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Dear Parents,

I feel really blessed to have the opportunity to work with your child this quarter. We will explore God’s Word together through these fourteen lessons. My prayer is that your child will learn a lot and that the learning will result in his or her having a closer relationship with God.

God is experienced as Wisdom in both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. During this quarter, we explore the many facets of wisdom as recorded in the book of Proverbs, in the Gospels, and in the letter written by James.

Unit I, “Wisdom in Proverbs,” containing four lessons, explores the nature of God’s wisdom as found in the book of Proverbs. These lessons describe how Wisdom calls to us; the value of Wisdom; and the gifts she offers. The unit ends by exploring the metaphor of the feast of Wisdom.

Unit II, “Wisdom in the Gospels,” offers four lessons—one from each of the four Gospels. This unit examines the wisdom of God as seen in the teachings and life of Jesus.

Unit III, “Faith and Wisdom in James,” offers a five-lesson study of wisdom as seen in the letter of James. These lessons explore the interaction of faith and wisdom, including practical advice regarding faith in action and the taming of the tongue. The study ends by contrasting two kinds of wisdom.

You can have a discussion with your child about giving his or her life to God with help from the ABCs of Salvation, listed below.

A. Say, “Admit you have sinned (see Psalm 32:5), or done wrong.” Go through just a few of the Ten Commandments—stealing or lying and so forth. Tell how our sins separate us from God (see Isaiah 59:2 and Romans 3:23).

B. Say, “Believe Jesus is God’s Son. He took the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross (see Romans 5:8). We must believe that Jesus is God’s Son and that God raised Him from the dead.”

C. Say, “Call on God to forgive you (see Acts 2:21). When we are sorry for our sins and want to stop doing wrong, we can ask God to forgive us (see Acts 16:31).”

I look forward to helping your child understand what it means to have faith in Jesus Christ. Thank you for the opportunity to help shape your child’s spiritual life.

__________________________________
Your Child’s Teacher
Wise Up!

The words in today’s Scripture text were written by King Solomon, the son of David. He wanted to teach people wisdom and self-control. The words were given for understanding. They will teach believers how to be wise, honest, and fair. They instruct people who have little knowledge. They provide knowledge to the young.

How does a man become wise? The first step is to trust and reverence, or deeply respect, God. This is the foundation of true knowledge. Only fools refuse to be taught. Listen to your father and mother.

If sinners try to lead you into doing wrong, do not follow them. They might say, “Come with us. Let’s ambush and try to kill someone.” Just turn your back on those people.

Wisdom is like a woman who shouts in the streets. She cries out at the city gates. “You foolish people! How long do you want to stay foolish? How long will you make fun of wisdom? How long will you hate knowledge? You have turned away from me and will get killed. But those who listen to me will live in safety. They will be safe and live without fear of being hurt.”

Key Verse:

“Whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.” (Proverbs 1:33)
It had been weeks since Brianna agreed to participate in a mission event with her Sunday school class. Now that it was just a few days away, Brianna was having second thoughts. Brianna’s friend Imani wanted her to go to the beach with her family. Brianna loved the beach and it certainly sounded like more fun than the mission project.

“Mama, I promised Ms. Range that I would help with our mission project, but last night Imani called to see if I would go to the beach with her. The problem is that it is on the same day as the mission project. What do you think I should do?” Brianna asked.

Mama replied, “The decision is yours to make, but think about this before you do. How would you feel if someone promised to do something with you and then changed his or her mind at the last minute?”

“I didn’t think about it like that,” Brianna commented. “I’m going to keep my promise to complete the mission project. I’ll ask Imani if she wants to help. Maybe her parents can leave for the beach after we finish.”

“I like that idea,” Mama responded.
Searching for Words
Find the listed words from today’s lesson in the word search below.

WORD BANK

David • knowledge • Proverbs
Solomon • wisdom

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

Read each sentence below and circle **T** if the statement is true, or **F** if it is false (not true).

1. Most of the Proverbs were written by King David.  **T or F**
2. The Proverbs will teach you how to be wise, honest, and fair.  **T or F**
3. It is wise to do your own thing and not listen to your parents.  **T or F**
4. When we listen to God, we will be safe and live without fear.  **T or F**
5. King Solomon was King David’s son.  **T or F**
King Solomon, the writer of this proverb (wise saying or general advice), wanted believers to follow God’s rules. He asked God to help them understand His instructions. God told him and all believers to accept His words and remember what He commanded them to do.

We must try with all our hearts to listen to God and gain understanding. We must seek out wisdom like we are searching for hidden treasure. We must search for it like we would look for silver. If we do these things, then we will understand what it means to respect God. And we will begin to know God, because God gives believers wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from Him. He stores up success for those who are upright (godly).

Godly wisdom is a gift from God to His people. Like a shield, God protects those who are innocent. He guards those who are fair to others and protects those who are faithful to Him. Those who seek wisdom will understand what is honest, fair, and right. They will understand what is good to do. They will be full of wisdom and knowledge. They will do what is right and good because God guides them.

Key Verse:
The Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. (Proverbs 2:6)
Seek Wisdom Always

Kai had been looking at the clock for what seemed like hours waiting for his dad to come back from the airport. When he heard the car door slam shut, he ran to the door to meet his grandmother.

“YaYa, you’re back! I’m so glad you’re here. How was your vacation?” Kai asked.

“Alaska was beautiful. One of my favorite adventures was looking for gold! Maybe when you are older, I’ll take you there for a visit,” YaYa replied.

“I can’t believe you went looking for gold. Did you find any?” Kai questioned.

“No, but I enjoyed learning the history of the gold rush. Finding gold really changed people’s lives. While I was there, I thought about Pastor Williams’s sermon on looking for wisdom like a special treasure. It really made me think,” YaYa explained.

“YaYa, you already know so much. But like you and Dad always say, ‘We should look for ways to make the Bible come alive,’” Kai commented.

“And I’m always looking for ways to gain godly wisdom. I hope you are too,” YaYa replied.

Exploring the Story in Ruby’s Lab

Hello, everyone! Ruby here! In today’s lesson, we heard that having wisdom is a special treasure and a gift from God. The book of Proverbs is filled with sayings that teach us to live wisely and to do what is right. Did you know that Solomon spoke three thousand proverbs? People came from all over to hear his wisdom and seek his guidance. His sayings are still important today and can help us to live wisely. With your parents’ help, read some of his sayings and create a poster of your favorite one to share in class next week.
Decode the Message

Use the Letter Key to decode an important message from today’s lesson.

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The Benefits of Wisdom

In today’s Bible lesson, we heard that godly wisdom is a special treasure. For each jewel, write one of the benefits of (good things that come from) godly wisdom that are mentioned in today’s lesson. (Hint: Only four words will be used; reread today’s Bible story for insight.)

WORD BANK

Love • Safety • Understanding • Protection
Peace • Knowledge • Success • Hope

[Blank spaces for writing]
A Great Gift

In today’s Scripture text, King Solomon wrote that having wisdom is a good thing. If wisdom were a person, this is what she would say: “Everything I say is honest. Nothing I say is crooked or false. People who can discern (figure out) my words know that what I am saying is true. Those with knowledge know that my words are right. They choose my teachings instead of silver. They choose to have knowledge rather than gold.

“I am (Wisdom is) more precious than rubies and there is nothing that you want that compares to me. I am the best gift to receive from God. I lead you to have knowledge, insight, and common sense. If you love God, you will hate evil, pride, and arrogance. I give good advice. I have understanding and power. I love those who love me, and those who look for me will be able to find me. I can lead you to riches and honor, and wealth and success. What I provide is better than fine gold and pure silver. I can lead you down the path of righteousness and justice. Those who seek me (Wisdom) will find a good gift.”

Key Verse:
“Choose [Wisdom’s] instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold.” (Proverbs 8:10)
Hello, everyone! Ruby here! In today’s Bible lesson, we continue our study on wisdom. The author uses personification [pur-sah-ni-fi-cay-shun] to make wisdom come alive. Personification is language where something that is non-human (wisdom) is given a human characteristic (like a woman). Wisdom is a gift of God. We receive wisdom through listening, making right choices, and obeying God.

What are the easiest ways for you to show wisdom? What are some areas where you still need work? This week, ask God to help you to show wisdom in all areas of your life.

What Is the Best Gift?

Taylor loved celebrating her birthday with family and friends. She always knew her birthday was special because she was born on the same day as her great-grandfather, who was turning 90 this year. The party was going to be special.

“Mama, I can’t wait for my birthday celebration this year,” Taylor said.

“It’s going to be a special day, but remember that this year, we are really honoring Pop-Pop,” Mama explained.

“Yes, I know, but he always lets me help open his gifts. So, it’s still going to be fun for me,” Taylor noted.

“You sure seem to have a lot of fun. I’ve often wondered what the two of you are always talking about,” Mama said.

“Before we open each gift, we try to decide what’s inside. Sometimes, we decide which will be the best gift by the wrapping paper,” Taylor commented.

“Do you ever guess correctly?” Mama asked.

“To be honest, Pop-Pop likes all of the gifts, but every year he whispers the same thing in my ear when we finish. He says that the best gifts are love from our family and wisdom from God,” Taylor explained.

“I agree!” Mama exclaimed.
Unscrambler

Review today’s Bible story. Then unscramble each of the scrambled-up words (in parentheses and in color) and write the correct word on the line. If you need help, refer to the New International Version of the Bible.

1. “Choose my (sttrnuiocni) __________________ instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold.” (verse 10)

2. “For (wmidos) __________________ is more precious than rubies.” (verse 11)

3. “Counsel and sound (tjnmedgu) __________________ are mine.” (verse 14)

4. “I love those who (vole) ______________ me, and those who (ekes) ______________ me find me.” (verse 17)

5. “My (utrif) __________ is better than fine (dglo) __________; what I yield surpasses choice (revisl) ______________.” (verse 19)
“A Great Gift” Crossword Puzzle

Use the clues below and the words from the Word Box to complete the crossword puzzle related to today’s lesson.

**WORD BANK**
Gold • Honest • Justice • Treasures • Wisdom

**Across**
2. A precious yellow metal used to make jewelry
5. People who give fair and right treatment show this.

**Down**
1. Another word for “truthful”
3. Another word for “riches”
4. To use good judgment is to have this.
Wisdom’s Feast

In today’s Scripture text, King Solomon talks about wisdom like it is a woman who is hosting a great banquet. If she were a woman, Wisdom has prepared food and wine and set the table. The servants have been sent out and she calls out from the highest point in the city. Wisdom calls to those who are foolish, “Come to my house, eat my food, and drink what has been prepared for you. Stop doing foolish things and you will live. Learn to use good judgment. Don’t correct those who are proud and arrogant; they will only hate you. Teach the wise and they will become wiser. You become wise as you respect and honor God. You gain wisdom as you come to know God.”

Solomon also talks about Folly, or foolishness, like it is a woman who does not know anything. Folly is like a loud woman who does not have wisdom or knowledge. She sits at the door of her house and calls to the people passing by. She (Folly) does not make good choices. She only gives what has been taken. Folly does not help people live a new life.

Key Verse:
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Proverbs 9:10)
Hello, everyone! Ruby here! Have you ever heard of diabetes? The term has been around since 250 BC. That’s a very long time! There are two types of diabetes: type 1 and type 2. Diabetes happens when your body does not make enough insulin, a hormone that helps manage the body’s blood sugar. In 1922, scientists Sir Frederick Grant Banting and Charles Herbert Best found a way to effectively treat diabetes. In 1923, Mr. Banting received the Nobel Prize in Medicine. The scientists did not charge for their medicine and millions of diabetics around the world had access to insulin for free!

A Balanced Diet

“Mom, when will dinner be ready?” Ahmad whined. “I’m hungry!”

“It won’t be ready for another hour. But I left a healthy snack in the refrigerator. Did you eat it?” Mom asked.

“Well, I didn’t exactly eat what you left. Instead, I had chips and soda,” Ahmad replied.

“That would explain why you are hungry. Chips and soda were not enough. We’ve talked about the importance of having a healthy, balanced diet,” Mom said as a reminder.

“I know, but I didn’t think it would matter. None my friends worry about what they eat. I thought it wouldn’t matter. I see now that I was wrong,” Ahmad admitted.

“Son, you have diabetes and you need to use good judgment when you eat. Your health depends on it,” Mom explained.

“Is it okay if I go ahead and eat the snack you prepared? I don’t think I can wait another hour to eat,” Ahmad commented.

(Of course. That’s why I made it,” Mom said.

Ahmad replied, “Thank you, Mom, for always taking care of me. I promise to make better choices with the foods I eat. You’re the best!”

Exploring the Story in Ruby’s Lab
Create a Pictogram

Create a “Proverbs Pictogram” by replacing some of the words from today’s lesson with pictures that mean the same thing.

1. Wisdom has built her [ ].

2. Food and wine have been prepared and Wisdom has set the [ ].

3. The servants have been sent out and she calls out from the [ ].

4. “Folly” sits at the [ ] of her house and calls to the people passing by.
What I Have Learned

On each gift box, write one *proverb* (statement of advice or truth) that you read about in today's lesson.
Proof Positive

When John the Baptist’s followers were walking away, Jesus began talking to the crowds about him. Jesus asked, “What did you go out to the desert to see? Did you go to see grass blowing in the wind? Or a man dressed in fine clothes?” The answer to both of these questions was “No.” A man that dresses in fine clothes lives in a palace. Jesus said, “You went to see a prophet. John is more than a prophet. The Scriptures say this about him: ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’” Jesus continues by saying, “John the Baptist is greater than any other man who has ever lived. But even the least important person in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John.

“John came, and he did not eat like other people or drink wine. And people said, ‘He has a demon.’ When the Son of Man came, eating and drinking wine, people said, ‘Look at him! He eats too much and drinks too much. He is a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But decisions made with wisdom are proved to be right.”

Key Verse:
“Wisdom is proved right by her deeds.” (Matthew 11:19b)
From Ordinary to Extraordinary

TaMia was used to being looked over. She was the youngest of seven children. So, she was surprised when her teacher asked her to be on the school’s Science Olympiad Team. She could not wait to tell her parents.

“Mom, Dad, you’re not going to believe what happened in class today!” TaMia shouted.

“Slow down, TaMia. We can barely understand what you are saying,” Dad responded.

“Mr. Matthews picked me to represent our class for the Science Olympiad Team. For the next month, we are going to study science concepts and compete against other schools in our district,” TaMia shared.

“That sounds just like the kind of thing you would enjoy,” Mom replied.

“At first I said ‘No,’ because the other members are older and have competed before. I’m just ordinary,” TaMia explained.

“I’m sure Mr. Matthews chose you because he thought you could help the team,” Dad assured her.

“He said he has never had a student who loved science as much as I do,” TaMia replied.

“I guess that makes you extraordinary,” Mom commented.

“I don’t know about that, but I’m going to do my best on the team,” TaMia said.

Exploring the Story in Ruby’s Lab

Hello, everyone! Ruby here. TaMia and I could be good friends, since I love science too! TaMia thought she was just ordinary—but did you know that there are a lot of ordinary people who do extraordinary things? Have you heard about Jane Goodall? She loved animals and wanted to study them in their natural habitats. So, when she was twenty-six, she went to Africa. Her up-close observations of chimpanzees changed what we know about them and paved the way for many female scientists who came after her. Check out “The Ordinary People Who Change the World” series to learn about more extraordinary people!
Rewrite the Statements

Something about each statement below from today’s lesson is false (not true). Use the Bible story to write the correct version of the statements on the lines below.

1. Jesus began talking to a crowd of people about Moses.
   
2. John the Baptist did not have a very important job.
   
3. John the Baptist ate with tax collectors and sinners.
Picture the Story

Draw a picture in each box to complete that part of today’s Bible story lesson. (The word or words that you are to draw are in bold and color below a box.)

Jesus began talking to the **crowds** about John. “What did you go out to the **desert** to see?

A **man dressed in fine clothes**? You went to see a prophet. The **Scriptures** say, ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’”

“John came, and **he did not eat like other people or drink wine**. The Son of Man came, *eating and drinking wine*, and people say, ‘Look at him! He eats too much and drinks too much.’ But decisions made with wisdom are proved to be right.”
Questions Are Good!

There is a time for everything, and a season when every activity should happen.

Every year, Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover. When Jesus was twelve years old, they went like they always did. When the festival was over, they left for home—but Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. His parents thought that He was with the rest of the group. And after travelling for a whole day, when they began to look for Him, they could not find Him. So, they returned to Jerusalem.

After three days, they found Jesus in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them, and asking questions. Everyone who heard Him was amazed. His parents did not know what to think. Mary said, “Son, why did you do this to us? Your father and I were worried.” Jesus replied, “Why were you looking for me? Didn’t you know I must be in my Father’s house?” His parents did not understand what He meant by this.

After that, Jesus went with them to Nazareth and obeyed them. Mary remembered all these things. Jesus grew in wisdom and physically, and in favor with God and man.

Key Verse:
[Jesus’ parents] found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (Luke 2:46)
Questions, Questions, Questions!

Seth’s mother recalled that ever since Seth could talk, he asked questions like, “Mom, why is it raining? Mom, why is the sky blue? Mom, why can’t I go outside?” So, she was not surprised when he came home from school one day with more questions.

“Mom, is it wrong to ask questions?” Seth wondered. “You’ve been asking questions for as long as I can remember. Why would you think it’s wrong now?” Mom asked.

“Well, when I raise my hand in class, the other students complain and say, ‘There he goes again!’ I don’t think they like me asking so many questions,” Seth explained.

“It’s good to ask questions when you don’t know the answer. I imagine some of your classmates have the same questions, but they are too afraid to ask them,” Mom commented.

“That’s just what Mrs. Singleton said. Today, she even told me that my question really made her think,” Seth responded.

“Keep asking questions. One day, you might have a job asking questions—like a lawyer,” Mom noted.

“Or a news reporter . . . and then I would be on television! That would be pretty cool,” Seth said.

Exploring the Story in Ruby’s Lab

Hello, everyone! Ruby here! Have you ever heard the saying “No question is a silly question”? As a budding scientist, I ask questions all the time and then I experiment to try to find the answers. Ruby Dee, a famous actress, once said, “The greatest gift is not being afraid to question.” I imagine Seth would like to have that quote to share with his classmates.

This week, look for quotes that encourage you to ask questions. Create a bookmark with some of the quotes and bring it to class to share next week. Don’t forget to ask your parents for permission when searching the Internet!
What’s the Story?

Review today’s Bible story. Afterwards, put the events of the story in order, using the numbers 1 through 5; write each number on the line. Then write the events of the story in order in the boxes below.

A. Joseph and Mary found Jesus in the Temple. ________
B. Jesus left Jerusalem and went with His parents to Nazareth. ________
C. Jesus and His parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover. ________
D. Mary said, “Son, why did You do this to us?” ________
E. Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. ________
Draw the Story

Think about today's lesson and draw a scene detailing an event from the Bible story.
Don’t Let the Doubters Stop You

In today’s Scripture text, Jesus went to His hometown, Nazareth, with His disciples. When the Sabbath (holy day) came, He began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard Him were amazed. They asked, “Where did He learn these things? Where did He get all of this wisdom? How does He have the power to perform all these miracles?”

The people in Jesus’ hometown began to say things like, “Isn’t this Mary’s son? We know His brothers—James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. His sisters are here too. He is just a carpenter.” Jesus’ neighbors and others from His hometown refused to believe in Jesus. Then Jesus told them, “A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives.” Because of their unbelief, Jesus could not do any miracles there. Their lack of trust in Jesus prevented them from fully receiving what He had to offer.

While He was in Nazareth, Jesus could only lay His hands on a few sick people and heal them. Jesus was amazed at the people’s lack of faith. Then Jesus left and went from village to village, teaching others and telling them who He was.
I Don't Care What They Say!

Justin had been studying for the Spelling Bee for a few weeks and the big day had finally arrived! He was in the finals and his word to spell was “eliminate”—meaning “to get rid of.” Justin spelled it out and heard the words he had hoped for: “That is correct.”

At home, Justin said, “Dad, I won the Spelling Bee today. But now I wish I hadn’t.”

“Wait a minute. Am I hearing you correctly? I thought this is what you wanted,” Dad commented.

“I did. It was great to hear ‘And the winner is’—but as soon as I got back to class, my excitement changed. Some of my friends were not happy for me,” Justin said with a sigh.

“I’m sorry they weren’t happy for you. Sometimes, people are jealous, and they can be mean,” Dad explained.

“But that doesn’t make sense to me. Even if I did not win, I would be happy for whoever did,” Justin said.

“That’s the right attitude to have. Remember that when you go to the district finals,” Dad reminded him.

“Good point. Will you help me study?” Justin asked.

“I thought you would never ask,” Dad replied.

Exploring the Story

in Ruby’s Lab

Hello, everyone! Ruby here! Sometimes, people see where you came from—not who you are—to make judgments. The people in Nazareth did that to Jesus. Some people might think that an orphan could not become one of the few black women physicists in America. That’s what happened to Dr. Hadiyah-Nicole Green. She was the first person in her family to graduate from college. Dr. Green is currently working on a cure for cancer. She is the founder of the Ora Lee Smith Cancer Research Foundation. To learn more about Dr. Green, visit https://www.theroot.com/a-story-of-perseverance-hadiyah-nicole-green-shares-he-1790853825 (with your parents’ permission and guidance, of course!).
Do You Remember the Story?
Answer the questions below, which are based on today’s Bible story.

1. What is the name of Jesus’ hometown? _____________________________

2. Why was Jesus limited in the miracles He performed in His hometown?
   ___________________________________________________________________

3. What did Jesus do on the Sabbath? ________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

4. Where did Jesus get His wisdom? ________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
Searching for Words
Find and circle the listed words from today’s lesson in the word search below.

WORD BANK
amazed • disciples • Jesus • Nazareth
prophet • Sabbath • synagogue • wisdom

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

Jesus did not want His disciples to worry. He said, “Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is plenty of room in my Father’s home. If this weren’t the truth, I would not have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you and come back to get you. You know the place where I am going.” Thomas asked, “We don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way to God. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know who I am, you will also know my Father.”

“Show us the Father and we will be satisfied,” Philip said. “Philip, I have been with you all this time and you still don’t know who I am,” Jesus explained. “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. I’m telling you the truth. Anyone who believes in me will do the same things I have done, and even greater! You can ask God for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father.”
Hello, everyone! Ruby here! Have you ever felt like Nequoia? She was afraid to try out for the softball team because she might not make it. Have you ever been afraid to try something new or try out for a team because you thought you might not make it? The unknown can be scary, but the promise in today’s Bible lesson is still true. Jesus told His disciples not to be afraid and to trust Him, no matter what happened. Choose to trust Jesus. It’s the best decision you will ever make!
“Do not let your _______________ be troubled. You _______________ in God; believe also in me. My Father’s _______________ has many _____________; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to _______________ a _____________ for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will _____________ ___________ and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”
Is It True?

Read each sentence below and circle **T** if the statement is true, or **F** if it is *false* (not true). If the statement is false, use the line below the statement to rewrite it and make it true.

**T or F** 1. Philip understood everything Jesus was talking about.

**T or F** 2. Jesus was going out of town.

**T or F** 3. Thomas and the other disciples did not understand where Jesus was going.

**T or F** 4. Jesus said that we could ask for anything in His name and He would do it.

**T or F** 5. Jesus promised to return for His disciples.
Believe and Know

James wrote a letter to the Jewish believers. It went something like this:

My brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. When your faith is tested, you have an opportunity to grow. When your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. If you need wisdom, ask God and He will give it to you. When you ask, believe and do not doubt. The person who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from God.

If a believer is poor, he should take pride that God has made him spiritually rich. If he is rich, he should be glad that God has shown him that he may be spiritually poor. The rich person will die like a wildflower dies in the grass. The sun rises and becomes hotter and hotter. The heat makes the plants very dry, and the flower falls off. It is the same with a rich person. While he is still taking care of his business, he will die.
Hello, everyone! Ruby here! It can be hard to keep going when you face difficulties. What would you do if you were born at a time when slavery was the practice? How would you feel if you didn’t really know when your birthday was? How about being accepted into a school and then when they realized you were an African American, they said you couldn’t come? These are just a few of the trials that George Washington Carver faced. But they didn’t stop him. Even though there were difficulties, he became a scientist and inventor that developed hundreds of products, using peanuts, sweet potatoes, and soybeans.

Londyn and her parents had been through a tough time lately. Both of her parents had been off work for six weeks and money was pretty tight. She knew her parents did not want her to worry, but she could not help it.

“How long will the government be shut down? How long before you go back to work?” Londyn asked.

“We don’t know. We hope soon—but if we don’t, we are not worried about it,” Dad replied.

“Really? Some of my friends said that their parents are looking for other jobs and they might have to move,” Londyn commented.

“Mom and I have some money saved, so we are okay right now,” Dad said.

“You and Mom seem so calm,” Londyn remarked.

“Every night, we pray and ask God to help us to trust and believe in Him. We are taking this time to grow closer to Him and trust Him to take care of our needs,” Dad explained.

“I’m going to pray that God will help me to believe too. I’m also going to pray that you and Mom go back to work really soon,” Londyn said.
Decode (figure out) a message related to today’s lesson by writing on each dash the letter that comes between the combination of letters in the alphabet. (The letter combination is found under the dash.) (For example, z-b=a; l-n=m.) See if you can decode the message without looking back at the Scripture passage.

h-j  e-g  z-b  m-o  x-z  n-p  e-g

x-z  n-p  t-v  k-m  z-b  b-d  j-l  r-t

v-x  h-j  r-t  c-e  n-p  l-n  ',  z-b  r-t  j-l

f-h  n-p  c-e  ',  v-x  g-i  n-p

f-h  h-j  u-w  d-f  r-t

f-h  d-f  m-o  d-f  q-s  n-p  t-v  r-t  k-m  x-z  .
### Match the Sentence Parts

To complete the statements from today’s lesson, match the first part of each sentence in Column A to the second part of that sentence in Column B by drawing a line between the two. The first one has been done for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. When you ask,</td>
<td>a. you have an opportunity to grow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. If a believer is poor,</td>
<td>b. ask God and He will give it to you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. If you need wisdom,</td>
<td>c. believe and do not doubt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. When troubles come your way,</td>
<td>d. consider it an opportunity for great joy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. When your faith is tested,</td>
<td>e. he should take pride that God has made him spiritually rich.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hear and Do

In James’s letter, he wrote words like these: My dear brothers and sisters, you must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. You must get rid of every evil and wrong thing you do. Do not be proud; accept God’s teaching with which you are filled. It has the power to save you. Do not just listen to God’s Word—you must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. It is pointless to listen to the Word and not obey it. That would be like looking at your face in a mirror, and when you walk away you forget how you look. If you claim to be religious but do not watch what you say, you are fooling yourself. Your religion is worthless. But if you look carefully into the perfect law and do what it says, then God will bless you for doing it. Religion that God accepts as pure and faultless is this: (1) to look after orphans and widows in their distress; and (2) to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.
Hello, everyone! Ruby here! Have you ever heard the phrase “we have two ears and one mouth, so we can listen twice as much as we speak”? What do you think that means? Do you agree? In today’s Bible lesson, James says, “We should be quick to listen and slow to speak.” Have you ever said something you should not have said? I sure have! I’m going to take both James’s and Arianna’s advice and try to listen more. This week, look for ways to be a good listener at home, at school, and at church.
Unscrambling
Unscramble each of the scrambled-up words from today’s Bible story. Write the correct word on the line beside its scrambled-up version. You may use the listed words as clues. The first letter of each word is capitalized and in bold.

angry • control • hearts • listen
mirror • orphans • tongue

1. saphrOn

2. nrgyA

3. geTnou

4. nesitL

5. sreaHt

6. ooltCnr

7. rrorMi
Headline News

Think of a headline (a catchy title) for today's lesson. Write it in the space below, along with a summary of today's lesson.
A Working Faith

James wrote, asking believers to think about their faith. He asked, “What good is it if someone claims to have faith but does nothing about it?” Suppose someone is without clothes and food and you say to him, “God be with you. I hope you stay warm and get something to eat.” If you say this, but do not help with the things he needs, then how does this help? It is the same with faith.

Someone might say, “You have faith, but I do things.” Both believers and unbelievers think there is one God. But as believers, we are different. We want to help others and show our faith and love for God. Do you want evidence that faith without action is useless? Look at Abraham. He was thought of as righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar. His faith and his actions were working together. A person is thought of as righteous by what he or she does through faith, not by faith alone. A body that does not have a spirit is dead. It is the same with faith. Faith that does nothing is a dead faith!

Key Verse: Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. (James 2:18b)
Hello, everyone! Ruby here! Kwame had a great idea to purchase extra supplies for his classmates. That’s what I call a random act of kindness! Any act of kindness, no matter how big or small, can make a big difference in someone’s life. It brings joy to both the receiver AND the giver.

During the next week, think of some ways that you can show kindness to others. For some ideas, visit this great Web site: https://www.coffeecupsandcrayons.com/100-acts-kindness-kids/. Don’t forget to get your parents’ permission first. Create a poster on “Acts of Kindness” and bring it to class next week to share.
Complete the Sentences
Complete the sentences related to today’s lesson by filling in each blank with the correct word from the Word Bank.

WORD BANK
body • dead • faith • righteous • things

1. What good is it if someone claims to have _________ but does nothing?

2. Someone might say, “You have faith, but I do _________.”

3. Faith that does nothing is a _____________ faith.

4. A _____________ that does not have a spirit is dead.

5. A person is considered (thought of as) ________________
   by what he or she does by faith, not by faith alone.
True or False?

Read each sentence below and circle T if the statement is true, or F if it is false (not true). Use the Bible story to help you find the correct answer.

1. When someone is hungry you should say, “I hope you get some food,” but not offer to help the person.

2. Abraham is an example of faith and actions working together.

3. Faith that does nothing is alive.

4. A person is considered righteous by both faith and works (actions), not just faith alone.

5. Demons do not believe in God.
Watch Your Tongue

James wrote a letter to believers. Today's Scripture text contains words similar to these:

My brothers, not many of you should become teachers. You know that those who teach will be judged more strictly than others. We all make mistakes. If there were a person who never said anything wrong, he would be perfect. He would be able to control his whole body. We put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey and control them. The same is true of a ship. Even though ships are large, a small rudder controls them. This is also true for the tongue. It is a small part of the body. The tongue can be dangerous like a fire that controls your entire life.

People have been able to tame every kind of animal, but the tongue is hard to tame (control). We use our tongues to praise God, but then we may talk badly about or to others. It should not be this way. Fresh water and salt water cannot flow from the same spring. A fig tree will not produce olives, and a salt spring will not produce fresh water. So, we should speak good things, not bad.
Hello, everyone! Ruby here! In today’s Bible lesson, we heard that our tongues are small yet powerful. From a science point of view, there are many things to learn about the tongue. Have you ever noticed that the top part of your tongue is rough and bumpy? That’s because it’s covered with bumps called papillae (puh-pil-ee). Those bumps help the tongue to grip food. Our taste buds are also there. They can detect sweet, sour, bitter, and salty flavors. We are born with about ten thousand taste buds, but as we get older, some of our taste buds die. To learn more fun facts, visit https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/tongue.html. Don’t forget to get your parents’ permission!

Saturday and Sunday used to be safe days because Jamal was not in school. But now, even on the weekends, he was being bullied.

"Dad, can we talk?" Jamal asked.
"You look so serious. What’s going on?" Dad questioned.
"Well, some of the kids at school are being mean to me and a few other boys. I wasn’t going to say anything because at least I had the weekends without any trouble. But now, they are sending mean messages on our group chat through my game system," Jamal explained.
"Son, you should have said something sooner, but I’m glad you are telling me this now," Dad said.
"I hear people say, ‘Sticks and stone may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.’ But, Dad, that’s not true," Jamal responded tearfully.
"You’re right, Jamal. Words matter and they do hurt. But words can also heal. I’m sorry you are going through this. Mom and I will talk to your teacher on Monday. We will also reach out to some of the parents to stop this behavior," Dad commented.
"Thanks, Dad. No matter what, you always say the right words," Jamal noted.

Words Matter

Exploring the Story
in Ruby’s Lab
Fix That Phrase!

Oops! There seems to be a word out of place in each of the sentences below. Read through the sentences and/or phrases below (which are pulled from today’s Scripture passage). See if you can find the misplaced word and move it to where it belongs in the statement. Put a circle around the misplaced word and then draw a line to where it should go. (You may use your NIV Bible.) Refer to the example below.

**Example:** "No human can tame the being tongue."

1. The tongue is a part of the small body, but it makes great boasts. (verse 5a)

2. Out of the mouth come praise and same cursing. (verse 10a)

3. Can a tree bear olives, or a fig grapevine bear figs? (verse 12a)

4. Anyone who is at fault in what they say never is perfect. (verse 2b)
Be Careful What You Say!

Read the sentences below. If the statements or questions are positive (good), draw a smiley face. If the statements or questions are negative (bad), draw a sad face. Be prepared to tell why you chose each answer.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Do you need any help cleaning up? Work is easier when two people work together.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Go away and leave me alone. You are always bothering me!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. That is such an ugly outfit. Why would you wear that to school?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. You did such a good job on your spelling test. Will you help me study next time?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. You’re not my friend!</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6. I’m glad we are friends.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Think First

James wrote about the following in today’s Scripture passages: Is there anyone who is truly wise and understanding? If so, he should show it by living right. You should do good things without being proud. If you are bitter and selfish, you should not brag. This kind of “wisdom” does not come from God. When there is jealousy and selfishness, there will also be confusion. But wisdom that comes from heaven is pure, peaceful, kind, and sincere.

Be patient until the Lord God comes again. Just like a farmer waits for his crops after he has planted, you must be patient. Don’t give up hope, because God is coming soon. Don’t complain against each other or you will be judged. And the Judge is ready and waiting. Job was an example of patience. He persevered (continued in hard times) and God blessed him. God is full of compassion and mercy.

It is important that you do not swear when you make a promise. Don’t use the name of heaven, earth, or anything else to prove what you say. All you need to say is a simple “Yes” or “No.” Otherwise, you will be judged.

Key Verse:
Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. (James 3:13)
Hello, everyone! Ruby here! You know how much I love science! But I also like to read. Savannah’s plan reminds me of the story *Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale* by John Steptoe. One daughter was proud and selfish and used earthly wisdom. Another daughter was kind and sincere and used godly wisdom. They took the same journey to the king’s palace, but they had very different endings. I could tell you, but that would ruin the surprise. Visit your school or local library to find out what happens to Mufaro’s daughters. Be prepared to share what you learned next week in class.

Savannah: Hey, Laila, guess what! Grandma just baked some chocolate-chip cookies. She’s upstairs resting now. Let’s go and eat a few while she’s not looking.

Laila: I don’t think that’s a very good idea. I think Grandma made those cookies for the church picnic.

Savannah: They are going to have plenty of desserts. Anyway, those cookies won’t even be missed.

Laila: I’m pretty sure Grandma will miss the cookies. But since you are so smart, what is your plan?

Savannah: I have it all figured out. I’m going to use her cell phone to take a picture of the cookie plate. We can eat a few cookies then I will use the picture to rearrange the cookies on the plate so Grandma will never know.

Laila: Sounds like you have thought of everything . . . but have you considered what will happen if you get caught?

Savannah: You worry too much. Besides, I don’t want to wait for the church picnic.

Laila: I have a better idea. Let’s wait until Grandma finishes resting and ask her if we can sample some of her delicious cookies. I’m sure she’ll say yes!
“X”s and Hearts

Read each statement below. Put an X on examples of earthly wisdom, and a heart around examples of godly wisdom.

Love your enemies.

Do what makes YOU happy.

“I’m smarter, stronger, and better than everyone else.”

Trust God in all you do.

“I’ll get them before they get me.”

Be patient and wait on God.
A “Think!” Crossword Puzzle

Use the clues below and the words from the Word Box to complete the crossword puzzle related to today’s lesson.

WORD BANK
compassion • complain • patient • peaceful • wisdom

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Across
1 Godly wisdom is __________.
5 Be __________ until God comes again.

Down
2 Don’t __________ against one another.
3 The Lord is full of __________ and mercy.
4 __________ that comes from heaven is pure.
Extra Activity 1
Color the Bible picture from lesson 6.
Extra Activity 2

Draw the Story

Do you remember what happened in lesson 7? Review the Bible story and then draw a picture of what you think happened in the story.