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
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? ________________________________
__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________

3
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.
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 ~