

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.



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.