**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Smart</th>
<th>Insight</th>
<th>Wise</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>3.</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>4.</td>
<td>4.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions of Faith</th>
<th>People I Can Talk With</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.