
GOD IS WISDOM

SERIES: SANCTIFIED

Join us throughout the month of August as we learn how God SANCTIFIES us when we choose to live for Him. We will be going through the books of 1 Corinthians, James, and Revelation.

REMEMBER VERSE

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23—May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

SCHEDULE

All Services

0:00—0:10	Welcome/Check-In
0:10—0:15	Transition to Large Group
0:15—0:30	Large Group (B100)
0:30—0:35	Transition to Small Group
0:35—1:05	Small Group (Lesson/Activity/Respond)
1:05—1:15	Dismiss

NOTES

LEADER RESOURCES

SERIES OVERVIEW

WEEK 1: God Is Love

Letter to the Corinthians

CURRENT WEEK: God Is Wisdom

Letter from James

WEEK 3: Jesus Is Invincible

Return of Christ

WEEK 4: Remember & Celebrate

ZONK!

EQUIP

The book of James has sometimes been called "the Proverbs of the New Testament." It seems that James, the writer of this epistle, the half-brother of Jesus, was significantly influenced by the wisdom literature in Scripture (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon). Written to "the twelve tribes scattered among the nations" (1:1), James focuses on a primarily Jewish readership—Hebrew Christians outside of Israel, who would have been very familiar with the wisdom literature from the Old Testament.

In James 1:3, the author writes, "You know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." This verse echoes Proverbs 27:21, which says, "The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but people are tested by their praise."

Then, in James 1:5, the writer says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." This is reminiscent of Proverbs 2:3-6, which says, "If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." And the examples continue. Because God is wisdom, James uses (and points us to) Old Testament wisdom literature to lead us toward a life of faith-filled wisdom.

ENCOURAGE

Where do you need God's wisdom in your life right now? Spend a few minutes allowing God to speak to you in a creative way. Get alone with a sheet of paper and some art supplies—colored pencils, paints, pens, markers, or even your child's crayons. Take a few deep breaths and then meditate on James 1:5, where God promises to give wisdom to all without finding fault.

Present your situation to Him, and then invite the Holy Spirit to bring wisdom to mind however He chooses. He may use words, pictures, Scripture verses, or song lyrics. After a time of listening, use the art supplies to draw or write anything that came to mind. The Holy Spirit might even bring to mind the name of a person to talk to about your situation. If you don't hear anything, don't be discouraged—be on the lookout for how He may be bringing you wisdom in creative ways this week. Give praise to our God, who gives wisdom generously to all without finding fault (James 1:5).

WELCOME

Some fun ideas to welcome kids as they check-in to your room at the beginning of service.

Invite the kids to color on the provided coloring page or work on the provided activity page.

As kids arrive, feel free to ask them this week's Connect Question. Feel free to write the question on the board and encourage some fun dialogue before you start your lesson.

QUESTION: What's a hard decision you've had to make?

RESPOND

A chance for kids to respond to what God is putting on their hearts through creative expression.

God is wisdom, and because God loves us, He wants to guide us in our choices we make each day.

INSTRUCTIONS: Divide the class into two teams. Place each pile of letters at one end of the class, opposite of the kids. Leaders will give instructions to the teams on how they need to go retrieve each letter. Leaders, feel free to get creative in your instructions (hop on one foot, walk backwards, spin around, hop like a bunny, etc.) Kids will be sent one at a time and once all the letters have been collected, the teams will work together to figure out the phrase (God Is Wisdom).

Alternative (helpful for kiddos who still struggle to read):

Divide the class into two and draw a line on the whiteboard to make two sides. Write the phrase "God Is Wisdom" on each side in large letters. Have each team start with all the letters to the phrase. Leaders give them instructions on how to take each letter from one side of the room over to the board to stick under the matching letter. Leaders, feel free to get creative in your instructions (hop on one foot, walk backwards, spin around, hop like a bunny, etc.) Kids will be sent one at a time with one letter at a time until the phrase is complete

SUPPLIES:

- God Is Wisdom Letters

REFLECT

A chance to reflect on what kids have just learned about The Big God Story.

God wants to guide you with His wisdom and you can trust God to lead you in the best plan for your life. You can tell Him about your struggles and ask for His help with your decisions. Your heavenly Father is wisdom, and He always knows what's best. God promises to give us wisdom when we ask.

- What is wisdom?
- What's the difference between wisdom and knowledge?
- How is God wise? *Psalm 147:5; Hebrews 4:13*
- How is God's wisdom different from man's wisdom? *Isaiah 55:8*
- What qualities are seen in a life led by God's wisdom? *James 3:17*
- How is wisdom valuable? *Proverbs 8:11*
- How is our own understanding limited? *Job 28:20-24*
- Why do you think God wants us to ask for wisdom? *James 1:5*
- What happens when we trust God's wisdom? *Proverbs 28:26*
- Do any of you want more wisdom? Would you like to pray for this right now?

BLESS

A powerful way to bless the kids and parents by sending them off with a benediction.

INSTRUCTIONS: Invite the parents into your room at the end of the service to say one last prayer together with the whole family. Instruct them to find their child and sit/stand by their side. Explain what their child learned today and read the verse below. Pray together and then dismiss.

JAMES 1:5 – If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

BLESSING: May you have the courage to ask for wisdom. May you know that God is wisdom, and may you trust Him to guide you in all that you do.

NOTES

This script serves as an outline of what your storytelling might sound like. Items written in italics are cues for the storyteller and are not meant to be read out loud. You are fully encouraged to make it your own and add a personal touch.

The script serves as an example, however if you would like to teach based on the script and are in need of any supplies mentioned, we would be happy to supply those for you! Storytelling images mentioned will always be provided in your basket each week, but if you need any other supplies for your lesson, contact a Grove KIDS Staff member beforehand so we can supply it for you! You are also welcome to bring in your own props if you would like!

RESOURCES PROVIDED

- Jerusalem Image
- Signpost Image
- Signpost Arrows

STORYTELLING

In the last few weeks, we've been looking at letters written by a man who traveled all over starting churches as he spread the good news of Jesus. What was his name? *Pause for answers.* Right! Paul. Well, a follower of Jesus named James wrote a letter too. He was most likely Jesus' half-brother, and he was the leader of the church in Jerusalem. *Jerusalem image.* Jerusalem was where Jesus was crucified and resurrected, and the church there was growing bigger every day! James wrote a letter to be passed around from church to church. His letter was written to help the early Christians understand that God is wisdom and that we can trust Him to guide our choices and our actions. If someone chooses to trust Jesus, the Holy Spirit will fill him up and help him so that his actions show everyone else that God has saved him.

What kinds of people do you think are wise? *Invite responses.* I always thought my teachers knew everything! Many teachers do know lots and lots of things. It's important to listen to them. Let's read what James says about teachers. Turn in your Bibles to James 3. *Read James 3:1.* James is saying that being a teacher is hard and not everyone should be a teacher. There's a part of us that likes to be the teacher, the leader, the one who knows the most. But we're sinful and we make mistakes. James says in verse two that "we all stumble." So if we want to teach others, we need to teach from a place of humility—of being teachable and willing to learn too—because we all make mistakes. Only God is wisdom.

Read James 3:13. James says that we can tell there's wisdom in our life by what we do, not just what we know. If we know the right answer, then we'll live that way too. For example, many of us have learned that a stove is hot when it's on. Because we know it's hot, we don't touch it. Because of what we know and not just say, we live that way. Where do we find wisdom? *Invite responses.* I'm going to read what James says about finding wisdom. *Read James 1:5.* Did you hear the answer? *Invite responses.* Right! God is the source of wisdom. God knows everything about everything. He knows everything that's going to happen. God sees the end and the beginning. And if we ask, He'll give us His wisdom through the Bible and through prayer. That's amazing!

When we look for wisdom to help guide us in the choices we make, it's like looking at a signpost. *Signpost image.* Have you ever been at an amusement park or a

zoo and seen a signpost like this that showed you where each path led? Well, when we only follow the wisdom from people in the world, people who don't know or follow God, we end up on a different path than if we follow God's wisdom.

Let's build a signpost together using the descriptions from James. The arrows we put on the signpost will help us compare the paths of following each kind of wisdom. Let's look in James 3:15 to see where the wisdom of this world will lead us. *Invite a child to read James 3:15-16. Have kids find descriptions from the verses and share answers. Pass out the first three arrows (envy, selfish, disorder and evil) to the volunteers who find these answers.* We live in a broken world because of sin, and the wisdom we hear from the world leads us to want what others have. *Help volunteer tape "envy" arrow to board.* It encourages us to think only about ourselves and serve ourselves instead of serving and helping others. *Help volunteer tape "selfish" arrow to board.* The wisdom of the world leads to confusion and sin. *Help volunteer tape "disorder and evil" arrow to board.*

God's wisdom is always better than man's wisdom. Let's read James 3:17 to find words that describe where God's wisdom leads us. *Read aloud as kids listen for answers. Invite responses and pass out seven arrows as kids find each answer (pure, peace, considerate, submissive, mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere).* God's wisdom is pure because God is always right. *Help volunteer tape "pure" arrow on board.* God's wisdom loves peace. *Help volunteer tape "peace" arrow.* God's wisdom thinks about others. *Help volunteer tape "considerate" arrow.* God's wisdom listens and obeys. *Help volunteer tape "submissive" arrow.* God's wisdom cares for others and shows the fruit of the Spirit. *Help volunteer tape "mercy and good fruit" arrow.* What are some examples of the fruit of the Spirit? We read about this when we read from Galatians in The Big God Story. *Invite answers.* When we follow God's wisdom, our lives will show this fruit. And lastly, God's wisdom is fair (*help volunteer tape "impartial" arrow*) and honest. *Help volunteer tape "sincere" arrow.*

When we come to God for help and direction with the choices we have and for answers to our questions, we'll find wisdom that's pure, loving, and good—wisdom that will help others and point them to Jesus. God answers our prayers with wisdom. We can trust that He'll guide us in the right way because He is wisdom. Our God is worthy of worship because He is wisdom.