

Making the Right Choices

Teacher's Thoughts

Wisdom is not about knowledge. It is a Biblical term for living each day the right way. It means making the right choices in life. These right choices are based on the truth found in the Bible. In an age where the majority of people no longer accept absolute truth, it is important for children to realize that true wisdom comes from the absolute truth found in following Christ.

This lesson emphasizes building your life on the rock, Jesus. True wisdom is living your life based on making the choices Jesus would make. To do this, however, you must first have a relationship with Jesus and choose to live your life under His lordship. During this lesson the children will be given an opportunity to examine their lives and decide if they are building their lives on Christ, the solid rock or on other things, sinking sand.

Supplies

Obtain & Prepare Before Class

1. PowerPoint CD/DVD
2. Scroll (prop section of introduction)
3. Copy of the Proverb from page 10 taped to the scroll
4. Candle and candlestick for Jester
5. Candles and matches for candle maker
6. Candle maker costume (see introduction)
7. Electric fan
8. Two cooking pots
9. Four wooden spoons
10. Copy of signs from page 13
11. Pool noodles (1 per team based on group size)

Provided in the Kit (Optional)

- Treasure chest
- Herald trumpet
- Jester hat
- Bag of coins



Character Trait

Wisdom

Proverb

The fear of the
Lord is the
beginning of
wisdom.

Proverbs 9:10

Bible Story

Wise Man

And

Foolish Man

Matthew 7:24-29



Harry the Herald

Supplies: Herald trumpet, Proverb taped to scroll (page 10)

TEACHER TIP

If using PowerPoint the trumpet sound will play when you advance the slide, however, the slide does not change. (Follow the (PP) cue.)

(PP) Choose a child to pretend to play the trumpet. Each week choose a different child. Make sure you give them instructions on when to “blow” the trumpet.

(PP) Trumpeter enters. Trumpet plays two times.

Harry enters, unrolls the scroll and speaks in a loud, clear voice:

**Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The king has spoken. Hear the words of the Lord:
“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Proverbs 9:10.
Heed the word of the Lord.**

(PP) Trumpet sounds as Harry the Herald departs.



Puppet Song

(PP) “He is the Rock!” from Scripture Rock by Brentwood Kids Company, 1997.



Jorge the Jester

Supplies: Jester hat, candle and candlestick

Hi, I’m Jorge the Jester. My job around the King’s court is to entertain. I am always looking for a good joke, riddle or poem. Let me try one out on you. Here is one of my favorite fun poems. The King really likes this one.

(PP) Jack be nimble.
Jack be quick.
Jack jump over the candlestick.

TEACHER TIP

Jorge’s theme song automatically plays when the PowerPoint slide is advanced. To play it for his exit, just click the mouse.

Have you heard that one? I think it needs to be changed to someone’s name that is really important. For instance:

(Jorge should act out the parts as he recites the poem. He pulls out a candle and candlestick from his pocket. He is a bit clumsy as he performs the actions.)

Jorge be nimble.
Jorge be quick.
Jorge jump over the candlestick. (He falls down, knocking the candlestick over.)

Oops. I never did quite master that game as a kid. Wow, I sure am glad I did not light the candle. I could have gone up in smoke. Shooting flames everywhere! The whole castle could have burned down. The King would not be pleased.

Yep, I made a good choice. Actually, a rather wise choice. In fact, the King's proclamation today was about wisdom. You do know that wisdom is making the right choices. Those right choices come from knowing God and doing what He wants you to do. That is what it means by the fear of the Lord. And when the King talks about us being wise, he isn't talking about wisecrack jokes. I tried a few of those on him and he was not amused.

Before I go back to practicing my cartwheels, how about a joke for the road?

Knock, Knock (who's there?)

Wise (wise who?)

Wise don't ya laugh at my knock, knock joke?

(Jorge leaves turning clumsy cartwheels.)

(pp)

Candle Maker

Supplies: A variety of candles, candle maker costume (see introduction), matches



(pp)

I am Claudia (or Claude) the candle maker. I have a candle shop in the village. My days are spent making candle wax and dipping candles. We make the candles from melted animal fat or beeswax. My job is so important for candles are our only source of light. They are expensive so usually only the wealthy use them regularly. Other less fortunate people only use them on rare occasions.

When I am making candles, I often think about wisdom. You see, candles light our way in the dark. (Start lighting the candles.) Wisdom is the same way. We often are unsure what choice we should make. But if we will rely on what we have learned from God, the choice is easier. God's wisdom lights our way just as the candle lights our way in the darkness. When we rely on God's wisdom, suddenly the right way seems bright.

Sometimes we get stubborn and refuse to listen to God's wisdom, wanting to do our own thing. (Start blowing out the candles.) We try to rely on ourselves to make the right choices but we don't have anyone to guide us. It is easy to make unwise choices. And then we have to pay the consequences for those choices.

I must get back to the shop. We have a big order of candles waiting to be made for the Queen. So nice to make your acquaintance today.

(Candle maker exits.)



The Storyteller

Supplies: Electric fan, two cooking pots, four wooden spoons, copy of signs from page 12

Story based on Matthew 7:24-29

(pp) Jesus loved to teach by telling stories. Today I am going to re-tell one of the stories he told. But I am going to need everyone to help me.

First, we need to practice making rain. Start by snapping your fingers. Then, rub your hands together and finally pat your hands on your legs. Have the children practice making rain for a minute or so. Great, that will work wonderfully for rain.

We will have so much rain that we will need a flood. It could possibly have been a flash flood-one that comes very quickly. Flash floods have rushing water. Can you make it sound like rushing water? Some of you make a gurgling noise. Imagine all this water coming at you and pretend you hear what it sounds like. Imitate that sound.

Next, we are going to need wind. An extremely strong wind. We have a fan here to help make the wind so I need a wind operator. (Choose a child to operate the fan.) I will also need some sound effects. The wind is going to get so strong that it will sound like it is beating on something. I need two people to make this sound. (Choose two children for the wind sound effect.) To make the sound effect, beat on the pans with the wooden spoons.

I think we are almost ready. I need two people to play two men. (Hang the signs “foolish man” and “wise man” on the kids.) I am also going to need some people to pretend to be wood. (Choose four kids.)

Is everybody ready with his or her part? Here we go.

Jesus had been speaking for a while. He had told the people how to pray. He had talked about worrying, judging and serving God. Then he finished his sermon by saying that anyone who hears of what he has said and does it, is like the wise man in this story.

There was a very wise man. (Have the wise man come out and bow to the kids) **He decided that he wanted to build a house.** Now there were many choices of where he would build his house. Perhaps an ocean view would be nice. But then he would have to build it on sand and he did not think he wanted to invest his money and time on a house built on sand. He thought about building his house on the side of the mountain. How beautiful to wake up each morning with a wonderful view of the mountains. But he had heard of bad mudslides in the area. He certainly did not want his house to end up at the bottom of a mountain. A houseboat sounded nice but then the house would be built on a boat floating about on water. No, he wanted something solid. Something that he could rely on. Something that would not change and shift over time. He hunted and hunted for the right place. Finally, he found it. A rock. A solid rock. This foundation would not shift or move. So, he started to build his house. He worked hard to make the house strong. This was easier since the house was built on such a strong foundation. (Have the wise man place two of the pieces of wood (two kids) facing each other. He should then pretend to hammer them in place. Have the kids hold up their arms and hold hands, making an A frame house shape. **The house was completed. So, the wise man moved into the house.** (Have the wise man enter the house.) **It was not long before rain came.** (Kids make rain sounds.) **It was not just a little rain, it was a huge thunderstorm.** (Continue sounds as the story is told.) **But, the man was safe inside his house.** Even when it rained so much that a flood came, sweeping away many things his house was strong, standing on the solid rock. The winds blew hard against the house. They beat on the house and made such a terrible noise. But the house stood firm. It did not falter. It did not fail. For the wise man had built his house on a rock.

Another man decided he wanted to build a house. He was the foolish man. (Have the foolish man bow to the audience.) **He did not give a lot of thought to where he wanted to build.** He just knew that he wanted an ocean view. Once upon a time he had heard that it was not the right choice to build on sand but he did not care. He loved the ocean. And a beach house was exactly what he yearned for. So, he found the first lot of sand for sale. He bought it and went about building his house. (Have the remaining two kids form a house while he pretends to hammer, etc.) When he was finished, he had a lovely view of the ocean. The house was nice. A bit shaky perhaps. He moved right in, placing his favorite chair by the big picture window. But before long the rain started. (Kids make rain sounds.) He was not bothered, for it was cozy inside the house. But then, the rain turned into a big storm. (Children continue making sounds.) Before he knew it, a flash flood was rushing toward the house. The winds were howling, beating against his house. The house began to sway. First to the right, then to the left. Then, the unthinkable

happened. The house fell. And it did not just fall. It came crashing down. It broke into splinters and was swept away by the flood.

Jesus told the people that those who hear his words and do not do them are like the foolish man who built his house on the sand.

(PP) Today, kids, what are you building your life on?

(PP) Are you making wise choices by building on the solid rock-Jesus? Or are you making foolish choices by building on sand?

(PP) Any ground that is not “Jesus” is a sandy foundation. Maybe you base your choices on what your friends say. Maybe you make your choices for selfish reasons-all you really care about is getting what you want. Perhaps you base your choices on what TV show you like to watch or the latest book you read. But Jesus is the only foundation that will hold up forever.

TEACHER TIP

There is always a blank PowerPoint slide for the prayer time.



Prayer

(PP) Ask God to help the children build their lives on him. Ask Him to reveal to them unwise choices they have made or bad influences in their lives that they may be building their lives on. Give children an opportunity to ask God’s forgiveness if they need to. This would be a good time for children to be given an opportunity to accept Jesus as their Savior. Be sure to let the Holy Spirit guide you during this time.



The King’s Treasure

Supplies: Treasure chest, bag of coins

Place the bag of coins in the treasure chest before class.

**(PP) What do you think is in the treasure chest?
I’ll give you a clue and see if you can guess.**

- ◆ **It is round.** (Take some guesses) **Let me give you another clue.**
- ◆ **Kings have lots of these.** (Again take some guesses)
- ◆ **You can buy something with this.** (Let the kids guess till someone gets it)

Open the treasure chest and pull out the bag of coins. **How many of you would like to have a bag of coins like this? What would you do with all of this?** (Let kids share their dreams) **Did you know that in the book of Proverbs it tells us that there is something far greater than silver or**

gold? It is wisdom. Why do you think that wisdom is more important than these riches? One reason is that you cannot buy wisdom. It only comes from God. Riches will buy you things. But wisdom will help you live a life much better than anything money can buy. If you had all the things you wanted in the world, but did not have wisdom to help you make the right choices, your life would be miserable. You would probably just end up ruining all the things that you bought with your riches. So remember that wisdom is better than riches.

The King's Challenge: Caber Throw

Supplies: Pool noodles

In the days of castles, knights had to work hard at mastering certain skills. Strength was important to the knights. One of the strength building activities was the caber throw. They would take a log and run with it sticking straight up in the air. They would get to a designated point and heave the log forward. The goal was to make the log go over end so that the end that went flying in the air first was now facing the knight. A perfect throw was one in which the log was in a 12 o'clock position. We are going to try this game now.

Divide the kids into groups. Give each group a chance to throw the caber (noodle). After everyone has had a chance, ask the following questions:

1. Was it hard to get the noodle to face the correct way?
2. If you practiced this all day, do you think you would get better at the caber throw?

It is the same way with wisdom. The more right choices we make, the better we get at making wise choices. Suddenly, relying on God does not take so much effort. If we have been building our lives on a sandy foundation it may seem hard to make right choices at first. But the closer we get to God by praying, reading His word and going to church, the easier it is to make right choices. Before long we start to make right choices without having to think much about it. We are so close to Him that we begin to live like He lived.

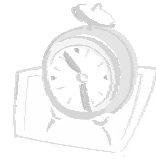


(pp)

TEACHER TIP

Have a competition to see who can throw the caber the furthest.

Time Stretchers



TEACHER TIP

Any size beeswax will work for this project.

Craft Activity

Beeswax Candle

Supplies: 5 1/3 by 8 inch sheet any color honeycomb beeswax for each child, 9-inch length of wicking for each child

Each child will make a beeswax candle to help him or her remember that God's wisdom is like a candle to light the way.

Place the wax flat on a table. Lay the wicking along the 8-inch edge of the wax. Roll it into a straight cylinder. About one inch of wicking should be sticking out the end of the candle.



Memory Verse

Supplies: Poster of Bible verse (page 13), crayons or markers

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Proverbs 9:10

Discuss the meaning of the verse with the children. Explain that fear does not mean being scared of God but being respectful and obedient to Him.

On the poster, have the children draw ways that show them being respectful and obedient to God. Also, have them draw pictures of wise choices they have made.



Game

Wise vs. Unwise

Supplies: Two paper bags for each group marked "Wise and Unwise" one situation list cut into strips (page 14) for each group

Divide the kids into small groups. Give each group the paper strips of situations and the two paper bags. Instruct the groups to read each situation and decide if the situation is a wise choice or a unwise choice. Place it in the correct bag.

1. Your friend dares you to jump out of the loft of a barn. You refuse to do it.
2. Your parents told you not to cross the busy highway at the end of your neighborhood. When your friends call you a baby for not coming across with them, you turn your bike around and go home.
3. You are jumping on your trampoline. You see lightning. You keep jumping thinking that God will protect you.
4. Your friend asks to copy your homework. You let him since he is your best friend and you should help friends in need.
5. You love chocolate chip cookies. You eat 10 cookies since you love them so much.
6. You are at a friend's house. The friend shows you his father's gun. You immediately find his parents and tell them.
7. You see your two-year-old brother playing with a knife. You don't say anything, he'll learn if he gets cut.
8. Your Mom tells you to wear a jacket to the bus stop because it is cold. You ignore her since you know that it will get warm later in the day.
9. You are in the store and nobody is looking. You really want a pack of gum but don't have enough money. Your friend tells you to take it. You walk away.
10. You spill red juice on the new carpet in your sister's room. When your dad finds it, your sister gets in trouble. You stay quiet.

Snack

Graham Cracker House



Supplies: Graham crackers, icing in tubes or in Ziploc bags, decorative items such as small candies or sprinkles, paper plates

Place six graham crackers on a paper plate for each child.

Make a graham cracker house. Talk about the importance of having a good foundation to build it on. Use the icing like glue to make the crackers stand up. Put a little icing on the decorations and “glue” them to the house. Let the children be creative. Each house will be unique in character.

Harry the Herald

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The King has spoken. Hear the words of the Lord:

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”
Proverbs 9:10

Heed the word of the Lord.

Cut out and tape to the scroll:

**“The fear of the Lord
is the beginning
of wisdom”**
Proverbs 9:10

Jorge the Jester

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(He falls down, knocking the candlestick over.)

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Before I go back to practicing my cartwheels, how about a joke for the road?

Knock, Knock (who's there?)
Wise (wise who?)
Wise don't ya laugh at my knock, knock joke?

(Jorge leaves turning clumsy cartwheels.)

Candle Maker

I am the Careful Candle Maker. I have a candle shop in the village. My days are spent making candle wax and dipping candles. We make the candles from melted animal fat or beeswax. My job is so important for candles are our only source of light. They are expensive so usually only the wealthy use them regularly. Other less fortunate people only use them on rare occasions.

When I am making candles, I often think about wisdom. You see, candles light our way in the dark. (Start lighting the candles.) Wisdom is the same way. We often are unsure what choice we should make. But if we will rely on what we have learned from God, the choice is easier. God's wisdom lights our way just as the candle lights our way in the darkness. When we rely on God's wisdom, suddenly the right way seems bright.

Sometimes we get stubborn and refuse to listen to God's wisdom, wanting to do our own thing. (Start blowing out the candles.) We try to rely on ourselves to make the right choices but we don't have anyone to guide us. It is easy to make unwise choices. And then we have to pay the consequences for those choices.

I must get back to the shop. We have a big order of candles waiting to be made for the Queen. So nice to make your acquaintance today.

(The candle maker exits.)

Foolish
Man



Wise
Man

**The fear of the Lord is the
beginning of wisdom.**

Proverbs 9:10

Wise vs. Unwise

Situation List

1. Your friend dares you to jump out of the loft of a barn. You refuse to do it.
2. Your parents told you not to cross the busy highway at the end of your neighborhood. When your friends call you a baby for not coming across with them, you turn your bike around and go home.
3. You are jumping on your trampoline. You see lightning. You keep jumping thinking that God will protect you.
4. Your friend asks to copy your homework. You let him since he is your best friend and you should help friends in need.
5. You love chocolate chip cookies. You eat 10 cookies since you love them so much.
6. You are at a friend's house. The friend shows you his father's gun. You immediately find his parents and tell them.
7. You see your two-year-old brother playing with a knife. You don't say anything, he'll learn if he gets cut.
8. Your Mom tells you to wear a jacket to the bus stop because it is cold. You ignore her since you know that it will get warm later in the day.
9. You are in the store and nobody is looking. You really want a pack of gum but don't have enough money. Your friend tells you to take it. You walk away.
10. You spill red juice on the new carpet in your sister's room. When your Dad finds it, your sister gets in trouble. You stay quiet.

Together Time



Bible Story

Wise Man
And
Foolish Man
Matthew 7:24-29

Character Trait

Wisdom

Proverb

The fear of the
Lord is the beginning
of wisdom.
Proverbs 9:10

Discussion:

Think about choices your family has made in the last few days. Were they wise choices? Discuss any choices that you could have made differently.

Family Fun:

Build card houses together. Make sure that you choose a good foundation to build them on (solid table, wood floor).

Jester Joke:

Knock, Knock (Who's there?)

Wise (Wise who?)

Wise don't ya laugh at my knock, knock joke?