

God is Wise

(4 weeks)



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- The definition of wisdom
- That Jesus grew in wisdom as a young boy
- That as they grow and change, they can develop an understanding of God and His ways
- That the greatest source of wisdom is God and the Bible
- That there are physical, emotional and social changes from birth to old age
- That we can rely on God's wisdom for dealing with difficult challenges in life
- That we can become wise through listening to wise people

Related topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Hygiene and safety; safety in the home

Link between "God is Protector" and the topics:

Students will be encouraged to think about the way in which they can become wise as they grow up. (Jesus grew in wisdom because he listened to wise people.) Wisdom in caring for our bodies: Healthy food, safety and personal hygiene.

Values:

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

God is Wise

Week 1

Growing in wisdom

Bible references:

Luke 2:41 – 52 The boy Jesus visits the temple in Jerusalem

Luke 2:40 and Luke 2:52 Jesus grew in stature and in wisdom.

Introduction

For the next four weeks we are going to be talking about 'growing up'.

What do you like best about being the age you are?

What can you do now that you couldn't do when you were younger?

What will you be able to do when you are older?

Let's see what the Bible says about Jesus as a little boy.

Bible lesson: The boy Jesus

We know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph.

How long ago was He born?

We also remember how the angels told the shepherds that this baby Jesus was no ordinary baby but He would grow up to be the Saviour of the world. Eight days after He was born his parents took him to the temple in Jerusalem to present Him to God. There was a man called Simeon who loved and served God in the temple. He took baby Jesus in his arms and God gave him a special message, that this baby would be a light to the world.

Mary kept all these things in her heart and watched the boy Jesus grow. The bible says that as Jesus grew in his body, He also grew in wisdom.

What is wisdom?

Wisdom is 'knowing the right thing to do, and doing it'.

Although Jesus was God's son, as a boy He lived like a normal boy, helping his parents and playing with his brothers and sisters. Because He was growing in wisdom he knew and did what was right.

When Jesus was six years old He went to school. In Israel, the country where Jesus lived, only boys went to school in those days. The girls were taught at home by their mothers. The school was in the temple, which was like a church. They learned to read from the Old Testament part of the Bible. The boys sat on the floor. There were no chairs, tables, pencils or blackboards. The Bible was not in the form of a book, but it was written in handwriting on rolled up paper called a scroll.

The teacher was called a Rabbi. He would open the scroll and read a few words, then the boys would repeat after him.

When Jesus was a little boy, Mary and Joseph left Bethlehem where Jesus was born, and moved to the town of Nazareth. When Jesus was 12 years old Mary and Joseph travelled with their family to the temple in Jerusalem. It was a long journey. They had to walk, and their animals carried their food and blankets.

They arrived in Jerusalem and found that it was very crowded. Jesus could easily get lost in the crowd. But he didn't get lost. He went to the temple to hear the teachers teach from Scripture. He was so interested in what the teachers were saying that he didn't realize how much time had passed.

Now Mary and Joseph were ready to go home, but they couldn't find Jesus. They were worried. Was Jesus lost?

For three days they looked for Jesus. At last they found Him. He was in the temple. He was listening to the wise teachers and asking them questions.

"We have been so worried about you," said Mary.

"Didn't you know that I would be in my Father's house?" said Jesus.
Jesus knew that God was His Heavenly Father.

Although Jesus would love to have stayed longer, He obeyed Mary and Joseph and went home with them. God blessed Jesus and He grew wise and strong.



Discussion

- How do we know what is the right thing to do?
- If we are wise we will obey God by doing what He tells us in the Bible.
- What did Bibles look like in the days of Jesus? (Roll up a piece of paper to make a scroll.)
- What did the church building look like then? (The temple)
- Jesus knew that to obey His Heavenly Father, He needed to learn about the Bible. What are some of the things that the Bible tells us?

Activities

- a) List the requirements for physical growth – healthy food, water, air, sleep, exercise.
- b) List requirements for growing in wisdom.

Make a scroll and write the Bible verse: Jesus grew in body and wisdom, and was loved by God and man.” Luke 2:52

God is Wise

Week 2

Follow God's instructions

Bible references:

Matt 7:24-27 House on the rock

1 Peter 2:2 As new-born babies need milk, we need God's word as our spiritual food.

Psalm 119:105 God's word is a lamp to our feet.

Introduction

We have been learning about Jesus as a boy. The Bible tells us that as Jesus grew strong and healthy in his body, he also grew in wisdom. He grew to understand more and more about God. He knew what God wanted Him to do and He obeyed God.

Bible lesson: Build your life on the rock

How do we know what God wants us to do?

Many people think that being wise is being clever. But if you are clever and do not know what God wants you to do, you are not wise. To be wise you must listen to God and follow His instructions.

Where do we find God's instructions?

We find them in the Bible. The Bible, God's word, is like God's instruction book for life. People who live their life by following Jesus are the wisest people.

The Bible tells us that if we want to grow in knowing God, then we must read the Bible. We need it just like new born babies need milk to grow.

The Bible will show us what to do in life. Psalm 119:105 says, "God's word is a lamp to our feet."

Here is a story that Jesus told. It's about being wise:

The wise and foolish builders

Jesus said, "Once there were two men who built houses for themselves. The first man was wise. He chose a good place on solid rock. Although it was harder to build on rock, the man knew it was worth the extra work. Before long, there was a terrific storm. The wind blew furiously and the rain teemed down. Soon there was a great flood, but the house did not fall for it was built on rock.

The other man was foolish for he chose an easy place on low, sandy ground. His house did not have a solid foundation. When the storm and floods came, it fell down with a loud crash.

Jesus then said this to the people who were listening to the story: "Everyone who comes and listens to me, and obeys me, is like a wise man who built on a strong foundation."

Discussion

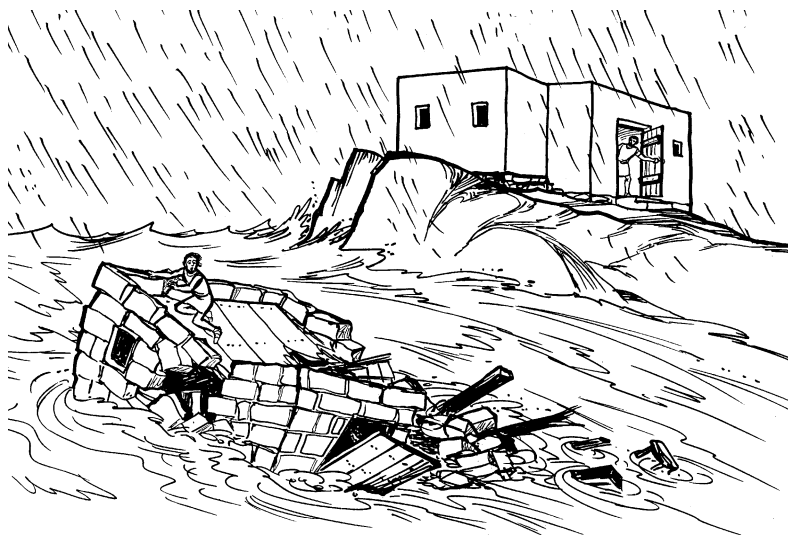
We can know a lot about Jesus, but we are not wise unless we do what He says to do. Jesus wants to live in our hearts and lives. Then our lives will be built like the house on the rock.

Because God is wiser than anyone, He always knows what to do. If you have invited Jesus to live in your life, then He will help you when you don't know what to do. Maybe you have a really big problem that you don't know how to solve. Jesus can help you.

Think of times when Jesus can help you. What must you do if you want Him to help you?

Art/Craft

- Make a poster: "Be wise! Build your life on Jesus".
- Draw the two houses described in Matthew 7:24-27.



God is Wise

Week 3

God always knows what to do.

When we don't know the answer to a problem, ask God to give us His wisdom.

Bible references

Daniel 2 Daniel explains the king's dream.

Daniel 5 Daniel explains the writing on the wall..." (Mene Mene Tekel Parsin means Numbered, numbered, weighed, divided – your days as king are numbered. Your actions have been weighed up. Your kingdom will be divided and given to others.)

James 1:5 Ask God for wisdom.

Introduction

Define the meanings of 'wise' and 'wisdom'.

Wisdom is 'knowing the right thing to do, and doing it'.

Think of things that are very difficult for a young child to understand, but easy for an older child.

As we grow older, we can understand many more things. However, no one has ever been, or will ever be, as wise as God. If we need wisdom, we can ask God to give it to us. This is what the Bible tells us to do in James 1:5.

What would you do in these situations?

1. You are lost in a big department store. You don't know what to do.
2. You borrowed a toy that belongs to your best friend. You have broken it and don't know what to do.
3. You have just moved to a new place. The children in your new school are not very friendly. You don't know how to make friends.

Story: Daniel explains the king's dream

This is a true story about a man who needed God's wisdom in two different situations. He didn't know the answer himself so he asked God for wisdom. The man's name was Daniel and his story is found in the Bible.

In the land of Babylon lived a King called Nebuchadnezzar. He was not a good king. He did not worship the true God. He had captured some of God's people to work for him in the palace. One young man was Daniel.

Daniel was a good man who loved God. Sometimes the king would worship statues, and he asked others in his kingdom to do the same. But Daniel would never worship a false god. God was pleased with Daniel and gave him wisdom. Daniel became wiser than all the other men in the kingdom.

One day the king had a dream. He was very troubled because he didn't know the meaning of the dream. He asked the wise men, but they didn't know. Then he asked Daniel.

"If you can tell me what the dream means," said the king, "I will reward you."

"I can't tell you what the dream means," said Daniel, "but God can. I will ask Him."

Daniel asked God to tell him the meaning of the dream. God told Daniel that the dream was about Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom which would one day be great. Daniel told this to the king, and the king was very pleased. He gave Daniel many gifts and gave him an important position in the kingdom. The king made it known that Daniel was the wisest man in the kingdom.

Some years later, Nebuchadnezzar died and his son Belshazzar became king. Like his father, the new king did not worship the true God. King Belshazzar did something that greatly displeased God. He took the gold and silver cups that had been stolen from God's temple and used them at a special feast. During the feast the people worshipped statues of silver, wood and stone.

God was so angry with King Belshazzar that He sent Him a special message. This is what happened. While the people were eating and drinking, a hand appeared. It wrote a message on the wall. God made the hand appear and God wrote the message. The message was in a language that no one could understand. All the people at the feast were afraid. The king was especially afraid. He sent for Daniel.

"What does this message mean?" King Belshazzar asked Daniel. Daniel asked God to give him wisdom once again.

"You have forgotten the true God, O king," said Daniel. "You have been drinking from cups stolen from the temple, and you have been worshipping statues. The Lord is angry with you. Your kingdom will be given over to another king."

Everything happened just as Daniel said. That night King Belshazzar died and a new king took his place.

Discussion

Were the two kings very wise?

How was Daniel able to explain the king's dream and the writing on the wall?

Why was Daniel such a wise person?

What must we do if we want God's wisdom?

Activity 1

Here are some wise sayings from the Bible, written by a wise king called Solomon.

1. If you want people to like you, forgive them when they do wrong things to you. (Proverbs 17:9)

Questions: What does 'forgive' mean? When should we forgive people?

2. Good people think before they answer. (Proverbs 15:28)

Question: What might happen if you don't think before you speak?

3. Always obey the Lord and you will be happy. (Proverbs 28:14)

Question: What is the best way to be happy?

Activity 2

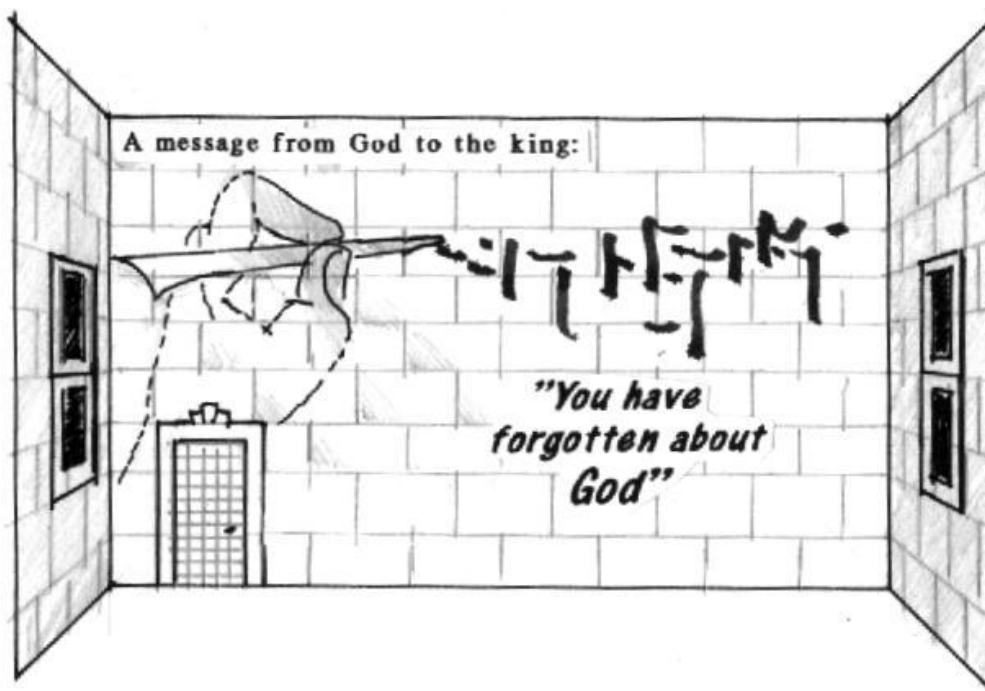
Fill in the gaps with a, e, i, o, u, to make this message from James 1:5.

_sk G_d f_r w_sd_m.

Art/Craft

Daniel explains the king's dream

Cut up a large cardboard box so that 3 sides remain. Create a wall using crayons or paint.



God is Wise

Week 4

Learn from people who are wise

If we want to be wise we must take time to listen and learn from others.

Bible references

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. (NLT)

James 1:5 If you lack wisdom, ask God for it.

The Gospels: The disciples learned from Jesus

Luke 10:38-42 Mary chose to listen and learn from Jesus

Discussion

Who do we ask for wise advice? (parents, grandparents, teachers, church and Sunday School friends)

Many parents and grandparents have stories to tell of the past. We can learn from older people because they have experience in life and can pass on their wisdom.

Ask the children for anything they have learned from their parents or grandparents?

Make a list of wise and unwise choices

1. You have \$20 to spend on food for the family meal
2. You have \$5 given to you for your birthday. What will you do with it?
3. You have been asked to do jobs for Mum on Saturday but your friends want you to play with them

Bible lesson

When Jesus was a boy, he listened from His parents and learned from them. Jesus worked in the carpenter's shop with his father Joseph, making things from wood. Joseph would have taught Jesus how to use the tools and how to make things. Joseph would have also given Jesus wise advice on many things.

If we want to be wise, then we have to be good listeners, and show by our actions that we have listened to good advice.

The best advice for life comes from the Bible. These are God's words.

Here are some good words of advice:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”

There were twelve friends of Jesus who were good listeners. They were the disciples. They travelled around with Jesus listening to Him teach about God, and watching Him perform miracles. The disciples would one day carry on the work of Jesus when He went back to heaven.

God wants us to do His work too. He wants us to learn from the Bible and tell others about Jesus.

There was a lady in the Bible who loved to learn about God. She was a good listener. Her name was Mary. She was not the mother of Jesus, but another lady named Mary. She had a sister called Martha. One day Jesus came to their house. Martha was very busy preparing the food and making sure that everything was just right. But Mary wanted to learn from Jesus. She sat down and listened to Jesus, and probably asked lots of questions, because she wanted to learn about God. Martha was not happy that Mary was not helping to prepare the food, but Jesus said that it was OK, because Mary had chosen to listen and learn. God wants us to listen and learn too, so that we can be wise followers, doing God's work.

Revision questions

What does wisdom mean?

Who is the wisest person in the universe?

Which people can we listen to for wise advice?

How can we become wise?