

Year 5

God is Wise 4 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God is wise
- God can speak to individuals and show us how to be wise
- Being clever is not the same as being wise
- True wisdom is finding out what God wants us to do
- It is wise to be prepared for the future

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 to know the right thing to do, and doing it.”

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Ants, bees and other community insects

Link between “God is Wise” and classroom topics:

God expresses His wisdom through His creation. Community insects show wisdom in organizing their communities, working together with purpose. Ants show wisdom in storing up food and preparing for the future. (Proverbs 6:6)

Values:

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

Biography: Peter Ambouofa

God is Wise

Week 1

Listening to God

Bible references

John 10:11-17 and 27-28 The Good Shepherd
1 Samuel 3 The boy Samuel hears God's voice

Introduction

Ask the students if they have ever listened to the radio.

There are many different voices on the radio, some are good and some are not so good. You have to tune in to the good voices, the ones that you want to hear. Sometimes, if the radio is not tuned in properly you hear static. What does static sound like? ...Just a big meaningless noise.

Bible lesson

We all want to hear from God, but a lot of the times we are actually listening to the wrong voices. There is so much noise in our life, and so much static that it is really hard to hear what God is trying to say to us. What do we need to do? We need to tune our lives to God and be quiet so we can actually hear Him.

Read the Good Shepherd passage. Ask:

Who are the sheep in the sheepfold? (Israel)

Who are the other sheep that are in another sheepfold? (Believers from other nations)

What is the shepherd willing to do for the sheep?

In John 10:27 it says that God's sheep know His voice. That means we are tuned to hear it. Just like sheep can know their shepherd's voice, we can learn God's voice. If a stranger comes up and tries to lead the sheep somewhere bad, do you think they will follow? No, because they know their shepherd's voice.

How do we tune in and start hearing God's voice? We learn God's voice by reading the Bible, memorizing and meditating on it. When God speaks to us it will usually be through His Word, and it will never go against what it says in the Bible. The more we learn about God's Word the more we learn to hear His voice. We can also hear God's voice through prayer. We can ask God to show us what He wants us to do, say or pray. God might speak to us through our thoughts. If that happens we can ask a wise person to pray with us about it. Whatever we think God is telling us to do must agree with what the Bible teaches.

God speaks to children

In the Old Testament we are told about the boy Samuel who didn't recognise God's voice when God was calling him. Samuel went to the wise old man Eli, who helped him understand that it actually was God speaking to him.

Samuel's mother was a woman named Hannah. She wanted a son more than anything, so she prayed and asked God to give her a son. She promised God that if He would give her a son, she would give him back to the LORD to serve Him all the days of the boy's life. God gave Hannah the son she asked for and she kept her promise to God. When the boy was old enough, she took him to the temple and presented him to Eli the priest. So Samuel served in the temple under Eli.

One night Samuel was sleeping when he heard someone call his name. He got up and ran to Eli. "Here I am; you called me," he said to Eli.

"I didn't call you," Eli answered, "go back to bed." So Samuel went back to bed.

Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" Samuel jumped out of bed and went to Eli. "Here I am; you called me."

"I didn't call you, go back to bed," Eli answered a second time.

A third time God called Samuel and Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am; you called me," he said.

Finally, Eli realized that it was God who was calling Samuel. He told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you again, say, 'Speak LORD, for your servant is listening.'"

Samuel went back to bed and sure enough, again he heard the voice of God calling, "Samuel! Samuel!" This time Samuel answered as Eli had told him, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Samuel knew that God was calling him to do God's work.

God knows your name just as he knew the name of Samuel and God still calls boys and girls today, saying, "Come, follow me." So, listen for God's call and answer just as Samuel did, "Here I am!"

Discussion

How do we hear from God?

What are the ways in which God can speak to us?

God is Wise

Week 2

Wise choices

Bible references

1 Kings 3:1-15 King Solomon asks for wisdom.

1 Kings 3:16-28 Solomon makes a wise decision.

Proverbs 4 The value of wisdom.

James 1:5 Ask God for wisdom.

Definition

What is wisdom?

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

Bible lesson

The Wisdom of Solomon

We have learned already this year about King David who was one of the kings of Israel in Old Testament times. His youngest son was called Solomon. The Lord chose Solomon to be the new king when David died.

It was Solomon's responsibility to organise the building of the Lord's house. It would be a special building where people could come together to worship God. When Solomon was crowned king, he promised that he would always keep the Lord's commandments. After he was crowned, Solomon and the people went up to a place called Gibeon, to give thanks to God. While they were there, God spoke to Solomon.

King Solomon was one of the Old Testament kings, the son of David. When it was time for him to become king he asked God to guide him in governing the people.

Read 1 Kings 3:4-14

What happened at Gibeon?

Solomon needed wisdom, because as king he had a lot of responsibility, and had to make a lot of decisions. He needed special wisdom in organizing the building of the temple. Solomon wrote many wise sayings. We can read them in a book called Proverbs.

There was a time when Solomon showed great wisdom in sorting out a quarrel between two women. The two women came to Solomon. One had a baby in her arms. The other woman wanted the baby. The woman without the baby started to explain, "I gave birth to a baby, and three days later, this woman had a baby also. But she lay on the baby while she was sleeping and the baby died. She came to my house and stole my baby. Now she says that the baby is hers."

"No!" cried the woman with the baby. "You are lying. The dead baby is yours and the living baby is mine."

How was Solomon to know who the real mother of the baby was? God gave him wisdom. "Bring me a sword," said Solomon. "I will divide the baby in two."
(Solomon didn't really intend to harm the baby, but the women thought he was serious.)

"No!" cried the woman without the baby. Let this woman have the baby! Don't kill him!"

King Solomon now knew who the real mother was.
"Give the baby to this woman," said the king. "She is the mother."

Soon all of Israel knew of Solomon's wisdom. God gave him wisdom because he chose God above everything else. He could have chosen to be the richest man in the world, but instead he chose to have the wisdom of God. Because Solomon asked for the very important gift of wisdom, God blessed him with it and continued to bless him as a successful and prosperous king.

Discussion

Why did Solomon need wisdom?

Why is it important to have wisdom?

How can we become wise?

Here are some ideas:

- Ask God for wisdom.
- Listen to what God has to say.
- Act responsibly, even when we don't feel like it.
- Listen to parents and others who are wiser than ourselves.

God is Wise

Week 3

Wise actions

Bible references:

Genesis 11:1-11 The tower of Babel

Matthew 7:24-29 The wise and foolish builders

Proverbs 3: 6-8 Do not be wise in your own eyes

The Tower of Babel

This is an account of a group of people who did not ask God for wisdom. They felt that they didn't need God. They wanted to do their own thing. Read the story from Genesis 11:1-11.

What action did God take when He saw the proud hearts of the people?

Read Proverbs 3:6-8. What does it mean to be 'wise in your own eyes'?

Compare this event in history to the building of Noah's Ark. 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?

The Wise and Foolish Builders

This is a story that Jesus told with a special message. It is called a parable.

Discussion

Ask the students if they have ever seen a house, a school or a church being built. Ask the students to share with you what they saw. Explain that before any good builder starts to build walls, put on a roof, make windows and doors, he first digs down until he hits rock, or very strong soil such as clay, and then lays the foundations. The strongest foundations are made of concrete. The builder uses steel rods and beams to reinforce the concrete foundations. They then put up the walls and nail down the floor and roof. When a hurricane or storm comes, houses that do not have a strong foundation may fall over. Jesus is saying that we must take time in life to learn to hear God's voice speaking to us. We can learn what God is saying through the Bible and through people who can teach us about God. This is building our lives on the right foundation. Listening to and copying the actions of those who are going the wrong way is like building our life on the sandy foundation. What are some unwise actions we should not follow? (smoking, drugs, stealing etc).

Sometimes the storms of life cause people to turn away from God. It could be sickness, losing a job, failing an exam, having an accident or facing the death of a loved one. Some people may get angry with God and say to God, "It's your fault that this happened!" Then they become bitter and angry not just with God, but with everyone. They feel sad and lock God out of their lives. But really, the bad things that happen in life are not God's fault at all. Bad things happen because people invited evil into the world, way back in the Garden of Eden. God has given His son Jesus to help us through the storms of life, and one day He will wipe away all sickness and sadness.

It's important to be prepared for the storms of life by having Jesus as a solid foundation. Do you think that the foolish builder really believed that the floods would come? He probably thought that building on the sand was easier anyhow.

Perhaps many people refuse to build their lives on Jesus, (the solid foundation), because they don't believe they will ever need Him. They think that it is easier to live a life doing exactly what they want to do, without having to give any time to God. We all have a choice: the sandy ground or the solid ground. The solid ground is the only wise choice.

God is Wise

Week 4

It is wise to be prepared

Be prepared for Jesus.

Bible references

Matthew 25:1-13 The ten girls and their lamps.

Revelation 3:20 Jesus knocks at the door of our heart.

Discussion

Think about ways in which children prepare for being an adult. Going to school is one way of preparing for the future. You learn things at school that will help you to get a job one day. When you finish school there is still more to learn. Nurses, builders, pilots, teachers and astronauts all need much preparation for their jobs.

Be Prepared

Astronauts must train on earth before they can go into space. They practice working underwater, because floating in water is like floating in space. They work, eat and drink inside a full-sized model of a spacecraft which is submerged in a huge water tank. They must also practice for lift-off and landing. A machine called a centrifuge spins the astronauts around very fast. Spinning gives them the same hard push they will feel when their spacecraft lifts off and zooms upward.

Astronauts need to be very fit. They prepare their bodies by intensive exercise programs. There is much to know about space travel and operating the spacecraft, so they spend a lot of time learning and studying.

For some astronauts, the experience of being in space causes them to think about the wonder of the creation. For one astronaut named Charles Duke, his time in space brought him closer to God than ever before. As he thought about the great God of the universe, he suddenly realised that he was not prepared to meet Him. Although he had spent so much time preparing for the space voyage, he had never given time to God. It was because of this voyage that Charles decided to give his life to Jesus.

Bible lesson: The ten girls and their lamps

This is a parable about some girls who were not prepared for the future. Read the story from Matthew 25:1-13. Five were prepared for the journey but five were not.

Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. We know this because the Bible often tells us about 'anointing' when speaking about the Holy Spirit. To anoint means to pour oil on to someone's head as a symbol that they are set apart for a special purpose. In Luke 4:18 Jesus said, "the Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor."

Jesus wants us to prepare our hearts for the future. We can prepare our mind by learning, and we can prepare our bodies by healthy eating and exercise, but there is only one way to prepare our heart. Find out about this from Revelation 3:20.

Five of the ten girls were not prepared for the future. Jesus told this story to show us that we must be prepared for the day when He comes again. We will be prepared if we have asked Jesus to forgive us for our sin and to be our special friend.