that Adam and Eve were the first human beings. Adam was Eve's husband. Eve was Adam's wife. They had a good home called the Garden of Eden. They had good food. They had many good things. And they were never sad. But there was one thing they could not have.

"You must not eat the food on that tree," God said.

For a time, Adam and Eve did not eat from it.

Then Satan, (the snake), talked to Eve one day.

"It is good," he said. "You should eat some."

Eve knew that God did not want her to eat from that tree. But the food looked good.

And Satan said that it was good. So Eve ate some.

Adam ate some too. Then Adam and Eve knew they had done something bad. They tried to hide from God, but we can never hide from God. God was sad.

"You ate the food I told you not to eat," God said.

"Now you must go away from this garden. Things will not be the same from now on. You will no longer walk and talk with me in the garden as my special friends. There will be thorns, weeds and poisonous plants. Animals will kill one another. There will be sickness and sadness. But one day I will send my Son to the earth who will be able to put things right. Everyone who believes in my Son, will be my special friend once again.

Discussion

Ask the children whether they have ever done things they should not do. How did God feel when they did those things?

What did Adam and Eve do that made God sad?

Why should we try to please God in all things we do?

We know something is bad when:

- It makes others sad
- God says in the Bible it is bad
- Our parent, our teachers, our Sunday School teachers say it is bad
- When you know inside that you should not do it.

Does God still love us when we do wrong things?

There was once a boy who played ball in the house, even though his mother had told him not to. One day his ball bounced into a lamp – crash! The lamp broke.

He tried to hide what he had done. But soon his mother found out.

“I told you not to bounce the ball in the house!” said his mother. “I will have to punish you for this. You will not be able to play with your friends tomorrow but you will stay inside and do jobs instead.”

The little boy cried. His mother wiped his tears and told him that she still loved him, even though he had done something wrong.

God still loves us when we do wrong things, but he wants us to say sorry to him and next time, to do the right thing.

God is Wise

Week 4

Saying 'no' when I am tempted

Bible Reference

Luke 4:1-13 Jesus, when tempted by Satan, obeyed God.

Revise the definition of "Wise": Knowing the right thing to do, and doing it.

Bible Lesson: Jesus is tempted by Satan

As a boy, Jesus was always a good helper to His parents, Mary and Joseph, but He also knew that He must learn what God wanted Him to do. That's why He went to the temple to learn from the Bible. When Jesus grew up to be a man He still obeyed God. One day He went for a long walk in the desert. He stayed there many days. *(Use pictures of rocky terrain or desert.)* He did not take food with Him and had no one to talk to. He just wanted to be alone with God.

The bad angel, Satan, was there in the desert too. You cannot see this bad angel, but you can see the things that he does. He makes people do evil things. Satan thought that this would be a good time to make Jesus do something wrong. Satan talked to Jesus.

"Why don't you listen to me?" he said. "You could do some fantastic tricks like jumping off those rocks. Everyone would think how great you are if you jump off those rocks and don't hurt yourself."

Jesus knew that this was not what God wanted Him to do. Jesus didn't need to jump off rocks to make people think he was important. Jesus must do only the things that *God* told Him to do. God was His Heavenly Father and He must obey Him only.

"Get away from me Satan," said Jesus. He said "*no*" to Satan, and after a while Satan left Him.

Sometimes Satan speaks to us as well. He doesn't speak in a loud voice. He only speaks through our thoughts. Perhaps he might make us think about being unkind to someone, or telling a lie. When we have those bad thoughts, we must say 'no' to Satan, just as Jesus did.

A light is something that everyone can see. You can be a light for Jesus by doing what is right.



Activity

Ask the children if they have candles in their house.

Sometimes we use candles for special occasions like birthdays.

What happens when you light a candle in the darkness?

Jesus said that people who love God are like lights, brightening up a dark world.

Ask the children to draw a picture of a lighted candle. They can write their name on the picture:

