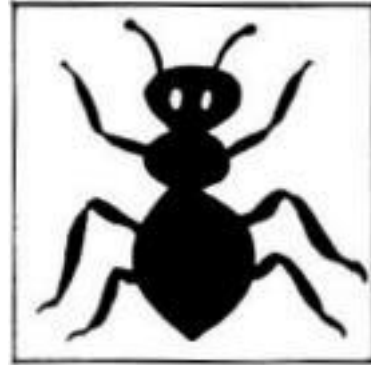


Year 6

God is Wise 4 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- To have wisdom requires knowing God's truth
- To have wisdom means listening to God's voice
- To have wisdom means knowing what the Bible says
- We need wisdom and God's strength to resist temptation

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 to do it."

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Health and fitness

Link between "God is Wise" and classroom topics:

Wisdom in following practices for good health.

Values:

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

Biography:

Piri and Maki

God is Wise

Week 1

Follow good advice

Bible references

Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Proverbs 19:20 Listen to counsel and accept discipline, that you may be wise the rest of your days.

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel.

Proverbs 3:5-8 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes. Fear the Lord and turn away from evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

James 1:5 Ask God for wisdom.

Introduction

Revise the definition of wisdom: to know the right thing to do, and to do it.

How do we know the right thing to do?

Today there is a common opinion that there is no right or wrong; that everyone can have their own view about what is right. But the Bible says otherwise. We know what is right and wrong by studying the Bible. God's word is truth.

Bible study

1. God's word is truth and gives us wisdom

Psalm 19:7 What does 'perfect' mean? What does God's Word do for us?

Psalm 119:105 What does this verse mean?

2. Good advice comes from wise people

Proverbs 19:20 Who are the people we can trust to be 'wise' according to God's standards?

Proverbs 12:15 What stops people from seeking wise advice? (They are too proud to listen to others.)

3. How to gain wisdom

Proverbs 3:5-7 Make a list of the things to do if we want to gain wisdom. What will God do for us if we look to Him for wisdom instead of thinking we know it all ourselves?

God is Wise

Week 2

Wise words of Jesus

Bible reference: Mathew 5:3-9

Introduction

Jesus only spoke words of wisdom and truth. Jesus is the truth. Many people followed Jesus and wanted to hear Him speak. They had never heard such wise teaching before. One day, when a crowd of people were following Him, Jesus decided to go up onto a hillside where the sound would carry, and many people could hear him speak. In this message Jesus gave us eight principles of wise advice. These were principles for living the Christian life. The eight wise principles are called 'the beatitudes' which means 'how to be happy, or how to be blessed'.

Bible study

1. Blessed, or happy, are the "poor in spirit," or those who know they need God's help to live like He wants them to live. (Matthew 5:3)

"Theirs is the kingdom of heaven." They are part of God's people and His future kingdom.

God wants you to depend on Him. He has a plan for your life, but He never expects you to "make it on your own" apart from Him. You can never please God without the Lord Jesus.

What does the world say?

Do your own thing. Be self-sufficient, self-reliant. Be your own person.

2. Blessed, or happy, are those who mourn, especially in being sorry for their sins (Matthew 5:4).

"They will be comforted." Jesus brings comfort to His people and forgives those who confess their sins and trust Him.

Doing bad things never makes you really happy. When you are truly sorry for sinful actions and ask God's forgiveness, there is a special relief and happiness. Covering your sins or pretending they do not exist, brings ultimate sadness and anger, and calls God a liar. If you are really sorry, you will not want to sin again.

What does the world say?

It's OK, as long as you don't get caught. "Nobody's perfect" is the excuse. Therefore, never admit you're wrong; admitting sin is depressing. Justify your sin by blaming someone else, no problem!

3. Blessed, or happy, are the meek. These are those who are humble, not prideful, and who submit their strength to God's control (Matthew 5:5).

“They will inherit the earth.” They will be part of Jesus’ kingdom on earth forever and ever.

Christians need to be strong in body and mind, but the most important strength is learning to let God control us. Living God’s way may not make you popular, but it is the only way to be inwardly happy. The Lord Jesus is your example. His Spirit will help you. (Philippians 4:13; Romans 8:14)

What does the world say?

Speak up for your rights. Make your voice heard. Exert your authority. Be first in line. God helps those who help themselves. Go for it!

4. Blessed, or happy, are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matthew 5:6).

“They will be filled.” Jesus loves to fill His people’s lives with joy in being His followers.

When loving and pleasing God is your first priority, He will give you everything you need. Nothing in the whole world gives satisfaction like reading God’s Word and living to please Him. Never be embarrassed about trying to do what is right.

What does the world say?

Money brings happiness. Get yours while you can. Try everything once. Be tolerant of bad behaviour. Do not have standards too high or you will have no friends.

5. Happy are the merciful (Matthew 5:7).

“They will be shown mercy.”

Jesus wants us to be merciful to other people because we know we also have to have His forgiveness.

Being kind to others brings special happiness and joy. When someone is hurt or sad or lonely, Christians take the time to help and show kindness, even when the person does not deserve it. It is never right to ignore someone who is in need when you can help. (Proverbs 3:27; Ephesians 4:32)

What does the world say?

Only the strong survive. Capitalize on another’s misfortune. “He made his bed — now he has to sleep in it.” He got what he deserved.

6. Blessed, or happy, are the pure in heart or who love God and want to please Him more than anything else. (Matthew 5:8).

“They will see God.” Those who believe in Jesus are given a new life and are changed on the inside, so that they want to please God and will live with Him forever.

Loving God should be the most important thing in a person’s life. He is the one we should love the most, and our behaviour should show it. The greatest satisfaction will not be from where we go and how we look, but from loving God with all your heart.

What does the world say?

Having fun and being popular is the most important thing in life. Happiness is being part of the crowd and doing what everyone else does.

7. Blessed, or happy, are the peacemakers, or those who help people to know God and to befriend each other (Matthew 5:9)

“They will be called sons of God.” Bringing God’s peace to others is bringing Jesus to others.

God wants us to help people get along and to be friends. Take time to tell people about Jesus. He will be their friend and solve their problems. Never talk unkindly about someone. Do not cause a fight. (Ephesians 4:3; John 14:27)

What does the world say?

Do not get involved. Let people solve their own problems. It’s more interesting to gossip and talk about the wrong things people do, than to help them solve their problems.

8. Blessed, or happy, are those who are persecuted because of righteousness or mistreated because they obey Jesus at any cost (Matthew 5:10).

“Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Stand up for what God says is right, even if you are the only one and even if others make fun of you or hurt you. Getting hurt because you act like Jesus will give you special happiness, (joy) in your heart. The majority is not always right; God’s Word is always right. Be brave enough to be different.

What does the world say?

Conform. Follow the crowd. Everybody is doing it. You deserve to be happy. A “good god” would not let his people suffer or hurt. What’s in it for me?

Reference: <https://www.bsfinternational.org/>

Activity:

1. We do this when we are sorry for our sins. (mourn)
2. We are filled with joy when we follow the words of Jesus. (rejoice)
3. We are patient, we don’t get angry and don’t think highly of ourselves. (meek)
4. Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be (comforted).
5. We have this because Jesus has forgiven our sin. (righteousness)
6. This is a person who uses God’s wisdom to stop fights. (peace maker)
7. This might happen to us when we speak out for Jesus. (persecuted)

God is Wise

Week 3

Seek God's wisdom

Listen to Jesus, the Good Shepherd
God knows what to do in every situation

Bible references:

James 1:5 If anyone lacks wisdom he should ask God.

John 10:1-18 Listening to the Good Shepherd

Proverbs 2:6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding. He stores up sound wisdom for the upright.

1 Cor 1:25 The foolishness of God is wiser than men.

Job 12:13 But true wisdom and power are God's. Counsel and understanding come from Him.

Introduction

If Jesus is truth, how can we know the right thing to do?
(We can read His words.)

What if we want to find out something specific for our life? What if we are facing an important decision and don't know what to do?

Read James 1:5

As well as reading the Bible, we can also hear God speak to us in prayer.

Bible lesson

How do we hear God's voice?

Read John 10:1-18

1. Listening is as important as talking

When we have a relationship with Jesus it means that we talk to Him and He talks to us. Prayer is the two-way communication needed for relationship.

2. How do we hear God's voice?

You probably will not hear God's voice audibly. God's voice in prayer tends to be in how He directs our thoughts during that quiet time. We may wonder whether those thoughts are coming from God or from ourselves. But as we practice prayer often, we get to know God's voice. As we get to know the Shepherd better, we get to know His voice.

God sometimes seems completely silent. That doesn't mean He isn't there or that we should give up listening. We have to rely on God's timing and continue to pray.

God doesn't usually answer our questions with the final answer. For example, asking God, "What should I do with my life?" He may not tell us there and then, but guides us through our life and helps us to make right choices.

3. Listening requires time

It's very difficult to talk to God during the hustle and bustle of life if you don't have a quiet time reserved for prayer. Listening requires time set apart. Quietly waiting for God to speak during our prayer time is simply called 'waiting on God'. Here are some steps to help us when waiting on God.

1. Thank God for all He has done.
2. Say sorry for any wrong things you have done.
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak into your mind and heart.
4. Be ready. Listen and receive what God is saying. God might remind you to pray for someone who needs help; He might show you what to do if you are having trouble making a decision; He may bring a verse of Scripture to mind.
5. If you think that God has given you an important message, you may want to share it with others.

Read these verses about gaining wisdom: Proverbs 2:6, 1 Cor 1:25, Job 12:13

God is Wise

Week 4

Act upon God's wisdom

Wisdom is more than knowing the right thing to do. Action is required. We must put into action the things that God shows us.

Bible references

Luke 4:1-13; Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus was tempted.

Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword (NLT)

Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Revelation 12:7-11 Satan thrown out of Heaven and is overcome by the blood of the lamb and the power of the testimony of truth, (God's word)

Temptation

What to do when we hear the wrong voice?

What is temptation?

To 'tempt' is to persuade somebody to do or have something they shouldn't. 'Temptation' is the desire to do or have something that you know is wrong.

Examples

- I am walking behind a lady and she drops a \$10 note from her bag. What might I be tempted to do? What should I do?
- I am sitting next to a boy during an exam. This boy always gets top marks in class. It would be easy to take a look at his paper. What might I be tempted to do? What should I do?
- Some students in my class are making fun of another student because his hair is very curly and sticking up. What might I be tempted to do? What should I do?
- My friends and I are at a sports game together. Some of them begin to use swear words. What might I be tempted to do? What should I do?

Discussion

In what other ways might we be tempted?

Some temptations are a combination of wrong desires from the inside and pressures outside.

Knowing the right thing to do is not enough. To do the right thing we have to act upon our knowledge and put into practice the advice that the Bible gives us. This is a demonstration of wise actions.

How did Jesus deal with temptation?

Read Luke 4:1-11

What were the three temptations Jesus faced?

- To take shortcuts to achieving God's will. (It was God's will for Jesus to fast.)
- To use His power as a special performance to make people believe in Him.
- To worship Satan.

Jesus used God's Word to overcome these temptations. If we know God's Word and we want to live by the truth, we can overcome Satan's temptations.

Read Psalm 119:11 and Hebrews 4:12.

Satan has been defeated

Revelation 12:7-11 tells us about the war in heaven that took place when Satan and his fallen angels rebelled against God. He was thrown out of heaven, but still has power on earth in the lives of unbelievers. Verse 11 tells us how the believers overcome Satan: by the blood of the lamb (Jesus) and proclaiming truth (God's word).

People who failed the test of temptation

Ask the students to think of people in the Bible who did not overcome temptation. Make a list. e.g., Adam and Eve (Genesis 3), Cain (Genesis 4:3-10), Judas (John 12:1-8), Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11), Peter (Luke 22:54-62).