

# LISTEN TO GOD'S WISDOM

*Lesson 1, Proverbs 1:1-4, 7, 8, 10, 20-22, 32, 33, KJV*

## CROKCR VL / DECODE IT

Decode these common phrases by substituting one letter for another. The encoding of the title of this activity will get you started. For additional help: S=a, I=n, Y=u

1. VI KWRT JF ERSC \_\_\_\_\_
2. KYL KX JF RBRJRIL \_\_\_\_\_
3. VI LKK CRRD \_\_\_\_\_
4. OS'L QRL JF ERSC STKYIC VL \_\_\_\_\_
5. VL ARSLH JR \_\_\_\_\_
6. NYHL LTRSCVIQ PSLRT \_\_\_\_\_
7. OKJVIQ YD HEKTL \_\_\_\_\_
8. IKL YD LK LER LSHU \_\_\_\_\_

## ON TRIAL

A slogan from years past read, "If you were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" Think of someone you know well that you believe exhibits godly wisdom. List behaviors of that person that would give evidence that he or she is led by godly standards of behavior.

Evidence in this person's home life:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Evidence when this person is at work:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Evidence when this person is with friends:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

## A SEARCH FOR INFORMATION

Seek to learn more about your fellow class members! Have a class member sign on the line after a description that is true for him or her.

- Has a middle name beginning with a vowel \_\_\_\_\_
- Was born in a month without an R in it \_\_\_\_\_
- Has visited at least 10 states of the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_
- Can count to 20 in a foreign language \_\_\_\_\_
- Loves crossword puzzles \_\_\_\_\_
- Knows all the words to a popular song \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefers winter to summer \_\_\_\_\_
- Ate a doughnut for breakfast today \_\_\_\_\_

## FILL IT IN

Complete this grid by filling in key words from Proverbs 2:1-11. The meaning implied by each word and the verse in which it is found are in the clues below. When you are finished, the word revealed in the middle column will tell you how we are to treat these four attributes.

						R						
				A								
			U									
					E							

1. The ability to plan with a purpose that preserves and protects a person (v. 11a).
2. A familiarity with facts and people that allows one to experience them intimately (v. 6b).
3. The ability to discern the right attitude, belief, or course of action (v. 6a).
4. The faculty to process data reasonably to accomplish a task (v. 11b).

# RECEIVE WISDOM'S GIFTS

*Lesson 3, Proverbs 8:8-14, 17-21, KJV*

## WISDOM WANTED

Complete this wanted poster for Wisdom. Find content for each category in the verses cited.

**Wanted: WISDOM**

**Description** (Proverbs 8:8-11): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Known Associates** (Proverbs 8:12-14): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Reward for Apprehension** (Proverbs 8:17-21): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## WISDOM NEEDED!

Think of a friend or acquaintance in each category of the chart below who needs godly wisdom in a specific area. Use this listing as a prayer reminder for the next seven days.

Category	Name	Area of Wisdom
A coworker		
A family member		
A neighbor		
A public figure		

# FEAST WITH WISDOM

*Lesson 4, Proverbs 9:1-6, 8-10, 13-18, KJV*

## CHOICES

Within each set below, circle the one that you prefer over the other.

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Dog or cat?                 | 6. Spring or autumn?                    |
| 2. Coffee or tea?              | 7. Burger or salad?                     |
| 3. Tucked or untucked?         | 8. Movie or book?                       |
| 4. Rise early or stay up late? | 9. Beach vacation or mountain vacation? |
| 5. Sedan or SUV?               | 10. Appetizer or dessert?               |

## TWO APPEALS

Circle the speaker of each paraphrase below. Then consult the Scriptures at the bottom of the page to check your work.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. "Focusing on learning is a waste of time."  
Spoken by Wisdom or Folly? (Circle one)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. "Don't leave my house; you have nowhere better to go."  
Spoken by Wisdom or Folly? (Circle one)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. "I have nourishment that is substantial."  
Spoken by Wisdom or Folly? (Circle one)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. "Don't work too hard; enjoy the provisions taken from others."  
Spoken by Wisdom or Folly? (Circle one)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. "My teaching will equip you to have a productive and satisfying life."  
Spoken by Wisdom or Folly? (Circle one)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. "I have a solid foundation for my instruction."  
Spoken by Wisdom or Folly? (Circle one)

- a. Proverbs 9:1
- b. Proverbs 9:2, 5
- c. Proverbs 9:6, 9, 10

- d. Proverbs 9:13
- e. Proverbs 9:17
- f. Proverbs 9:18

# VINDICATING WISDOM

Lesson 5, Matthew 11:7-19, KJV

## PUZZLING

Unscramble the quotation on the right to discover its author. Do you AGREE or DISAGREE with the quote?

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

HET

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1

GESRATTE

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4

PEDNECOIT

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6 10 3

NEM

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FORM

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8

HIERT

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11 5

WON

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2

POINISON

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7

L							
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7

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6 4

V				
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8 9 10 11

## CORRECTING FALSEHOOD

Each sentence below has one false word. Cross it out and write the correct word above it. You have one minute.

1. Jesus spoke to the Romans about what they went into the wilderness to see.
2. John was less than a prophet.
3. No one greater than John the Evangelist has arisen.
4. Some of the prophets and the law prophesied until John.
5. John was the Ezekiel who was to come.
6. Jesus compared the generation to donkeys in the markets.
7. John came neither eating nor preaching.

# THE BOY JESUS

*Lesson 6, Ecclesiastes 3:1, 7b; Luke 2:39-52, KJV*

## CYCLES OF WISDOM

How would you answer the following questions about wisdom as it relates to Jesus, His parents, and the teachers of the law?

How is wisdom described in Ecclesiastes 3? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

As He sat among the doctors, what do you imagine Jesus understood by wisdom? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How did the temple scholars of the law understand wisdom? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you think Jesus' parents understood about wisdom? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How does the boy Jesus grow in wisdom? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## AMAZEMENT

People in Luke 2 experience amazement in diverse ways. Explore the people and contexts associated with amazement in today's text.

(v. 47) Why were the teachers of the law amazed at Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(v. 48) What are two aspects in this event of His parents being amazed? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(v. 49) How does Jesus' response to His parents express amazement? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# THE WISDOM OF JESUS

Lesson 7, Mark 6:1-6, KJV

## WISDOM SAYINGS

The wisdom of both biblical proverbs and folk sayings are often couched in pithy sayings. Select two or three of the sayings below and distill their basic message on the lines below.

1. A new broom sweeps clean, but an old broom knows the corners. *Virgin Islander (on friendship)*
2. There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health. (*Proverbs 12:18*)
3. The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going. (*Proverbs 14:15*)
4. Even a fish wouldn't get into trouble if it kept its mouth shut. *Korean proverb*
5. Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, and he'll eat for a lifetime.
6. Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right. (*Proverbs 16:8*)
7. Lost time is never found again. *Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790)*

Saying # \_\_: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Saying # \_\_: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Saying # \_\_: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## FOLLOW GODLY WISDOM

Create an acrostic using the letters from the word *WISDOM* to describe a path toward godly wisdom.

**W** \_\_\_\_\_  
**I** \_\_\_\_\_  
**S** \_\_\_\_\_  
**D** \_\_\_\_\_  
**O** \_\_\_\_\_  
**M** \_\_\_\_\_

# WISDOM TO FOLLOW

*Lesson 8, John 14:1-14, KJV*

## BUILDING A FOLLOWING

Brainstorm ways to build a following by reviewing the starter ideas on the left and adding more in the first column; then choose from them the two best ways to do so.

Things People Do to Build a Following	The Two Best Ways to Build a Following
1. Invite people you know to follow you. 2. Share links to your social media. 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____	1. _____ 2. _____

How did you determine which items on the list were the best ways to build a following?

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## CONTRAST JESUS' STATEMENT

To the right of Jesus' statements, write a contrasting statement that someone might make; then write a statement of how Jesus might respond to that statement. One is done as a sample.

Jesus' statement	Contrasting admission	Jesus' possible rejoinder
1a—"Let not your heart be troubled" John 14:1, 27	1b—I worry about everything.	1c—That's because you're trying to handle everything by your own power!
2a—"In my Father's house are many mansions" (v. 2).	2b—	2c—
3a—"I go to prepare a place for you" (v. 2).	3b—	3c—
4a—"I am the way, the truth, and the life" (v. 6).	4b—	4c—
5a—"If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also" (v. 7).	5b—	5c—
6a—"The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself" (v. 10).	6b—	6c—
7a—"If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it" (v. 14).	7b—	7c—

Review the contrasting statement and paraphrase what Jesus is affirming to His disciples.



# FAITH AND WISDOM

Lesson 9, James 1:1-11, KJV

## WORDS ABOUT THE WISE

Wisdom is a major theme in the book of James and throughout Scripture. Use the following verses to find answers to two questions: Psalm 90:12; 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; 2:6; 3:3; 8:11; James 1:5-8; 3:17.

1. What *is* wisdom? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How do we *get* wisdom? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## GOD USED IT FOR GOOD

The Bible tells many times when God turned a trial into a great blessing for the one being tested. Each case was an opportunity for God to be glorified, even in the face of a difficult situation. Can you think of some examples? Below are references to get you started. Jot further examples in the space below.

Genesis 45:1-8; Daniel 3 (especially verses 28-30); John 11:17-45; Philippians 2:5-11

## POVERTY LINES

How does your attitude toward the poor compare and contrast with God's? Summarize both in that regard as the passages below indicate.

	God's Attitude	My Attitude
Psalm 12:5	_____	_____
Psalm 109:30, 31	_____	_____
Psalm 140:12	_____	_____
Proverbs 10:4	_____	_____
Isaiah 25:4	_____	_____
Isaiah 41:17	_____	_____
Luke 16:19-31	_____	_____
James 2:5	_____	_____

# HEARING AND DOING

Lesson 10, James 1:19-27, KJV

## FREEDOM OR FRUSTRATION?

The fact that God's perfect law leads to liberty/freedom (James 1:25) is a concept difficult for some people to accept. For each of the examples below, write an idea about how the perfect law of freedom relates to the concept. Consult Scripture references in the chart below as necessary.

- Speed limits \_\_\_\_\_
- Dress codes \_\_\_\_\_
- Tax rules \_\_\_\_\_
- Drug laws \_\_\_\_\_
- Prohibitions against theft \_\_\_\_\_
- Libel laws \_\_\_\_\_

Now, write one sentence to explain how following God's laws, even those that may sometimes seem restrictive, brings freedom to the believer.

Legalism	Law of Freedom	License
Matthew 23:16-26 Acts 15:1, 5, 10 Galatians 1:6, 7; 3:1-12 Colossians 2:16-23 Philippians 3:4-7	John 8:31-36 Romans 6:14; 7:4-6; 14:1-6 1 Corinthians 8:9-13 2 Corinthians 3:17 Galatians 2:4; 4:4-7; 5:1-13a Colossians 2:13-23 Hebrews 2:14, 15 1 Peter 4:1-5	Romans 6:1, 2, 15; 14:13-23 1 Corinthians 8:9-13 Galatians 5:13b 1 Peter 2:16 2 Peter 2:18-20 Jude 4 Revelation 2:14, 20

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Each of the following reflects an action Christians should pursue. Beside each one, enter the verse number(s) from today's text that gives us the command. Circle the sentence that indicates actions you can take this week and how you will do so.

- A. I need to be a better listener (James 1:\_\_\_\_\_).
- B. I'm distracted by the moral evil in our world today (James 1:\_\_\_\_\_).
- C. My tongue sometimes gets me in trouble (James 1:\_\_\_\_\_).
- D. I know about homeless teens in my area, but I haven't done much to help them (James 1:\_\_\_\_\_).
- E. I need to find a way to help a widow I know (James 1:\_\_\_\_\_).
- F. I'm much better at studying Bible commands than actually obeying them (James 1:\_\_\_\_\_).

## RECONSIDER THE STORIES

Today's text alludes to personalities in three other biblical accounts. For each one, complete the sentences indicated below.

Mark 1:21-25: demon

This demon had belief, but \_\_\_\_\_ .

Genesis 12:1-8: Abraham

Abraham proved his faith by \_\_\_\_\_ .

Rahab: Joshua 2:1-21 (see also 6:23-25)

Rahab demonstrated faith by \_\_\_\_\_ .

Discuss with a study partner this question: What's the difference between the belief of the demon and the belief of Abraham and Rahab? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## FINISH THE THOUGHTS

How much do you remember?

- A. What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath \_\_\_\_\_, and have not \_\_\_\_\_? can faith save him?
- B. Even so \_\_\_\_\_ if it hath not \_\_\_\_\_, is \_\_\_\_\_, being alone.
- C. Was not Abraham our father \_\_\_\_\_ by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?
- D. Ye see then how that by \_\_\_\_\_ a man is justified, and not by \_\_\_\_\_ only.
- E. For as the \_\_\_\_\_ without the \_\_\_\_\_ is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

When you finish, look up the answers in James 2:14-26.

Your score \_\_\_\_\_ out of 10.

# TAMING THE TONGUE

*Lesson 12, James 3:1-12, KJV*

## POSITIVE POINTERS

Today's text suggests many dangers not just for teachers but for the Christian in everyday conversations. But this is not the only place in James's letter where he talks about the tongue. The following passages suggest further positive instruction. What help do we get for our use of the tongue from each of the following? Under each one, make a list of positive pointers.

James 1:19, 20

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James 5:12-16

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## SITUATIONAL SUGGESTIONS

James indicates that everyone has had tongue troubles (James 3:2). From the list below, circle the situations in which you're most likely to have trouble controlling your tongue. Then jot down some positive, practical steps you can take in those settings to keep your tongue in check.

Dealing with advice from my peers.

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Reacting to criticism of my work.

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Encountering aggressive drivers on the road.

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Hearing gossip.

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Listening to criticism of the church.

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Hearing criticism of a family member.

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Listening to criticism from a family member.

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# TWO KINDS OF WISDOM

*Lesson 13, James 3:13-18; 5:7-12, KJV*

## WISDOM OF THE SAGES

**PART 1.** James isn't the only one who has written about wisdom. Give each of the following either a plus (+) if you agree with it, a minus (−) if you don't agree, and both (±) if you're not sure.

- \_\_\_\_\_ A. "Science is organized knowledge. Wisdom is organized life." —Immanuel Kant
- \_\_\_\_\_ B. "Knowledge is knowing what to say. Wisdom is knowing when to say it." —Anonymous
- \_\_\_\_\_ C. "The invariable mark of wisdom is to see the miraculous in the common."  
—Ralph Waldo Emerson
- \_\_\_\_\_ D. "It is the province of knowledge to speak, and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen."  
—Oliver Wendell Holmes
- \_\_\_\_\_ E. "A loving heart is the truest wisdom." —Charles Dickens
- \_\_\_\_\_ F. "The wise man hath his thoughts in his head; the fool, on his tongue." —Ivan Panin
- \_\_\_\_\_ G. "Wisdom is the right use of knowledge." —Charles Spurgeon
- \_\_\_\_\_ H. "When anger enters the mind, wisdom departs." —Thomas à Kempis
- \_\_\_\_\_ I. "Patience is the companion of wisdom." —Augustine

**PART 2.** Now read James 3:13-17 and 5:7-12, and compare and contrast each quote above with the instruction found there. Circle the quotes that match teaching from Scripture.

## COMMENTARY FROM SCRIPTURE

Sometimes the best commentary on one section of Scripture is another section of Scripture. Each of the following passages illuminates a section of today's text. For each one, write a sentence or two to summarize it. Then write another sentence or two to express how it enhances our understanding of what James has to say.

Hebrews 11:32-38 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 5:33-37 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

