



MANY
faces of
WISDOM

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----- **Ages 9-11 (GRADES 4-6)** -----

Roderick D. Belin
President/Publisher

Garland F. Pierce
Executive Director, Department of Christian Education

Andre' Wright
Chief of Operations

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THE ORDER OF SERVICE

- I. Bell tap or organ voluntary as a signal for silence
- II. Singing
- III. The Apostles' Creed
- IV. Prayer, closing with the Lord's Prayer in concert
- V. Singing
- VI. Calling roll of officers and teachers
- VII. Responsive reading of the lesson text by school
- VIII. The Decalogue

THE LESSON

- I. Organ interlude while the classes are being arranged
- II. Class study of the lesson
- III. Warning bell—5 minutes
- IV. Closing bell—silence

THE CLOSING

- I. Singing
- II. Review and application of the lesson
- III. Secretary's report
- IV. The Church School Creed
- V. Singing
- VI. Benediction

EDITORIAL STAFF

- Rev. Roderick Belin**, Publisher
Rev. Garland F. Pierce, Editor, Lessons
Rev. Rachel Williams-Glenn, Lessons
A. L. Stanfield, Copy Editor
O. Dotson, Layout Design

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He arose from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.



THE CHURCH SCHOOL CREED

I believe my A.M.E. Church School must grow and grow; and that I must make it a top priority to make it so. Every member a Christian, every Christian a worker, every worker trained so that a worker need not be ashamed. This we ask in Jesus' name.

LISTEN TO GOD'S WISDOM

LESSON SCRIPTURE: PROVERBS 1

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: PROVERBS 1:1-4, 7-8, 10, 20-22, 32-33

*Key Verse: Those who listen to me...will be secure...and will live at ease.
Proverbs 1:33*

Proverbs 1:1-4, 7-8, 10, 20-22, 32-33 (NRSV)

Proverbs 1:1-4

1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

2 For learning about wisdom and instruction, for understanding words of insight,

3 for gaining instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity;

4 to teach shrewdness to the simple, knowledge and prudence to the young—...

7-8

7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

8 Hear, my child, your father's instruction, and do not reject your mother's teaching;...

10

10 My child, if sinners entice

you, do not consent.

20-22

20 Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.

21 At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

22 "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?"

32-33

32 "For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them;

33 but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster."

WORD POWER!!!

- **Equity** – Fairness.
- **Entice** – To tempt or lure.
- **Scoffers** – People who make fun of others.
- **Fools** – People who refuse to change or adjust to the wise way of living and being.
- **Trinity** – God in three persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) all wrapped into one.
- **Wisdom** – A quality of God that seeks to bring people back in right relationship with God.

GETTING READY!!!

Nursery rhymes aren't just tongue twisters or bedtime stories. They are a way that adults teach important life lessons to children. "Jack Sprat" teaches children to work together by telling how Jack and his wife each do their part to clean the plate of food. One version of "Humpty Dumpty" teaches children to use what God has given them to help others. The second verse of this version says, "Children come and fix Humpty with brushes and glue." Also, "Hush Little Baby" teaches children that they are always valuable to their parents even if everything else falls apart.

What's your favorite nursery rhyme? _____

What does it teach you? _____

INTO GOD’S WORD!!!

Guess what? The proverbs of King Solomon also teach important life lessons. They remind us how important it is to respect God. They also promise that everyone learns and understands how to live in a way that honors God and other people.

Some proverbs are short sayings that rhyme or follow a special pattern, like nursery rhymes. Other proverbs include longer pieces of advice like what wisdom offers in today’s lesson. Each type of proverb includes advice for living that will draw us closer to God.

Activity #1 – A Few Pieces of Advice. Fill in the blanks to uncover some advice from today’s Bible lesson.

1. The _____ of the Lord is the beginning of _____.
2. If sinners _____ you, do not consent.
3. _____ despise wisdom and instruction.
4. Those who listen to wisdom will be _____ and live at _____.

USING GOD’S WORD!!!

Today, we have lots of ways to spread important information. TV news programs interrupt TV shows to share “Breaking News” stories. Newspapers and magazines publish special “hot off the press” editions. Mobile phones send emergency message notices. People send texts, emails, or call.

During the Bible days, it was a lot harder to pass along an important message. People didn’t have cell phones, TVs, tablets, or computers. They had letters and written notices, but

a lot of people weren't able to read and write.

That's why important messages were announced by heralds. These were people who would stand in the city streets and shout out important information. Most of them were men who were working for a king or governor.

Wisdom is a little different, though. First, she's described as a woman. Second, her message is meant to draw people back to God. That's why wisdom's message is a warning and an invitation. Wisdom shares reasons why people need to learn how to live God's way.

Activity #2 – I've a Message from the Lord. If wisdom were trying to warn and invite people today, what do you think wisdom would use? (i.e. Text, Tweet, Facebook, Email, News Broadcast, etc.) Use the space below to share what the message would look like.

REMIX!!!

The goal of nursery rhymes is very similar to the goal of today's lesson. Both seek to pass wisdom on from one generation to another. Nursery rhymes do it with entertaining music and rhyming words. Today's lesson does it by inviting us to answer Wisdom's call. We can listen to the godly advice of the generations that came before us. They can help us learn ways to connect with God. They can also help us learn ways to resist being pulled away from God.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

I've a message full of love, Hallelujah!
A message, O my friend, for you.
'Tis a message from above, Hallelujah!
Jesus said it, and I know 'tis true.
Life is offered unto you, Hallelujah!
Eternal life thy soul shall have
If you'll only look to him, Hallelujah!
Look to Jesus, who alone can save.

~ Verses 2 and 3 of "Look and Live," *AME Hymnal* #215 ~

GODLY WISDOM PAYS OFF

LESSON SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 39; PROVERBS 2

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: PROVERBS 2:1-11

Key Verse: The Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2:6

Proverbs 2:1-11 (NRSV)

1 My child, if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you,

2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding;

3 if you indeed cry out for insight, and raise your voice for understanding;

4 if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures—

5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge

and understanding;

7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly,

8 guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of his faithful ones.

9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path;

10 for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

11 prudence will watch over you; and understanding will guard you.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Making Your Ear Attentive** – Adjusting yourself so you are able to make sense of what’s being shared.
- **Inclining Your Heart** – Choosing to focus on something or someone.
- **Insight** – Correct and deep understanding of something.
- **Fear the Lord** – Showing God respect.
- **Prudence** – Wise choices.

GETTING READY!!!

Lyric sang in more than one choir at church even though she was just a kid. She sang in the children’s choir and the gospel choir. The directors of the two choirs wanted choir members to celebrate God and encourage others to do the same. They just got to the goal differently.

Miss Mary made sure Lyric and the other children’s choir members understood what they were singing about. That way they could connect with the song and sing the words with feeling. Mr. Mark made sure Lyric and the gospel choir members paid attention to how their singing blended with other choir members. That way they could change how they sang if he told them someone was singing a wrong note.

There was one problem, though. Lyric couldn’t always tell when her note came out wrong. Sometimes, Mr. Mark would blow a tuning pipe to get people on the right note. Other times, he would have the pianist play each section’s part. That helped the grown-ups in the choir but it didn’t help Lyric. Lyric didn’t know how to get what her ear heard to come out of her mouth.

Lyric didn't want to miss out on celebrating God so she asked for help. Then Mr. Mark and Miss Mary worked together to "train" her ear. Mr. Mark would either play the pitch pipe or hit the correct note on the piano. Next, Miss Mary would sing the note. Then she and Lyric would sing it together. After a few months of work, Lyric's ear was trained. Now, she could sing the note correctly when she heard it.

Do you think the advice that Lyric received was wise advice?

Yes

No



INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

The wise advice given from a godly parent to a child continues with today's lesson. This week the focus shifts from inviting people to respond to the wise advice of God and God's people. Now, the focus is on the necessary conditions to benefit from what God's offering.

First, people have to be willing to accept and value the advice being given. Second, they have to adjust the way they listen to the advice. Next, they must choose to focus on gaining understanding. They should act like being able to fear God is as important as finding a hidden treasure. That way they can ask God to give them a correct and deep understanding.

When these conditions are met, God will respond in awesome ways. God will make people wise. God will protect the faithful. God will help them follow the right path. Then they will be able to make wise choices that keep them safe.

Activity #1 – Training to Fear God. Unscramble the words and phrases below. Your answers will remind you of what it will take to be able to respect and honor God.

1. EAMK OYRU REAAEVNTETIT
2. NICNELI YURO EHTRA
3. CYR UTO ORF HGISITN
4. EKSE TI LEKI RSIVLE
5. CPATCE YM RWSDO

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Today's lesson reminds us that we have to put as much effort into having a strong relationship with God as God has with us. God will help us gain the understanding and wisdom we need to choose wisely, but God won't do all the work. We have to want a respect-filled relationship with God. That means we have to do things that will make it easier to understand how to

live like God wants.

That can be as simple as being willing to listen to advice. It could also be practicing how to lead The Lord's Prayer or the Decalogue. It could be asking why it's not okay to place stuff on the altar. Or, it could be reading a kid-friendly Bible so you understand what you're reading. All these things and more will show God that God's gift of wisdom is important to us.

Activity #2 – All These Things and More. Use the space below to write a prayer or a call to worship about how you value godly wisdom.

REMIX!!!

God wants us to value our relationship with God and value our ability to make wise choices. God knows we won't value either if it doesn't take effort. That's why we have to put effort into becoming wise and learning how to fear God. Otherwise, all

the wonderful things that come with that right relationship won't mean much.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

O God,

Please know you matter to us.

We care about knowing you.

We care about making you proud.

Help us hear and understand today's lesson.

Give us courage to ask questions.

Send us people who'll help us learn the answers.

Then we'll know your wisdom is the best treasure of all. AMEN.

GOD GIVES GREAT GIFTS

LESSON SCRIPTURE: JOB 1; 42; PROVERBS 8

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: PROVERBS 8:8-14, 17-21

Key Verse: Take (wisdom's) instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold. Proverbs 8:10

Proverbs 8:8-14, 17-21 (NRSV)

Proverbs 8:8-14

8 All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.

9 They are all straight to one who understands and right to those who find knowledge.

10 Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold;

11 for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.

12 I, wisdom, live with prudence, and I attain knowledge and discretion.

13 The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.

14 I have good advice and sound wisdom; I have insight, I have strength.

17-21

17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.

18 Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and prosperity.

19 My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver.

20 I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice,

21 endowing with wealth those who love me, and filling their treasuries.

WORD POWER!!!

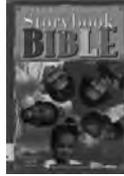
- **Words That Are Righteous** – Words that are helpful.
- **Prudence** – Good judgment.
- **Discretion** – Good sense.
- **Perverted Speech** – Words that harm, wrong, or corrupt.
- **Trinity** – God in three persons all wrapped into one (Father, Son, Holy Spirit).
- **Wisdom** – A quality of God that seeks to bring people back in right relationship with God.

GETTING READY!!!

Many churches follow the tradition of giving Bibles to people after they have been baptized. Such churches may give picture Bibles to parents of infants or toddlers who are baptized. Other churches give gift Bibles to older children and adults.

Pastor Grace decided to do something a little different at Wisdom's Promise AME Church. She brought different types of Bibles to each baptism class, and allowed the students to use them. This helped the adults see how picture and comic book Bibles could help them connect with God better. It also helped kids see how study Bibles could help them apply the Word of God to real-life situations.

Pastor Grace paid close attention to the kinds of Bibles people in the baptism classes liked the most. She also asked the students to pick their top three types of Bibles. Then, the Christian Education Department presented each student with one of their top three Bible versions as their baptism gift.



INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

Wisdom is back on the scene! Last time, she invited people to get what they needed from her so that they could be in right relationship with God. Now, she strengthens her argument by comparing her words to those of evil people. She says her words are trustworthy because they help people. She always says her advice is good.

Wisdom even promises to give some special gifts to those people who follow her advice. They will be able to find her when they look for her. They will be awarded with treasures that are better than gold and silver. They will do well with God and people.

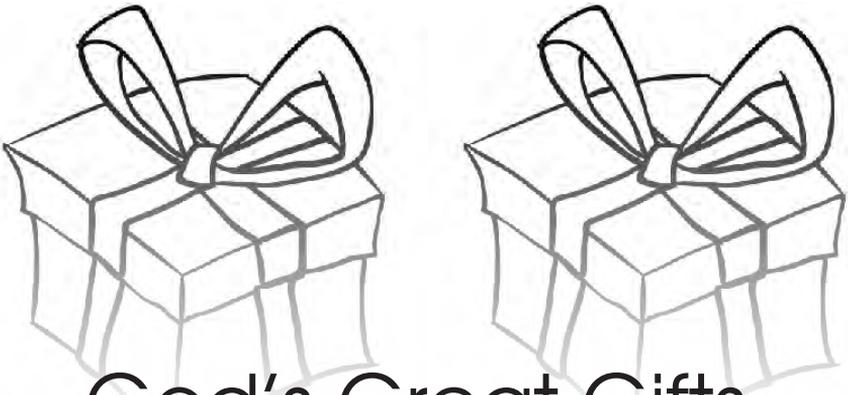
Now, this doing well isn't about being rich or having a lot of stuff. It's about living in a way that shows we respect God and others. That means we hate evil so much that we don't like *anything* about it. We shouldn't join people who say things that make others feel left out or unloved. We shouldn't act or think that we're better than other people for any reason. We should be fair to everyone and share the gifts wisdom has given us.

Activity #1 – Wisdom Sack Exchange. Create *wisdom sacks* in three different sizes: a small, a medium, and a large sack. Decorate each sack with some of wisdom’s advice. Make three different promise cards that talk about something wisdom promises. Place a card in each bag. Then share your bags with your classmates.

USING GOD’S WORD!!!

Jesus does some of the same things in the New Testament that wisdom does in today’s lesson. Both make a strong case for connecting with God. Both promise us that following their example will help make that connection strong and secure. Both offer us something that we can then offer to others. When we accept Jesus and wisdom’s offer, we discover their words are true. We also discover that gifts they’ve given us can be passed on to others.

Activity #2 – God’s Great Gifts Are Shareable. Decorate the gift boxes below with the gifts you’ve received from God that you can share with others.



God’s Great Gifts

REMIX!!!

We know we're following in wisdom and Jesus' footsteps when what we say and do makes the world better. If the words we say help people work together, we're making wise choices. If the things we do help people get to know God better, we're making wise choices. In those times, we're modeling what wisdom and Jesus teach. We're also fearing God and hating evil. And that's how the people of God prosper.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

For Wisdom's promises fulfilled in us,
Thank you, God!
For every lesson we learn and pass along,
Thank you, God!
For every chance to make someone's day great,
Thank you, God!
~ Amen ~

FEAST ON WISDOM

LESSON SCRIPTURE: PROVERBS 9

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: PROVERBS 9:1-6, 8-10, 13-18

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

Proverbs 9:1-6, 8-10, 13-18 (NRSV)

Proverbs 9:1-6

1 Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars.

2 She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table.

3 She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town,

4 “You that are simple, turn in here!” To those without sense she says,

5 “Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.

6 Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

8-10

8 A scoffer who is rebuked will only hate you; the wise, when rebuked, will love you.

9 Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser

still; teach the righteous and they will gain in learning.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

13-18

13 The foolish woman is loud; she is ignorant and knows nothing.

14 She sits at the door of her house, on a seat at the high places of the town,

15 calling to those who pass by, who are going straight on their way,

16 “You who are simple, turn in here!” And to those without sense she says,

17 “Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”

18 But they do not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Foolish Woman** – One who tries to draw people away from God by mimicking wisdom; also called “folly.”
- **Simple** – People who know little about wise and godly choices.
- **Without Sense** – Those who haven’t yet decided whether to follow wisdom or folly.

GETTING READY!!!

André felt like he was in one of those cartoons where an angel whispers in one ear, and a devil whispers in another. At his old school, people respected other people’s beliefs. That’s why no one said anything when André prayed before eating. They also didn’t say anything when he decorated his backpack with scripture verses.

Things were different at his new school. Some kids liked what André did so much that they asked if they could pray together before school started. Others said he was pushing his beliefs on them. André wasn’t sure what to do. He just knew that he didn’t want to give up on God.

What do you think André should do? _____

INTO GOD’S WORD!!!

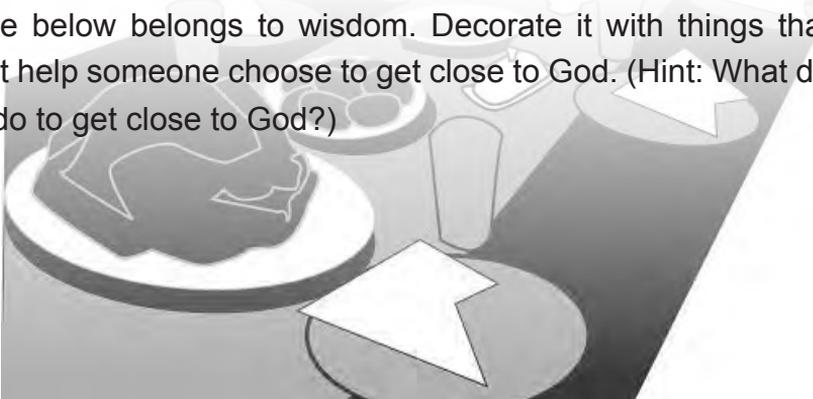
Two voices are calling those who haven’t made a decision about fearing God yet. The first voice belongs to wisdom.

Notice how she prepares her house before her guests' arrival. Everything wisdom does in advance is meant to help people fear God.

First, wisdom builds a big house that's secure and stable because it's built with seven pillars. Second, she takes great care in preparing a feast for her guests. Wisdom has servants but she's the one who slaughters the animals. She's the one who mixes the wine. She's the one who prepares the table. That way, wisdom can make sure everything is just right. Next, she sends the servants out to invite people to her feast. Finally, wisdom delivers a personal invitation from the highest places in the town that includes a powerful promise. She says those who join her feast will live well and use good judgment, because they'll know how to fear God.

The other voice belongs to a foolish woman known as folly. She's not prepared like wisdom. Nor does folly promise that people will learn to fear God. Instead, she makes it seem like making ungodly choices can lead to good outcomes. Unfortunately, some folks fall for her tricks.

Activity #1 – A Well Built House and a Special Feast. The house below belongs to wisdom. Decorate it with things that might help someone choose to get close to God. (Hint: What do you do to get close to God?)





USING GOD'S WORD!!!

In the “Friday Night Tights” episode of Disney Channel’s *Raven’s Home*, Booker gets tricked into making a bad choice. He’s been doing ballet with his friend Danni because he loves dance and he likes Danni. Yet, he lets the new kid at school convince him that ballet isn’t cool. After Booker backs out of dancing ballet with Danni, he discovers that the new kid has tricked him.

Guess why the new guy was able to trick Booker? First, the new guy didn’t seem like a bad guy. Second, he used Booker’s desire to be “cool” against him. Third, the guy made it seem like he was trying to help Booker. Last, Booker ignored the signs that the guy’s advice could hurt his relationship with Danni.

Something similar happens to the people who listen to folly in today’s lesson. Folly’s invitation starts off in a harmless way. She invites the same people that wisdom does. Yet, Folly makes it seem like it’s alright for her invitees to take things that belong to others. That should be a clear sign to them that folly’s advice is bad. The simple-minded people who listen to her don’t recognize that sign, and end up disconnected from God.

Activity #2 – The Signs Are There. Look at the phrases below.

Circle the ones that might be signs that something is a bad choice.

- 1) You get a “yucky” feeling when you think about lying to your parents.
- 2) Your heart starts beating faster just before you say your Easter speech.
- 3) Your skin starts to itch when someone asks you to try a fruit-flavored vape cigarette.
- 4) Your hands get sweaty just before you ask the preacher a question in Bible study.
- 5) Your eyes get wide when someone says you don’t need to read the Bible.

REMIX!!!

Folly does a really good job of mimicking wisdom. She calls from a similar location. She also makes it seem like what she has is just as good as what wisdom has. But it’s a trick. When we dig deeper, we discover folly only offers false information. That’s why she doesn’t want us to dig deeply.

Wisdom is much different. She wants us to feel confident about our relationship with God. That’s why she designs a stable house and hearty feast. Wisdom wants us to have everything we need to live like we fear God. Now, it’s up to us to decide which voice to pay attention to!

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

I hear so many voices calling me

Making it unclear what kind of person I may be

The messages of hate and mistrust get louder still
But I'll resist them with all of my will
I now know these foolish words are just a lie
Trying to trap me so that hope, peace, and joy die
To wisdom's word I will hold true
Using all of your advice like glue
So that, God, I may forever stick with you.

PROVING YOUR WISDOM

LESSON SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 11:1-19

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 11:7-19

Key Verse: Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds. Matthew 11:19

Matthew 11:7-19 (NRSV)

7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?

8 What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.

9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

10 This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

12 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and

the violent take it by force.

13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came;

14 and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come.

15 Let anyone with ears listen!

16 “But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

17 ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’;

19 the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

WORD POWER!!!

- **John the Baptist** – A family member of Jesus who dressed strangely, ate a special diet, hung out in the wilderness and challenged people to repent and turn back to God.
- **Prophets and the Law** – Code words for the books of the Old Testament.
- **Elijah** – An Old Testament prophet who called the people of Israel to repent and turn back to God.
- **Son of Man** – Title Jesus uses for himself to show he's the Messiah.
- **Glutton** – Person who eats a large amount of food.
- **Drunkard** – Person who gets drunk a lot.
- **Vindicated** – Proved right.

GETTING READY!!!

Greater Blessing AME Church's youth ministry was growing, and Pastor Tony wanted to acknowledge the people who helped it grow. Two Greater Blessing young people were drawing kids to God in usual ways. Sean was using his skills in sports to help kids make meaningful connections with God. He didn't pretend to be anything he wasn't. He showed up with a basketball or football most days. Sean's clothes and hair were often messy. Yet, he could help other kids apply Bible lessons to their lives in a powerful way. That's why Pastor Tony decided to make Sean the youth bible Study leader. It's also why Pastor Tony allowed him to do the Bible Study on the basketball court.

Likewise, Justine was using her welcoming personality to get people connected with God and the church. She brought kids to church who hadn't ever been before. Then she sat with

them so they could understand how service flowed. If they showed an interest in something, Justine encouraged them to follow through with it. This led one homeless teen to offer his services as a Christian comedian during the church anniversary celebration. It led another teen to design logos for the different ministries in the church. That's why Pastor Tony decided to make Justine the youth representative to the Evangelism Commission. It's also why Pastor Tony wouldn't allow other members of the Commission to make her wear a badge or uniform.

A few people in the church complained to the stewards about what Pastor Tony had done. They said Sean couldn't be a Bible study leader because he didn't hold the classes in the church building. They also said that Justine spent too much time with the wrong kind of people to be given such responsibility.

The people expected Pastor Tony to keep Sean and Justine from ministering after hearing their complaints. Instead, Pastor Tony defended Sean and Justine. He said the growth in the youth ministry proved Sean and Justine were making wise and godly choices. Then Pastor Tony told Sean and Justine to keep up the good work.

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

John the Baptist and Jesus also had some critics. They say that John is too strict. He wears strange clothes. He eats weird food. John does his ministry in the desert. He also says EVERYBODY needs to repent and turn back to God. He's the kind of guy who doesn't back down from sharing God's truth with people no matter who they are. John dared to tell Herod

Antipas that it was wrong for Herod to marry his brother's wife. That landed John in prison!

Of course, the critics say Jesus is too easy going. He spends time with sinners and tax collectors. He ministers to people who aren't even Jewish. In short, he's a rule breaker. Guess how Jesus responds to all of his critics? He tells them that they need to stop pre-judging people like him and John the Baptist. Instead, they need to see if the way they're ministering is effective. If so, then the people will know that John and Jesus are behaving in a wise and godly way.

Activity #1 – The Right Person for the Job. Create a job description for a prophet and a job description for the Messiah/Savior.

Prophet Job Description
Purpose:
Duties:
Experience:

Messiah/Savior Job Description
Purpose:

Duties:
Experience:

USING GOD’S WORD!!!

Today’s lesson reminds us that people can be mistreated even when they do wise and godly things. Some people will spend so much time criticizing the way a thing is done, that they can’t celebrate the result of lives won for God. Others just need a gentle reminder to focus on the results of the actions of those they criticize. Then, they can appreciate the way God’s working, even if it still seems strange and usual to them. That way they can begin to encourage the people doing the wise and godly thing. Or, they can be like Jesus.

Activity #2 – Jesus Has My Back. Show how it feels to know Jesus is backing those who choose to do wise and godly things. (Hint: You can draw something, paint something, write a poem, rap, song, or skit.)

REMIX!!!

Sometimes the best person for the job doesn’t look or act like we expect. We discount them because they don’t look like we think they should. Or, we refuse to give them a chance

because they spend time with people who don't think they'll be welcome inside a church. Yet, none of these things mean God isn't using these people to draw others to God. It just means they're working in a different way than we're used to seeing. It also means we need to wait and see if what they're doing gets results. If they do, God has proven that those people's actions are wise and godly. And, if God does that, we need to encourage them so they'll keep up the godly work.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

If I stand out as weird or strange
When I'm doing what you ask of me
And people make me feel sad or mad
Help me keep doing what I'm doing
Prove that what I'm doing is wise and godly
As others come to know you through me
For that's the best victory.

JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

LESSON SCRIPTURE: ECCLESIASTES 3:1-15; LUKE 2:39-52

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: ECCLESIASTES 3:1, 7B; LUKE 2:39-52

Key Verse: They found (Jesus) in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Luke 2:46

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 7b; Luke 2:39-52 (NRSV)

Ecclesiastes 3:1

1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:...

7b

7b ...a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;...

Luke 2:39-52

39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

40 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

41 Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover.

42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival.

43 When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

44 Assuming that he was in

the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.

45 When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

48 When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety."

49 He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

50 But they did not understand what he said to them.

51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her

heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Knowledge** – Information a person learns.
- **Insight** – Information a person discovers because of things s/he has experienced.
- **Discernment** – Information a person knows without studying or experiencing anything that would give them that specific information.
- **Wisdom** – The ability to act or say something in a God-directed way.
- **Passover** – A special celebration; Jewish people in Jesus' day traveled to Jerusalem in large groups to celebrate their deliverance from the death angel in Egypt before the Exodus.
- **Twelve Years Old** – The year before most Jewish boys at the time would've been welcomed into the Jewish community as full members.

GETTING READY!!!

In Episode 5 of Season 2 of the TV series *Young Sheldon*, the main character and his twin sister take a special test to determine how intelligence runs in families. Sheldon is the main character, and he's smart enough to attend high school even though he should be in grade school. His twin sister, Missy, attends grade school like most kids her age. When the two kids go to take the tests, Sheldon and the adults in the family expect Sheldon to be the one who reveals that he's the smartest. After

the adults watch the videos showing the ways the two kids responded to the scientists giving the tests, they are surprised by the results.

Activity #1 – Surprise, Surprise. Watch the clip of Sheldon and Missy responding to the test mentioned above. Then decide which characters in the clip seem “smart,” have “insight” or are “wise” under the headings below.

<u>Smart</u>	<u>Insight</u>	<u>Wise</u>
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.

INTO GOD’S WORD!!!

When Jesus was twelve years old, Jesus and his parents went to Jerusalem for the annual Passover Festival with a large group of other Jewish believers from Nazareth. After they finished celebrating how God had protected the Jewish people in Egypt, everyone except Jesus got ready to go back to Nazareth. Something inside Jesus let him know that the timing was right for him to stay behind, so that’s exactly what Jesus did.

There was one problem, though. Jesus’ parents didn’t know what he knew and hadn’t discerned what Jesus had discerned. They didn’t even figure out that Jesus wasn’t in the group traveling back to Nazareth until a day after the group had left. When they got back to Jerusalem, it took Jesus’ parents three days to find Jesus. When they found him, Jesus was sitting in

the temple listening to teachers and asking them questions. Of course, this sight confused Jesus' parents and they didn't know how to deal with what Jesus had done. They asked Jesus why he treated them so badly.

Jesus knew just how to respond. Like he had done with the teachers in the temple, Jesus seemed to know when to speak and when to keep quiet. Jesus asked his parents why they'd been searching, and why they didn't know he needed to be in the temple. Then, Jesus went home with his parents and followed all their rules. All of these things showed that Jesus was wise at a time in his life when most kids wouldn't have acted so wisely.

Activity #2 – Jesus the Wise. Use an extra piece of paper and write about the wise thing that Jesus says or does in today's lesson that stands out the most to you. Draw a picture, write a poem, write song or rap lyrics, or create a comic strip. When you're done, tell your classmates why this wise thing got your attention.

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

The adults in today's lesson were caught off guard by how Jesus carried himself. Jesus shared with them what he'd discovered about God. Jesus asked questions and paid attention to answers. Then, Jesus acted in ways that honored God. Jesus also showed the adults that he respected the roles they played in helping him become who God needed him to be. This respect didn't waver or fade, even when Jesus' parents didn't understand him. That's why Jesus could ask the questions he did, of the people he did. It's also why Jesus was able to grow wiser and gain favor with God and people.

Activity #3 – Questions, Questions: I’ve Got Many. Use the left side column to make a list of some questions you have about God, church, or your role in God’s plan. Use the right side to make a list of people within the church with whom you feel you could share your questions.

<u>Questions of Faith</u>	<u>People I Can Talk With</u>

REMIX!!!

People don’t always react well when someone they aren’t expecting to be wise, says or does something wise! Sheldon didn’t react well when he discovered that Missy was wiser in some areas of life than he was. Yet, that discovery pushed Sheldon and his family to make some changes that allowed both children to grow wiser. It also helped each child know when to speak up and when to be quiet.

Likewise, people didn’t always react well to Jesus when Jesus showed his wisdom. Yet, Jesus still showed respect and asked questions that helped everyone to be wiser. Similar things will happen in your life when you show others that you’re wise.

Some people will be surprised and want to interact with you. Some people will be confused and need to figure things out for themselves. Other people will try to stop and block you. Don’t let

their reactions change what God is showing you that God needs you to be and do. Trust God. Speak when God says speaks. Be quiet when God says be quiet. Grow wise and enjoy God's favor.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

Great God, help me know the time to speak and when to be quiet. Put people in my life who will help me know you more. Let me do the same for them. Help all of us to grow wiser and feel your favor. ~ Amen.

AN ALL-WISE JESUS

LESSON SCRIPTURE: MARK 6:1-6; 7:1-23

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: MARK 6:1-6

Key Verse: (Jesus) began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. Mark 6:2

Mark 6:1-6 (NRSV)

1 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.

2 On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands!

3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and

Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.

4 Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.”

5 And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them.

6 And he was amazed at their unbelief.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Hometown** – In Jesus’ case, the city of Nazareth.
- **Sabbath** – Seventh day of the week on which God told Jewish people to rest so they could observe it as a holy day. Modern Jewish people worship God on this day.
- **Synagogue** – Jewish gathering place for worship and learning.
- **House** – Family line.
- **Kin** – Relative(s).

GETTING READY!!!

Jair had been serving with the youth ushers since he was four years old. People were used to him showing them to their seats. They were used to him collecting the offering. They were even used to Jair offering them fans on hot days. The church was so proud of Jair’s service that they paid for him to attend the district youth training institute.



During the institute, Jair learned about the many things stewardesses did to support the pastor and the members of the church. He’d learned about how the stewardesses prepared for Holy Communion, baptisms, and ministered to people who responded to the invitation to Christ. Jair even learned about how stewardesses sometimes traveled with pastors during their Communion visits.

Jair shared what he learned with the youth ministry, stewardesses, and pastor. Then Jair talked with the president of the Stewardess Board about how the stewardesses at his church did their job. Then they both talked with the pastor about how he could work with the stewardess ministry.

At the next Official Board meeting, the pastor announced that he had made Jair a junior steward. The news made Jair very happy because it meant he could help with the stewardess ministry. Jair was even better at this ministry than he'd been when he ushered!

Yet, a lot of people didn't like seeing him in the new role. Some felt only females should work in the stewardess ministry. Others couldn't see how an usher could be trusted to care for the altar, Holy Communion, or baptisms. A third group just couldn't understand how a kid could understand the importance of such a ministry.

Pastor and the president of the Stewardess Board knew Jair had a heart for his new position. They refused to back down from their decision. They also let Jair know that he'd made a wise and godly choice to switch from ushering to working with stewardesses.

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

Jesus also faced opposition from people in his hometown when he taught in the synagogue on the Sabbath. The people of Nazareth remembered him as the carpenter's son. They also knew he did that for a living. That's why they were surprised to see Jesus teaching with wisdom and authority. It's

also why most of the people couldn't get past their image of what Jesus was supposed be. Listen closely to their reactions....

Man 1: Dude, did you see Jesus teaching in the church today?

Man 2: Yeah. That was so weird. He doesn't come from a Bible-teaching family.

Man 1: Exactly! He's a carpenter. He should be building stuff not pretending to be a preacher.

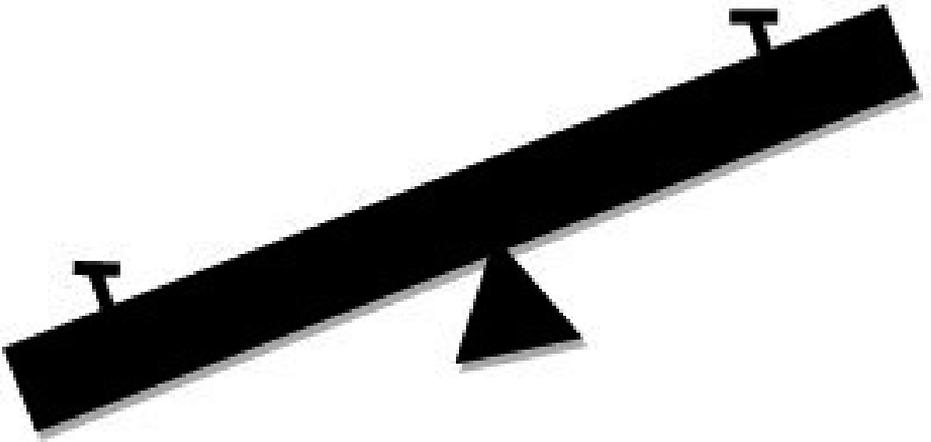
Man 2: I know. Right?

Man 3: But his teaching was on point, though.

Man 2: Doesn't matter. A guy like him shouldn't be teaching in our church.

Jesus: Wow. I get honored everywhere else but can't get any love at home.

Activity #1 – What a Surprise. Use a sheet of paper to write down all the positive things people said about Jesus in today's lesson. Use a second sheet of paper to write the negative things people said. The lower side of the seesaw on the next page is for the things that cause the people to reject Jesus. The higher side of the seesaw is for the things that could've caused people to accept Jesus. Cut and paste your lists to the side of the seesaw where you think they belong.



USING GOD'S WORD!!!

During Bible days, people expected children to follow in their parents' footsteps. However, Jesus wasn't the first person to shatter that idea. John the Baptist's father was a priest, but John became a prophet. People got used to John the Baptist having a different job than his father.

Of course, Jesus was different. Jesus did the same job as the father who raised Jesus. Jesus earned his living as a carpenter because that was his job. Jesus also fulfilled his mission to teach, heal, save, and minister to the lost. The people who hadn't grown up with Jesus were used to seeing Jesus do both. The people in his hometown were not. That's why some of them were offended to see Jesus ministering in the synagogue. Jesus was shattering their ideas about what it meant to be wise. He was also shattering their ideas about who was able to teach with wisdom. Since Jesus' hometown people weren't ready to have their ideas shattered, they refused to accept Jesus' new role.

These attitudes both surprised and hurt Jesus' feelings but didn't stop Jesus from ministering. They just stopped a lot of the people in his hometown from benefitting from what Jesus could do. If people's attitudes surprise and hurt you when you do something wise and godly, don't let them stop you. Find a way to continue doing those things even if you must do them in a different place.

Activity #2 – A Fan to Mend the Hurt. Use supplies that your teacher provides to create fans that you can use to cool you down when someone rejects you after you did wise and godly things. (Hint: One side of the fan should include how the rejection makes you feel. The other side should include the ways God loves and supports you.)

REMIX!!!

Today's lesson reminds us of something important. People who know us well may not be able to accept us when our wise and godly actions take them by surprise. Their rejection will hurt and surprise us, so we can't pretend that we don't feel what we feel. Jesus didn't. He told the people who rejected him that no one else had treated him that badly.

Jesus could've left in a huff without healing anyone, but he didn't. Instead, Jesus healed those he could before moving on. Jesus was able to do this because he was able to encourage himself. If you want to keep doing wise and godly things, you may need to encourage yourself just like Jesus. Or, you may get outside help like Jair did. His pastor and stewardess president defended and encouraged him. When someone does this for

you, say “thank you” and then do it for someone else.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

If people who know me well reject me

When I’ve done the best I can

To wisely share how great you are

Lord God, send someone near

Who can help me deal with

My hurt, my sadness, and my pain

So that I never give up on sharing

The love, peace, and joy with you I’ve gained.

WISE UP AND LIVE FOR GOD

LESSON SCRIPTURE: PROVERBS 3:17; 8:32-36; JOHN 14:1-14

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: JOHN 14:1-14

Key Verse: "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do." John 14:12

John 14:1-14 (NRSV)

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

4 And you know the way to the place where I am going."

5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now

on you do know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these,

because I am going to the Father.

may be glorified in the Son.

13 I will do whatever you ask
in my name, so that the Father

14 If in my name you ask me
for anything, I will do it.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Father** – God.
- **Father’s House** – Where God lives.
- **Dwelling Place** – Living space within God’s house that’s specifically designed for those who believe in Jesus.
- **Thomas** – The disciple who tells the other disciples that they should risk death with Jesus by going to Bethany to help Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.
- **Philip** – The disciple who leads two different people to Jesus, but also says that Jesus and the disciples don’t have enough money to feed the huge crowd of people that followed Jesus.

GETTING READY!!!



In the “Great Robot Race” episode of Disney Junior’s animated TV show, T.O.T.S., a scientist challenges the delivery birds to race his robot stork. The scientist believes the robot can do a

better job of delivering baby animals because the robot is a faster flyer. The delivery birds believe they can do a better job because they are caring flyers. The scientist chooses Pip and Freddy to race his robot because they are junior flyers. (That means that they are still in training.)

The robot stork sets out to deliver one twin, while Pip and Freddy deliver the other. It looks like the robot will win because he’s moving faster. Then something happens that he wasn’t

prepared for. His baby gets upset and nothing he does makes it happy. When the robot is unable to comfort the twin he's carrying, he breaks down.

The robot fails because he only knows how to act based on how he was programmed. Since he's not able to adjust to the unexpected, the robot believes he's already failed so he gives up. Freddy and Pip could've allowed the robot to stay broken, but they don't. First, they deliver both twins to their parents. Then, they lead the robot back to the T.O.T.S. headquarters so that his creator can make some changes to his programming.

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

Guess what? The disciples from today's lesson are acting a lot like the robot stork in the *T.O.T.S.* episode. They're falling apart because they don't know how to adjust their thinking. They were convinced that the people of Israel would be saved in a certain way; but, Jesus told them it would happen through Jesus' death. That shook them to their core, so they began to question everything.

Thankfully, the disciples aren't as stuck in their ways as the people from Jesus' hometown. Yet, they have a hard time understanding and accepting the plan for salvation that Jesus lays out. However, they've been with Jesus long enough not to totally reject what Jesus is offering. Instead, they ask Jesus to make his message clearer.

Jesus really shows how wise he is in those moments, because Jesus doesn't give up on his disciples. Yes, he's

annoyed that they don't get it the first or the second time, but he keeps working with them. Jesus never stops inviting them to wise up and accept that this salvation plan will grant *everyone* who believes a place with God and a life that pleases God.

Activity #1 – God’s House Has a Place for Every Believer.

Use a poster board, pictures of different types of places that people can live in, scissors, glue, and markers to create a *God’s House Collage*. Then add the names of members of your church to different “dwelling places.”

USING GOD’S WORD!!!

The two disciples who speak up in today’s lesson found themselves in an uncomfortable position. They had put their hope and trust in Jesus. Philip had encouraged others to follow Jesus. Thomas encouraged the others to keep following Jesus if they had to die doing it. Now, Jesus was telling them that he was going away and that they would have to continue the work without him. That made the two disciples and the other disciples feel uncomfortable.

Jesus knew this so he reassured them. Unfortunately, Jesus’ words didn’t fully sink in until much later. The disciples had to experience him die, rise, and go up to heaven before they fully understood what made Jesus *the Way, the Truth, and the Life*.

Things are a little bit easier for us. The message about Jesus being *the Way, the Truth, and the Life* isn’t new to us. We’ve heard it before. It’s part of our belief system as Christians. That doesn’t mean we’ll be comfortable with the idea of Jesus dying so we can know God, do great things for God, and have a place

with God. It just means that we can't let our discomfort keep us from accepting that the promise is true.

Activity #2 – Good and Wise Things that Make Us Uncomfortable. Look at the list below. Circle the ones that are positive, even though they may make people uncomfortable.

1. A parent says no to something that they know their child isn't ready to handle.
2. A friend talks you into finishing the homework assignment you've avoided doing.
3. A student talks a classmate into taking something off of the teacher's desk without permission.
4. Your sister encourages you to exercise when you tell her you don't feel like it.
5. A neighbor gets you to make fun of another neighbor who speaks with a different accent.
6. Your brother tells you to keep eating even though you told him that you're full.

REMIX!!!

The disciples had a hard time trusting that Jesus was *the Way, the Truth, and the Life* because they didn't think the world would be saved through Jesus' death. It made them uncomfortable to think that they would have to do wise and godly things without Jesus. That's why Jesus promised that he would continue to help them. Guess what? That promise applies to you, too. Jesus is in heaven doing what needs to be done so you can do great things for God. Will you trust Jesus enough to believe that Jesus is *the Way, the Truth, and the Life*? If so, you'll get to know God, live your life for God, and have a place in heaven with God.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

There's enough room up where God lives
For every believer to take their place
Jesus died, rose, and went up into heaven
To reserve a place for all those who would believe
And to give them the courage, power, and strength they'd need
To share with others this promise of life with God above
That also helps us live well here until Jesus reappears
For this is what makes Jesus *the Way, the Truth, and the Life!*

FAITH AND WISDOM

LESSON SCRIPTURE: JAMES 1:1-11

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: JAMES 1:1-11

Key Verse: If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly. James 1:5

James 1:1-11 (NRSV)

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

2 My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy,

3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance;

4 and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

5 If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.

6 But ask in faith, never

doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind;

7,8 for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

9 Let the believer who is lowly boast in being raised up,

10 and the rich in being brought low, because the rich will disappear like a flower in the field.

11 For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the field; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. It is the same way with the rich; in the midst of a busy life, they will wither away.

WORD POWER!!!

- **James** – A half-brother of Jesus who doesn't become a follower of Jesus Christ until after Jesus' death.
- **Twelve Tribes** – People of Jewish descent who have become followers of Jesus Christ.
- **Dispersion** – The many places around the world where members of the twelve tribes of Israel were forced to move.
- **Endurance** – Ability to keep doing something when it's hard to do so.
- **Doubter** – Someone who wavers in their belief in something or someone.
- **Double-minded** – Remaining loyal to two opposing points of view.

GETTING READY!!!

Jay usually likes listening to church music with his G-ma; but, that changed when she started singing, "When I See Jesus, Amen." Jay just couldn't see why the song made his G-ma feel so good. Jay also couldn't understand why she'd start inviting people to put their trust in Jesus after hearing or singing that song. All Jay felt was confusion and a little anger when he heard that song.

It was the opening words that made Jay feel so bad. They seemed to suggest that people had to suffer in order to live with God forever. Jay just couldn't see how anyone with sense could feel happy about that thought. He also couldn't understand why it would make his G-ma want to spread the word about Jesus.

Jay knew his G-ma wasn't crazy. He also knew Jesus was worth knowing. So, Jay knew he was missing something

important. That’s why he got up the courage to talk to his G-ma about how his faith was being tested by the song’s message. G-ma thanked Jay for sharing his thoughts. Then, she helped him understand what the song was really saying. Jay had the most problems with the line that said:

“I’ve learned how to suffer for if I
suffer, I’ll gain eternal life.”

“Oh, child,” she said, “the song’s not saying we have to suffer to get eternal life. It’s saying we’ll know how to live holy and wise lives if we learn how to suffer. That means we need to learn how to stick with Jesus when it’s confusing and hard. Then we’ll be able to live wise and holy lives just like Jesus.”

Activity #1 – Hymns That Might Confuse a Kid. Look at the lyrics from the AME hymns that your teacher has provided. Circle all the lines that confuse you. Then, work with your teacher and classmates to see if you can come to a common understanding of the messages in the hymns.

INTO GOD’S WORD!!!

Today’s lesson is addressed to a special group of believers in Jesus Christ. They are the Jewish Christians who live outside Jerusalem because they were forced to relocate. They fled Jerusalem after Stephen was stoned for sharing the message about Jesus Christ. Now, they live all over the Greco-Roman empire and feel disconnected from the church in Jerusalem. That’s when James steps in. He lets the Jewish Christians know that they are still connected to the believers in Jerusalem. He reminds them that the faith-challenges they’re dealing with don’t

have to wreck their relationship with God. James says they can end up with a fuller and more complete relationship with God, by keeping their faith when doing so is hard.

James must have realized that his advice sounded weird, so he told the people to go directly to God when they were confused about a matter of faith. He also said God would definitely give them the wisdom they'd needed as long as their faith didn't waver. Guess what? Those words still ring true today. Holding on to our faith in Jesus when it's being challenged makes our relationship with God stronger. When that relationship is stronger, we can confidently ask God to show us how to make good and right choices.

Activity #2 – Faith and Wisdom Work Together. Circle the words listed below that appear in the word search puzzle. Use the letters that remain to help you identify a special message about the connection between faith and being seen as a wise person.

BOAST

JESUS

COMPLETE

SERVANT

DOUBTER

TESTING

ENDURANCE

TRIALS

FAITH

TRIBES

JAMES

R J E S U S G T O D W C
 E I L E L G N I V E Y O
 T O U T L A H E W S T M
 B I S T V B D O M E Y P
 U O U R L T A A S M C L
 O K E I S I R T F A Y E
 D S O A U A I I S J S T
 K W O L I N T H B N F E
 A B I S G T H Z M E U P
 C E N D U R A N C E S K
 M Y V G B H T T B Z K W
 L T R H T I A F G Q M J

USING GOD’S WORD!!!

James, who gives such great advice about the connection between faith and wisdom, wasn’t always a trusted leader of

the church in Jerusalem. He started off being one of the family members who didn't accept Jesus as Savior. Sure, James was raised to believe Jesus was special. Yes, James believed in God. He just didn't believe Jesus was *the* Messiah until after Jesus died and appeared in the Upper Room.

As a half-brother of the Savior, James could have pointed to that relationship as proof of his status in the church. Such a connection would've made Jesus seem extra special. Since that rich heritage didn't help him fully accept Jesus as Savior, James boasts about what he finds more important. He identifies himself as a servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Then, James encourages the other believers to boast about how they obtained such status as well.

This shift that James makes from doubter to servant of Jesus Christ should give us hope. James proves that God will rearrange our point of view and our circumstances so that our faith can grow. James also proves that those changes will make us wise enough to help others, if we hold on to our faith. All we have to do is ask God to give us what we need to meet and grow from what's challenging our faith. God will do it if we ask with faith, because God wants us to show the wisdom God provides.

REMIX!!!

God wants us to live the best life possible. There is a plan in place to help us get the wisdom that we need. However, we've got to ask for it with confident faith! We can't allow anything to weaken our trust in God. Otherwise, we won't get the wisdom

we need to live like Jesus saved us to be. So, let's ask God for what we need.

Activity #3 – I Need You Now. Use a separate sheet of paper to write a text message to God about how you can make a wise and godly decision when you're troubled by some faith matter.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

I'll count it all joy even when it seems hard to
I know God will never give me more than I can handle
And when I struggle to do this well, I'll ask God for help
Then God will step in and give me the wisdom and faith I need
So I can stick with God through thick and thin
For I'm committed to being faithful and wise until the very end.

~ Original poem inspired by the chorus of "Count It All Joy" by
the Winans ~

HEARING AND DOING THE WORD

LESSON SCRIPTURE: JAMES 1:19-27

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: JAMES 1:19-27

Key Verse: Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. James 1:22

James 1:19-27 (NRSV)

19 You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger;

20 for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness.

21 Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.

23 For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror;

24 for they look at themselves

and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like.

25 But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

26 If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless.

27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

WORD POWER!!!

- **God’s Righteousness** – Wise living that reflects what God feels is most important.
- **Meekness** – Open attitude that allows people to focus on more than their wants and needs.
- **Persevere** – Ability to keep doing something when it’s hard to do so.
- **Undeclared** – Not spoiled, ruined, or discredited.
- **“Your Anger”** – The kind of anger that causes people to lash out in ways that don’t right any wrongs.

GETTING READY!!!

Maria and all the other kids got WWJD bracelets during the *Youth Moment* in church. The person who gave out the bracelets said they should remind kids to do what Jesus would do. Maria didn’t say anything at the time, but she was a little scared to use the bracelet that way. She knew that Jesus died for people’s sins, rose from the dead, and went up to heaven. Maria also knew that those weren’t things that she could do.

When Maria got home, she talked to her parents about her worries. That’s when they started telling her about some of the other things Jesus did. They said Jesus fed two large groups of hungry people. They also said Jesus helped grown-ups understand that kids needed to spend time with Jesus, too. Maria felt better after that because she knew she could do stuff like that.

Activity #1 – Things I Like Most About Jesus. Use the space on the next page to list things that Jesus did that you like the

most.

1.

2.

3.

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

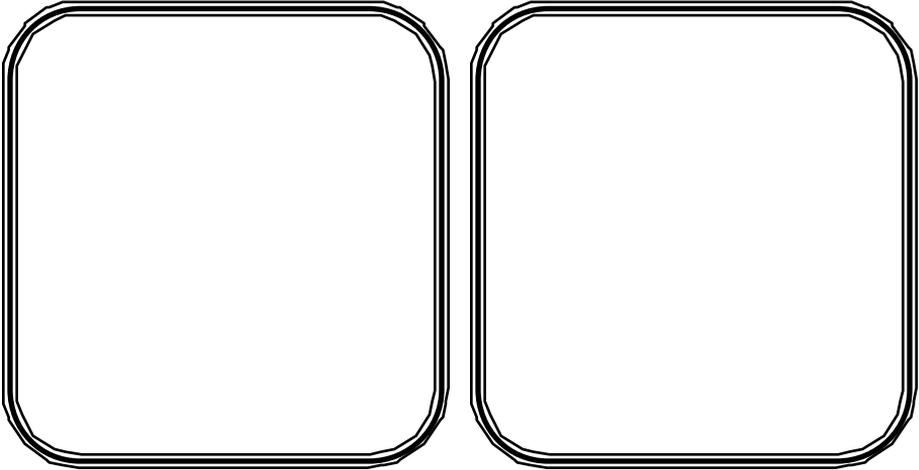
Today's lesson reminds us to take an honest look at ourselves. It reminds us that learning about how to live a wise and godly life should be part of our goal. After we hear the words in scripture, we need to them. Otherwise, we're not living up to the example that Jesus set for us. Instead, we're deceiving ourselves and making it seem like following Jesus is worthless.

If you're like Maria, you're probably panicking a little at this moment. It probably seems like doing the things that Jesus did are also beyond your reach. If we try to do it on our own, you're probably right. That's why James lays out a foolproof plan.

Step 1 is to get rid of bad influences like the kind of anger that destroys stuff. Then, we can replace it with the kind of anger that won't allow us to stop until we've righted a wrong. Step 2 is to look for chances to help others who are in need. Then we can show people that being a follower of Jesus is worth the effort that living a wise and godly life requires.

Activity #2 – An Honest Look in the Mirror. Fill the mirror on the left with the negative things that you think you need to get

rid of. Fill the mirror on the right with the godly things you need to replace them with.



USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Sometimes, we fail to act on what we hear because we're not really listening. Maybe we're so focused on finishing a task that we don't hear a family member's plea to spend quality time with us. That's what Elena and her sister, Isabel, do to their grandmother in the "Sugar Rush" episode of *Elena of Avalor*.



They hear the words their grandmother says about family time

being important, but don't act like it's important to them. Sure, they re-open the family chocolate shop with their grandmother. But they rush through the recipe so that they can work on a special project with some visiting royals instead of spending quality time with their grandmother. That made the grandmother believe that her family was falling apart.

Guess what? We send a similar message when we don't put to work what we've learned about God. We know God helps people in need because we've read about it in the Bible. We've studied it in Sunday school. We've heard it in sermons and songs. We've heard that we're supposed to be like God. We're fooling ourselves when we say we're following Jesus if we never help anybody else. That's why we must do the wise and godly things that we know Jesus would do.

Activity #3 – Increasing the Good. Look at the list of people in need of help below. Pick one and talk with your class about what can be done to help them.

1. A kid in class tells you they don't understand the homework assignment that you're almost finished with.
2. You see a group of kids bullying someone because they dress differently.
3. You notice a kid in church is always hungry.
4. One of the usher's arms is in a cast so they can't hold the offering tray.

REMIX!!!

It's easy to trick yourself into believing that learning about Jesus and how to live wisely is enough. That's what Maria and the

people James wrote to believed at first. Then someone helped them understand that living a wise and godly life also includes doing good things for others. Let's follow James' advice. Let's listen closely to what a wise and godly life should look like. Then, let's do those things that match what we've heard and learned.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

We say we love you and want to be like you
We study your ways and sing your praise
But we don't love others like you do
We hear their cries of pain
And don't even offer a band-aid
That kind of religion doesn't honor you
So, Jesus, help us to change
Show us how to hear and do for others what you would do.

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD

LESSON SCRIPTURE: JAMES 2:14-26

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: JAMES 2:14-26

Key Verse: Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by your works will show you my faith. James 2:18

James 2:14-26 (NRSV)

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you?

15 If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food,

16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?

17 So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

18 But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith.

19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder.

20 Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith apart from works is barren?

21 Was not our ancestor

Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?

22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works.

23 Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” and he was called the friend of God.

24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

25 Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road?

26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Epidemic** – When a disease spreads rapidly and affects a large number of people.
- **Works** – Godly actions that line up with what a person says they believe.
- **Reckoned** – Counted; regarded.
- **Justified** – Proved to be in right relationship with God.
- **Prostitute** – Person who earns money by having sexual relations with numerous people.

GETTING READY!!!

Sarah Bass Allen wasn't just the wife of the founder of the AME Church. She was also someone who believed that following Jesus Christ meant doing things to make the world a better place. Before she married Rev. Richard Allen, Sarah Bass helped people affected by the yellow fever epidemic of 1793. After she married Rev. Allen, she continued putting her faith to work. She was so well-known for helping runaway slaves that it was mentioned in her obituary. She even organized a women's group who mended the torn clothing of AME preachers, after noticing their torn clothing during the First Annual Conference of the AME Church



Sarah Allen's perspective may seem ordinary to modern day members of the AME Church. However, it was a little unusual for female Christians to take such an active role during Mother Sarah's lifetime. Women's groups often prayed for people in need. They also raised money for charitable causes, but they

didn't usually take direct action to change people's situations.

Sarah Allen changed the way Christian women approached serving God and the people of God. She proved that people of faith could study the Bible, pray, and make a difference in their communities. Perhaps that's why she is known as one of the first female missionaries in U.S. history.

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

James is a lot like Sarah Bass Allen. He clearly believes that it's not enough to know the ideas that we base our faith on. That's why Jesus says that even demons know that God is one (in three). James wants believers to understand that their faith in God should move them to take actions that make the world better.

James suggests that our faith lacks saving power when we pretend that everyone in a bad situation can get out of it, without help. Listen closely to what James says:

“Let me get this right: you think your do-nothing faith is better than my life-giving faith? Your faith lets you pat yourself on the back for offering to pray for the hungry and naked. My faith pushes me to feed and clothe others. Well, how does God get glory out of you ignoring people in need? How do they learn that God's concerned about them? That kind of faith seems dead to me and I serve a God who gives us life. I choose to be like Rahab. I'll take a chance on God and help God's people live.”

Activity #1 – Faith with Saving Power. Unscramble the phrases below. Then copy the numbers under the numbered boxes to the other boxes with the same number.

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USING GOD’S WORD!!!

Three year ago, U.S. Congresswoman Maxine Waters became famous for using the phrase “reclaiming my time” at the House Financial Services Committee meeting. She’d asked Treasury Secretary, Steven Mnuchin, why he hadn’t responded to a written request she’d made. Instead of answering her question, he started complimenting members of the committee. When her attempts to get him to answer the question failed, Rep. Waters asked that her time be returned to her. That way she could make sure that she could continue the work she’d been elected to do.

In the scripture, James also wants the people of God to be able to do what Jesus saved them to do. That’s why James

works so hard to “reclaim” the idea of what it means to live a faithful life. James wants believers to make a positive impact for God. Jesus knows that it can’t be done if the people of God can’t prove to others that God wants to save the *whole* person.

Activity #2 – “Reclaiming My Faith.” If you think the actions below show that the church is doing something that makes Christianity look good, circle it. Then talk with your class about the message that the other church’s actions send to believers.

1. People in the neighborhood think a local church is closed because it’s only open on Sundays.
2. A church allows people with no place to live to sleep in the basement and access the bathrooms once a week.
3. A group of Christian doctors and nurses provide free medical care to people in a detention center for illegal immigrants.
4. The Finance Committee uses the money given in the missionary/benevolent offering to pay bills.
5. The Stewardess and Deaconess Boards pray once a month before packing up toiletry bags to give to the prostitutes in the neighborhood.

REMIX!!!

It can be hard to figure out the best way to live faithfully. Some people believe that being able to say the right words are the best signs of living faithfully. Others believe that doing the right things are the best signs. Sarah Allen and James, the writer of the scripture, fit into a third group. They believe that the things we do for Christ will reveal that our relationship with God is tight and right. That belief pushes them to make a positive impact in

the lives of the people around them. If we want to have a living faith that can spread the message of salvation, we should be like Mother Sarah Allen and James. We must have the kind of faith that meets the needs of those God sends our way. Then and only then can we take back our faith.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

Take it back.

We've got to take it back

Our faith's been hijacked

So, we will pray and act

To meet people's need

And prove by what we do

That our relationship with God is right and true.

TAMING THE TONGUE

LESSON SCRIPTURE: JAMES 3:1-12

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: JAMES 3:1-12

Key Verse: From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. James 3:10

James 3:1-12 (NRSV)

1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

2 For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle.

3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies.

4 Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire!

6 And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it

stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell.

7 For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species,

8 but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

9 With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God.

10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.

11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water?

12 Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Perfect** – When a person is able to say and do what God desires, without making careless mistakes.
- **Tame** – Rule and control.
- **Teachers** – Religious scholars who help other people learn about their shared faith.
- **Bridle** – Something that’s used to tame, guide, and control creatures

GETTING READY!!!

Armand had an important decision to make. He needed to decide whether or not he could still look up to Eric. When Armand first joined the church, Eric was the one who reached out to him. Eric got him to join the mime ministry. Eric talked to him about prayer and how it wasn’t just for grown-ups and girls.

Then Armand overheard Eric saying something mean about a new family in the neighborhood. The family stood out because they dressed different. They also spoke with a different accent.

Armand was very confused by what Eric had done. He remembered how Eric told him to love others like he loved himself. That’s why Armand couldn’t just ignore the mean words Eric said about the new family that moved into the neighborhood.

What do you think Armand should do?

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

James offers us an important warning in today's lesson. He says that our words matter. When we're paying attention to what we say and how we say it, we can act like a bridle and help people make better choices. If we don't control our tongues, we risk letting Satan control it. When that happens, we do things that make us appear like we aren't followers of Jesus Christ.

What Eric does in the **Getting Ready!!!** section is a good example. He honors God with the same mouth with which he disrespects a child of God. What is so bad about that, you ask? It makes Armand think that Eric is no longer acting like a follower of Jesus Christ. It also makes Armand rethink following the wise and godly advice that Eric gave him in the past.

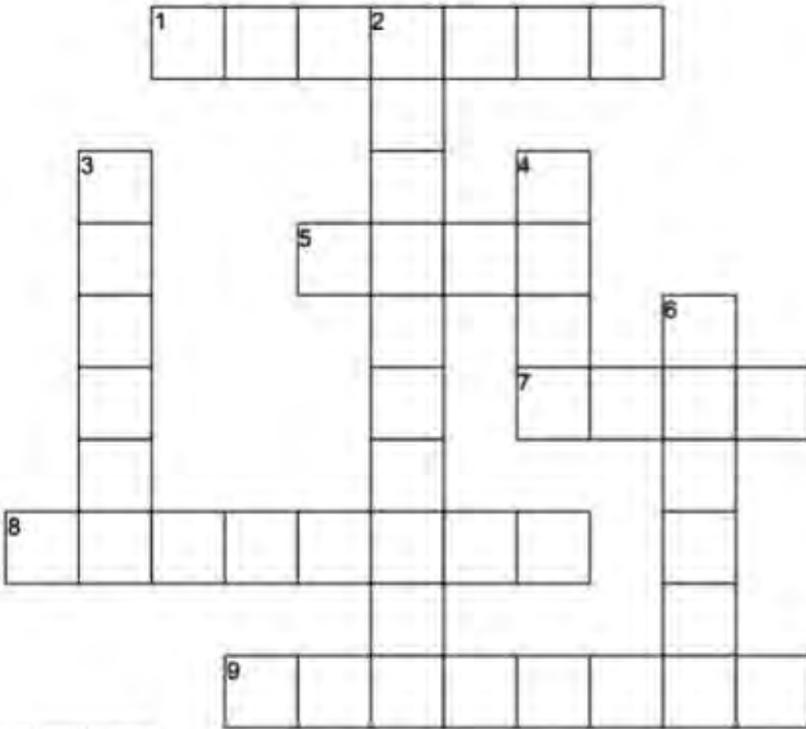
Activity #1 – The Stakes Are too High Not to Try. Solve the crossword puzzle.

ACROSS

- 1 This and blessing come from the same mouth
- 5 The tongue is described as this thing that burns
- 7 A title used for the one we bless with our mouth
- 8 What many believers shouldn't become
- 9 Everyone makes these

DOWN

- 2 People who teach are judged with more of this
- 3 This “member” boasts great exploits
- 4 This sets an untamed tongue on fire
- 6 What perfect people use to keep the whole body in check



USING GOD’S WORD!!!

It’s not easy to tame something that’s used to being free. In the movie, *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron*, the main character

is a horse named Spirit. He's running free and creating trouble for the other wild horses when he's captured by U.S. soldiers. The soldiers try to tame him by force. It seems like they're succeeding for a while, but then Spirit breaks free with a Lakota brave named Little Creek. Of course, the two escapees cause a lot of damage on their way out of the military fort. This is because Spirit is still operating in an uncontrolled way.



Spirit meets a mare named Rain who helps him tame himself after he and Little Creek get to the Lakota village. Rain shows Spirit how he can work with others. She also gives him a reason to want to be more controlled. Because of the training she provides, Spirit learns that he can make things better for others now that he's under control.

The same thing will happen to us if we take the time to control how we speak to others. We'll discover that our speech can help people choose to give God a chance when we speak with care. Then we can help them make wise and godly choices.

Activity #2 – To Tame My Tongue. If the things on the next page could help you control your tongue better, check the 🤪 box. If the things below won't help you control your tongue better, check the 🙄 box.

		
1. Taking a deep breath and saying a quick prayer before you respond to something that’s annoying you.		
2. Sharing what you’d like to say with a friend who can tell you how it sounds before you say it.		
3. Telling yourself people should get over it when they tell you that your tone of voice is hurtful when you’re annoyed.		
4. Following the rules on how to talk to people that are posted in the classroom.		
5. A friend encourages you to share a mean rumor about a classmate in your group chat.		
6. Thinking about how you’d like someone to speak to you when you’ve made a mistake before you talk to someone who’s made a mistake.		

REMIX!!!

This week’s lesson reminds us that we need to be careful how we speak. Human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. One of the first things God did was to create things, by speaking things into existence. God has also given us this power. Our words can help someone choose to get to know

God. They can also drive people away from God! That's why we can't afford to be careless with our words.

The right words can brighten someone's day. The wrong words can turn a good day into a bad one. The right words can let someone know that God wants to help them. The wrong words can make someone think God isn't interested in them. So, please pay close attention to what you say and how you say it. If you do, you'll be able to tame your tongue more and more!

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

Sticks and stones may break my bones

But broken bones will heal.

The mean and hurtful things people say

Will harm my soul in a much deeper way.

So, child of God,

Let Jesus guide the words you say

So that no one is driven away from the community of faith.

TWO KINDS OF WISDOM

LESSON SCRIPTURE: JAMES 3:13-18; 5:7-12

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: JAMES 3:13-18; 5:7-12

*Key Verse: Act with justice and righteousness....And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood.
Jeremiah 22:3*

James 3:13-18; 5:7-12 (NRSV)

James 3:13-18

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth.

15 Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish.

16 For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind.

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.

18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

5:7-12

7 Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the

Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.

8 You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

9 Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors!

10 As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

11 Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

12 Above all, my beloved, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "Yes" be yes and your "No" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Wise** – Ability to use information that's gained in a God-honoring way.
- **Understanding** – Knowledge of God's ways gained through study.
- **Gentleness** – Attitude that allows people to focus on more than just their wants and needs; a kind way of acting with and treating other people.
- **Partiality** – Showing special treatment to select people.
- **Hypocrisy** – Not being sincere.

GETTING READY!!!

Christina thinks she's a wise and knowledgeable young Christian. She reads a Bible verse each morning and prays before bed each night. She's in church school and morning worship service every Sunday.

Yet, Christina has an attitude that doesn't match her image of herself. Christina is the kind of kid who only does things when she can benefit from them. She joined the youth ushers because she wanted to make friends with a popular girl at school. When the popular girl moved to another town, Christina stopped ushering. Christina thinks these are wise choices. Do you agree? Yes
No

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

This final lesson from James reminds us that people are exposed to more than one kind of wisdom. Godly wisdom provides us the open attitude that we need to live like God desires. It motivates us to treat everyone fairly. It pushes us

to be sincere when we respond to requests so that we don't have to take any false oaths. Godly wisdom will strengthen our hearts so that we can keep living like God desires even when we're under pressure. That way we won't complain about fellow believers instead of addressing the one who hurt us. Then our whole lives will reflect what we've come to believe about living like God desires.

Activity #1 – Open and Godly Wise or Closed and Earthly Wise. Use the spaces to show what each kind of wisdom produces.

Open and Godly Wise: If I think about how others are affected, I will usually...

Closed and Earthly Wise: If I refuse to think about how others are affected, I will usually...



USING GOD’S WORD!!!

Some people believe that the reasons *why* they do a good deed are less important than the deed itself. They don’t realize that the thing that motivates them will affect how the job is done. That’s what happened to Armadylan in the “Armadylan Action Hero” episode of *PJ Masks*.



Armadylan tries to make a video to show he’s an awesome action hero. Because he just wants to show off his moves, he didn’t think things through before he filmed his scenes. That led him to make some decisions that seemed wise but ended up causing big problems.

Armadylan spins a car to prove he’s an action hero and ends up blocking the door to the movie theater. Next, he decides to stop a pretend robbery at the museum. That also back-fires when he discovers that bad guys are really trying to rob it.

That’s when Armadylan changes the reason why he’s in the museum. He decides to focus on more than showing off. This change of attitude allows him to work with the PJ Masks to save the day.

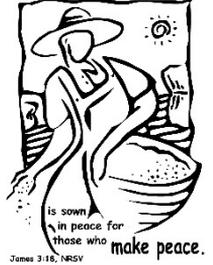
Activity #2 – Pin the Attitude on the Lifestyle. First, write each of the negative attitudes from verses 14-15 on post-it notes. Next, write each of the positive attitudes from verse 18 on post-it notes of a different color. Finally, pin the negative attitude

post-its and the positive attitude post-its to the images of your choice that your teacher has placed around the room.

REMIX!!!

This final lesson on faith and wisdom reminds us that our attitudes matter. We can read our Bibles and pray, but still allow a bad attitude to spoil our life with God. Christina didn't know it, but that's what she was doing. She let a selfish attitude direct her decisions about participating in church. She missed out on her chance to experience God's peace because of that choice. Let's not make the same mistake.

A harvest of righteousness



PRAISE THE LORD!!!

Jesus my king I choose to live good like you
Treating everyone I meet like they're precious in your sight
Not backing down from being
The God-honoring person you saved me to be
I'll hold tightly to your wise advice
So I can maintain my hold on this good and godly life.

NOTES

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