

FAMILY FAITH BUILDER

Character Lessons for Practical Application of Faith Wisdom v. Foolishness



**Making practical applications
of what is learned.**

When Wisdom is mentioned in Scripture it often refers to the skillful making of things such as the priestly garments, vessels, homes, and other buildings. God gave Solomon great wisdom and with it he built the Temple. Jesus grew in wisdom as he worked building things in Joseph's carpenter shop. Wisdom, then, teaches us that every experience needs to be a building up of each other, a building up of the kingdom. A true disciple will ask of every experience, is it right? Is it good? Is it what God wants for me right now? Foolishness, on the other hand, results in destruction. When we act without wisdom, we do not build but destroy

This month, act with Wisdom to build up each other daily.

***To Practice Wisdom
I Will:***

- Listen to my parents and teachers
- Learn from correction
- Choose my friends carefully
- Remember there are consequences to all my actions
- Ask, "What is the right thing to do?"

Any others appropriate to your family?

God's Word on Wisdom

"For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength."

1 Corinthians 1:25

"But if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and he will be given it."

James 1:5

"So with old age is wisdom, and with length of days understanding. With him are wisdom and might; his are counsel and understanding."

Job 12:12-13

I thought, "Wisdom is better than foolishness, just as light is better than darkness."

Ecclesiastes 2:13

Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me."

John 7:16

Solomon Teach Us about God's Wisdom

King Solomon was most noted for asking for wisdom when God appeared to him in a dream offering him anything. God was pleased that Solomon did not ask for riches or long life and so God said to him "I do as you requested and give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now and after you there will come no one to equal you." 1 Kings 3:12 When God granted him this gift, he promised him a long life if he kept His statutes and commandments. King Solomon was also known for building The Temple that was to be the permanent home of the Ark of the Covenant. His father, King David, had acquired many of the materials for the temple but the actual building didn't start until the reign of Solomon. It took 7 years to complete the Temple.

The opposite trait of Wisdom is foolishness.

Unfortunately, King Solomon also modeled this at the end of his life. He built temples to the gods of foreign nations and incurred God's anger. By his example we know what happens when you do not make wise and good choices.



Negotiations To teach children how to make wise choices, give them the opportunity to negotiate a decision. For example, you are going to choose a movie to watch (book to read, game to play, etc). Let the children know that they can each suggest a movie but for each suggestion, they each have veto power. Give each child one choice to suggest. As each suggestion is made, the other children are offered veto power. If it is vetoed by any of the other children, the movie is not chosen. When all of them have had one choice, start over with the first child again and give them all another choice. If they all agree at any point the game is over and the movie is chosen. Let them know how many chances they will get to come to an agreement. If you set the max at 2 and they've each made 2 suggestions without choosing the movie then the choice is "NO Movie". Make sure they know that rule before the game begins. Ask them how they started thinking of their choices knowing that the option of No Movie was a possibility. Ask them if ending up the first round with no choice had an impact on what choices they made a second time around. Once the movie has been watched, ask how different the experience would have been if it was a movie that one person didn't want or only one person wanted. Usually, when this game is played the children will first choose movies that are their favorites but not ones liked by their siblings. As the rounds progress they start to make choices that the others might possibly like. At the end, if the game is successful, they made choices that all liked or would watch. Explain, that the wisdom of God teaches us to always think "Win, Win" from the beginning instead of thinking selfishly.



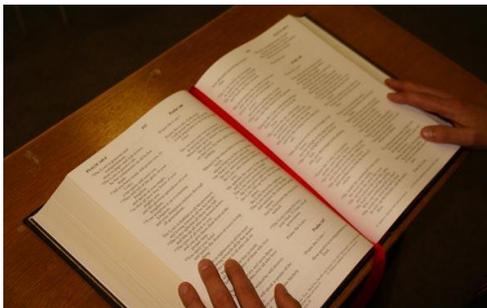
POSTER IDEA:

Dear Jesus,

We praise you for your goodness and mercy and thank you for the example of Wisdom in your life. You were wise in your words, actions, and thoughts. Help us to see your Wisdom in the advice and direction given to us from our parents and teachers and to learn from their correction. Give us the strength to continually question what are the right things to do and have the courage to do them. Guide us in the selection of our friends so that we chose those who also value and live by your wisdom. Remind us that there are consequences to all of our actions and to learn from our mistakes. Amen.

Wisdom

Making practical applications of what is learned.



“But if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and he will be given it.”

James 1:5

From whom do you seek wisdom?

Other ways to teach character in the home:

- Display the character quality and definition in a prominent place such as on the refrigerator or let each child decorate it for their bedroom door.
- At the dinner table ask if anyone noticed anyone (not just family members) demonstrating the character quality (or not demonstrating it).
- Point out news stories where character was or was not involved.
- During car trips, challenge the kids by describing scenarios and having them identify if it describes being the quality or being the opposite.
- Praise with character by recognizing the character quality involved rather than the achievement.

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For more activities that can be adapted for family use, visit
www.charactercincinnati.org/quality_resource.php?q=wisdom