


Bible Point

God wants us to act wisely.

Bible Verse

“Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment”
(Proverbs 9:10).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will

- learn that wisdom begins with respect for God,
- discover that God gives wisdom when they ask for it, and
- develop a plan to wait on wisdom.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Abigail brings food to David.

**1 Samuel
25:1-35**



David and his men had apparently been in the area of Nabal’s home for some time, as they evaded capture by Saul and his troops. In those days it was not uncommon for bands of raiders to steal livestock from men such as Nabal. David’s band must have driven off raiders who had intended to steal from Nabal. David simply asked Nabal for some provisions in return for his men’s kind treatment. Common hospitality of the day would have dictated that Nabal give food to David’s men if he were able to do so.

Nabal’s rude response set off a natural human reaction in David.

Fortunately, Nabal’s wife, Abigail, was not foolish like Nabal. She knew she had to intervene or many lives would needlessly be lost. She took matters into her own hands, bringing to David and his men a generous offering of food (1 Samuel 25:18). She then took the risk of confronting David and pointing out to him that taking revenge on Nabal would not please the Lord (1 Samuel 25:30-31).

It’s interesting to note Abigail’s injection of humor to lighten the conflict. She pointed out that Nabal’s name, likely a nickname, meant “fool.” Nabal embodied an Israelite’s description of a fool: insensitive, selfish, and disrespectful. Abigail’s diplomatic efforts helped David see that she was right, and he praised God for having sent her to stop him from reacting hastily.

When Nabal found out what had happened, he had a heart attack and died 10 days later. David must have appreciated Abigail’s wisdom and initiative: After Nabal died, he took Abigail as his wife!

Prayer

- Read 1 Timothy 4:12.
- How can you follow Abigail’s act and show wisdom by setting an example of love?
- Lord, grant me your wisdom as I ...

Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Growing Together” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for your students and for God’s direction as you teach the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
	Welcome! —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher, and make name tags.	“Outside-Inside Name Tags” (p. 70), scissors, markers, tape or safety pins	
	Module Review —Discuss how this module’s Bible Points apply to their lives.		
Attention Grabber	Puzzle Scramble —Put a puzzle together, and learn that sometimes they need help to figure out tough problems.		
Bible Exploration & Application	Wise Advice —Act out the story of David, Nabal, and Abigail from 1 Samuel, and learn about the wise advice that David received from Abigail.	Bible	
	Walk Wisely —Create a craft that will remind them that following God is the wisest way to walk.	8½x11-inch card stock, paper punches, staplers, pencils, markers, scissors	
	Quick to Move —Play a game, and learn from Proverbs 1:7 that they can get into trouble if they act too quickly.	Bibles	
	W.O.W. —Hear Proverbs 19:2; make reminders that will help them wait, think, and pray before they act; and pray for God’s wisdom.	Bible, crayons, photocopies of “W.O.W.” handout (p. 100)	

Welcome

SUPPLIES: “Outside-Inside Name Tags” (p. 70), scissors, markers, tape or safety pins

- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s lesson or take-home page. Use questions such as “How do you like to be treated by others when you make a mistake?” and “How did you bounce back with kindness when someone was mean to you last week?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God wants us to act wisely.**
- Hand out the name tags children made during Lesson 5, and help children attach the name tags to their clothing. Have extra name tags on hand for children who were not in class last week or to replace damaged name tags.
- Tell children that the attention-getting signal you’ll use during this lesson is clapping your hands three times. Ask children to respond to your claps by clapping their hands three times as they stop talking and focus their attention on you. Rehearse the signal with the children, telling them to respond quickly so you have plenty of time for all the fun activities planned for this lesson.



◀ **BIBLE POINT**

Module Review

SUPPLIES: none

Use the casual interaction at the beginning of class to ask children the following module-review questions:

- **Why doesn’t God judge us by the way we look?**
- **When did God help you do something that seemed impossible?**
- **Have you been kind lately to someone who was mean to you? What happened?**
- **What’s your favorite thing we’ve learned during the past few weeks? Why?**



Attention Grabber

Puzzle Scramble

SUPPLIES: none



Before class, take the *crayon car puzzle* apart. It’s easiest if you pull the wheels off first.

As children arrive, give each one a puzzle piece. If you have more than eight students in your class, form eight groups. It’s fine if the groups aren’t the same size.

Once all the puzzle pieces are distributed, say: **Work together to put these pieces together.** Give children about a minute to work on the puzzle without any direction. Then, if they need help, give hints such as “It’s a car” or “All the pieces fit on the black piece with the posts” or “Try putting the wheels on first.”

When children have finished putting the puzzle together, say: **Great job! It took good thinking and teamwork to get this puzzle back together.**

Ask: • **What was easy or hard to figure out about this puzzle?** (I've seen puzzles like this before; I'm good at puzzles; I didn't know what it was supposed to be; it was hard to work with others.)

• **What kinds of things are hard for you to figure out in your life?** (Math; riding a bicycle; puzzles; spelling.)

• **What do you do when you come across something that's hard to figure out?** (I try hard; I ask God to help; I ask my parents to help; I ask my big sister to help.)

Set the *crayon car puzzle* aside for use in a later activity.

Say: **Today we're going to learn about a time David was helped in a tough situation. We'll learn that ► God wants us to act wisely. Sometimes other people can help us do that. The Bible also tells us that if we know God and respect him, we will be able to act wisely: ► "Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment" (Proverbs 9:10).**



Bible Exploration & Application

■ Wise Advice

SUPPLIES: Bible

Have kids form groups of three. Help children decide who in each group will play the role of David, of Nabal, and of Abigail. Open your Bible to **1 Samuel 25:1-35**, and show the passage to the children. Say: **Our story today is from 1 Samuel. It's about three people—David, Nabal, and Abigail. Listen for your part in the story, and be ready to follow my actions. Here we go.**

David and his men had been hiding from Saul's army in the desert. They were tired from running away, and they were hungry, too. Have the Davids pretend to be tired and out of breath.

There was a man named Nabal who lived in the desert. He had many sheep and goats and lots of money. Have the Nabals pretend to count money. **His wife was named Abigail, and she was wise and beautiful.** Have the Abigails point to their heads and then fan their hands around their faces. **But Nabal was cruel and mean.** Have the Nabals growl.

While David was in the desert, he gathered 10 of his men and sent them to Nabal for food. Have the Davids hold up 10 fingers and then point. **David said, "When you meet Nabal, say, 'May you and your family have good health.' Then remind Nabal that we have made sure that his shepherds and his sheep were safe. And even though we've been hungry, we haven't stolen any sheep to eat. Ask Nabal to be kind to you. See if he has any food or supplies that he can give us."**

When David's men gave the message to Nabal, Nabal insulted them. Have the Nabals growl. **He said, "I have food for my own workers, but I don't give it to people I don't know."**

The men went back and told David what Nabal had said to them. David was furious. Have the Davids make angry faces and put their hands on their hips.

teacher tips

Children will likely equate the word *fear* with being frightened about something. Help them understand that fear in this sense means to have an amazing respect for God. We honor and respect our parents by obeying them and trusting them. When we honor and respect the Lord in the same way, we will have wisdom and understanding of him.

David commanded, “Put on your swords!” Four hundred of David’s men put on their swords and got ready for battle. Have the Davids pretend to buckle swords around their waists.

Abigail found out from a servant that her husband, Nabal, had been mean to David’s men, even though David was kind to Nabal. The servant said, “Now David and his men are going to attack us!” Have the Abigails press their hands to their cheeks and say, “Oh no!”

Abigail knew there was no time to waste. She hurried to gather 200 loaves of bread, two leather bags of wine, five cooked sheep, a bushel of grain, 100 raisin cakes, and 200 fig cakes. Have the Abigails pretend to gather a lot of food. **She loaded all of the supplies onto donkeys and told her servants to take them to David’s men.** Have the Abigails pretend to load donkeys with a lot of food.

Abigail went with the servants and met with David. When she saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed facedown on the ground in front of him, saying, “Nabal has been very foolish. Please forgive the wrong that’s been done to you. I have brought a gift for you.” Have the Abigails kneel down as if begging David.

“I’m so sorry that we have wronged you, because your family is blessed,” Abigail continued. **“I pray that God keeps you safe always. God will keep all of his promises to you. He’ll make you a great king. You’ll be so glad on that day that you didn’t kill innocent people and punish them. Please remember this and me when God brings success to you.”** Have the Abigails fold their hands and plead.

David listened to what Abigail said and knew she was right. Have the Davids rub their chins and nod their heads. **David said, “Praise God for sending you to me. You are blessed with great wisdom. You have kept me from punishing people today.”**

Then David accepted the food gifts that Abigail had brought. Have the Abigails hold out food. **And he said to her, “Go home in peace. I have heard your wise words, and I’ll do as you ask.”**

Have children give themselves a round of applause for their participation in the story, and then ask:

- **How was Nabal unwise?** (If he’d given supplies to David, David wouldn’t have wanted to attack him; he was mean to David’s men.)
- **How was Abigail wise?** (She kept the men from fighting; she took food to David’s men.)
- **How was David unwise?** (He forgot to be kind to people who are mean; he was ready to fight.)
- **How was David wise?** (He listened to Abigail; he didn’t fight Nabal.)

Say: **Everybody acts unwisely some of the time even though ► *God wants us to act wisely* all of the time. Abigail was very wise. She gave David good advice, and he listened to it. David almost did something unwise because he decided to attack Nabal too quickly. Let’s find out more about making decisions too quickly.**



◀ BIBLE POINT

HANDS-ON BIBLE

Use this messy illustration to see how problems can be smoothed out. Have kids stand around a table with enough room to work in their own space. When children have their own space, place a dollop of shaving cream on the table in front of each child.



Say: **Before you touch your glob of shaving cream, find a partner and open your *Hands-On Bible* to the “Peacemaker Prep” activity in 1 Samuel 25.** Give kids time to do this away from the table. When kids have

finished reading the activity’s introduction, have them return to their globs of shaving cream and follow your instructions as you read the directions in **1 Samuel** in the *Hands-On Bible*. When children are instructed to read **Colossians 3:13**, have them first wash their hands. When everyone has finished reading, ask:

- **How can you smooth out your problem with the person who has hurt you?** (I can talk to him about how he hurt me; I can forgive her for making fun of me.)
- **What is one wise thing you can do to avoid problems later?** (Be nicer to people; listen first so I don’t say something silly.)

■ Walk Wisely

SUPPLIES: 8½x11-inch card stock, paper punches, staplers, pencils, markers, scissors



Ahead of time, cut two 18-inch pieces of *plastic lacing* for each child. Save any remaining *plastic lacing* for Lesson 9.

Have each child choose a partner and sit in a circle next to his or her partner. Set out pencils, scissors, and markers for everyone to share. Give each child a piece of card stock. Tell children they will trace their footprints on the card stock with their partners’ help. Children should keep their shoes on for this activity.

When they have finished, have the children cut out the shoe tracings. Hand out markers, and have them write the word “walk” on top of the left footprint and “wisely” on top of the right footprint. Then have the children take turns using a paper punch to create holes for shoelaces in their card footprints. Show children how to make two rows of three holes that are about 1 inch apart.

Say: **In the story you helped tell, both Abigail and David asked God to help them make wise choices, and God helped them. Every morning, we put on our shoes and hurry off to wherever we need to go. Along the way, we make choices, too, both good and bad. The wise way to walk is to ask God for his help, as Abigail and David did. That means we go, do, say, and act in ways that please God.**

Ask: • **What’s an unwise place our feet could take us to?** (A place where my parents have told me not to go; someplace dangerous.)

• **Where would be a wise place for our feet to take us?** (To church; to help a friend.)

Say: **Those are fine-looking shoes you’ve made. But something is missing.** Give each child two pieces of *plastic lacing*.

Ask: • **What are shoelaces used for?** (To tie our shoes with; to help keep our shoes on our feet.)

• **What happens if we try to wear our shoes without tying the laces together?** (Our shoes might fall off; we might trip on the laces.)

Have children pull the *plastic lacing* through the holes, beginning on the back side of the two bottom holes. Have children work together to tie the laces together on each foot to look like shoes. Then have them line up the feet at a 45-degree angle with the heels touching and staple the heels together.

Say: **If we walk around all day long with our shoes untied, eventually we might trip on the shoelace, or the shoe might fall off altogether. It isn't the wisest thing to do to run around with your shoes untied! ▶ *God wants us to act wisely.* He will give us wisdom to know what to do every day, whether it's something big and important we have to decide or something as simple as remembering to tie our shoes. We walk wisely when we pray and ask God for his help.**

Ask: • **What situations do you face that you need God's wisdom for?** (I don't know what to do about my sister—she's always mean to me; I don't know how to be nice to my next-door neighbor; I need help learning how to spell and sound out words.)



Say: **Jesus came to earth as God's Son—he was already perfect in every way. But Jesus still took the time to talk to God about everything. He showed us what to do.**

Ask: • **What are some ways in your life you follow Jesus' example to get wisdom from God?** (Go to my room and spend time with God and my Bible; put my pencil down while I'm doing homework and ask God for wisdom.)

• **What's one way you can walk wisely this week?** (I can start my day by praying to God; I can read my Bible this week.)

Encourage the children to keep their Walk Wisely shoes beside the doors of their bedrooms. As they leave their rooms in the morning, the shoes will remind them to walk wisely each day.

■ Quick to Move

SUPPLIES: Bibles

This game works best in a large room or outside. If you play it in your classroom, move the furniture against the walls to create an open space. Have the children line up along one wall on their hands and knees.

Say: **When I say "go," you'll crawl as fast as you can to the other side of the room. Be ready to stop, though, because I can turn around and say "gotcha" at any time. Then you have to be as still as a statue. If you move even a tiny bit, I'll point to you, and you'll have to go back to the beginning.**

Face the opposite wall and say "go." Then quickly turn and say "gotcha!" Send any children you catch moving back to the starting line. Play the game until everyone reaches the finish line. Then ask:

• **What was easy or hard about becoming as still as a statue when you were moving so fast?** (It was easy because I was pretty good at it; it was hard because I never knew when you would turn around.)



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



This is a great time to play a game to apply the lesson to kids' lives. They have just experienced a story about different people demonstrating wisdom. Use this next activity to learn how we can act wisely in our lives.

• **Why is it hard to stay in control of our actions if we act too quickly without thinking?** (We don't know what we should do; we don't think about it before we do it; we don't pray and ask God for advice.)

Say: **Listen to what the Bible says about being in control of our actions.** Help kids find **Proverbs 1:7a** in their Bibles, and ask them to follow along as you read the passage aloud. **The Bible tells us that part of being wise is to respect and honor God. Another part of being wise is to be in control. Let's slow this game down so we can be in better control of our actions.**

Choose a volunteer to be the caller. Have the children line up again on the opposite side of the room. Play the game again, but this time have children crawl in slow motion so they can stop when they see the caller start to turn around. When everyone has reached the finish line, gather the children and ask:

• **Why was playing the game like this easier?** (Because I could see the caller start to turn; I knew when to stop before the caller could see me.)

• **When is it better to go slowly in real life?** (When you might hurt yourself if you go too fast; when you might hurt someone else; when you're mad; when you could make a bad decision.)



BIBLE POINT ▶

Say: ▶ **God wants us to act wisely so we don't get ourselves into trouble. Sometimes that means taking our time and thinking before we act. In our game, not so many of you got caught when you went slowly. Real life is the same way—when we make slow, careful decisions, we're less likely to get in trouble. David almost hurt a lot of people because he decided to get revenge instead of being wise. Abigail convinced David to slow down and think about his actions. Abigail acted with God's wisdom. Let's find out more about the wisdom that God wants to give us.**

Closing

■ W.O.W.

SUPPLIES: Bible, crayons, photocopies of "W.O.W." handout (p. 100)

Before class, photocopy the "W.O.W." handout for each child. Hold up the *crayon car puzzle* and ask:

• **How does this puzzle remind us to act wisely?** (We had to be wise to put it together; we had to work together wisely; we had to be patient putting it back together.)

Say: **When we are wise, we take time to think about important decisions we have to make. It's not wise to always decide quickly. Listen to what the Bible says about acting quickly.** Read **Proverbs 14:2** aloud. **An example of being unwise and acting too quickly is running out into the street to get a ball without looking for traffic first.**

Ask: • **When have you done something quickly and then found out it was unwise?** (Once I got mad at my friend for doing something, and then I found out she didn't do it; once I started to run down the stairs too quickly and fell all the way down.)

Say: **Sometimes the wisest thing we can do is stop and think about what we're going to do before we do it. Let's make something that will remind us to think before we act.**



Give each child a "W.O.W." handout.

Ask: • If "W.O.W." stands for "Wait On Wisdom," what are some things in your life that might get you in trouble that you need to Wait On Wisdom for? (How I treat someone; helping someone cheat; disobeying my parents.)

Say: **Under the sign, draw a picture of yourself stopping to think about what you'll do before you do it.** Let children use the pieces of the *crayon car puzzle* to draw their pictures. Set out extra crayons if you have more than seven students. While the children are working, ask about the situations they're drawing.

Ask: • **What kind of trouble could you get into if you acted too quickly?** (I could get hurt; I could mess up a friendship; I could cause an accident.)

• **How can you act wisely?** (Wait until I know all the facts; wait until I'm not mad anymore; figure out the answer carefully; look both ways before I run out into the street.)

Say: ► **God wants us to act wisely. We can be wise by stopping to think about our actions. When we stop to think, we can ask God to give us wisdom, and God promises to give it to us. Let's ask God for wisdom right now.**

Pray: **God, thank you for being ready to give us wisdom when we need it. We ask for your help and wisdom in the situations we face every day. Help us wait on your wisdom instead of acting too quickly. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Return the *crayon car puzzle* to the Learning Lab.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Growing Together" handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage children and parents to use the handout to plan meaningful activities on this week's topic. Follow up the "Growing Together" activities next week by asking children what their families did together.



Growing Together

Bible Story

Abigail brings food to David.

(1 Samuel 25:1-35)

David 8:
God wants us to act wisely.

Bible Verse

“Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment” (Proverbs 9:10).

In Touch

Today your child learned that God wants us to act with wisdom. The children learned that God is ready to give us all the wisdom we need to face any situation. The children also learned that they can make wise decisions when they stop to think about what they're going to do before they do it.

Hot or Cold

Prepare three pans of water. One should be as hot as your child can comfortably tolerate. One should be very cold, and the third should be room temperature. Have your child put one hand in the hot water and one hand in the cold water. After one minute, have your child put both hands in the room-temperature water. One hand will “think” the water is cold—the other hand will “think” it’s hot. Talk about how sometimes things seem different from how they really are. We need God’s wisdom to help us know what’s good and true.

Forever Wisdom

Make potpourri as a reminder that “the grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever” (Isaiah 40:8). Collect flowers, nuts, and twigs. Dry the flowers, and put their petals with the nuts and twigs in a pretty bowl. Sprinkle with potpourri oil, which can be found at craft stores. Put the potpourri where you’ll see it often. Talk about why God’s Word and wisdom will last forever.

Observing Wisdom

Take a walk in your neighborhood with your child. Take along paper and a pen, and write down 15 things that you’ve

never noticed before, such as a flowerpot or a bird’s nest. Talk about how being observant can help a person be wise. What kinds of things can you observe that will lead to wisdom? Talk with your child about looking for hidden dangers in certain courses of action and about observing others’ attitudes and opinions.

Ruby Cookies

Make these cookies to teach your child that “wisdom is far more valuable than rubies” (Proverbs 8:11a). Heat oven to 350°. Reserve 1 tablespoon from a small box of cherry-flavored gelatin in a small bowl. Mix the rest of the gelatin with 1 cup powdered sugar, 1 cup softened margarine, and 2¼ cups flour. Shape into 1-inch balls. Put them on a cookie sheet, and bake for 8 to 10 minutes. Remove before they get brown. Cool completely, and then ice with this glaze: Add to the tablespoon of gelatin 3 tablespoons hot water. Let this stand for 5 minutes, and then stir in 2 cups powdered sugar and 1 teaspoon vanilla.

Refer to these verses with your family throughout the week:

- Proverbs 19:2. What can you do to remember to slow down and go the right way?
- Isaiah 40:14. What should you be asking God for, instead of telling him what you need?
- 1 Timothy 4:12. How can you show wisdom no matter what your age is?

