

Y's

1. Who is the wisest person you know?
2. What is the best advice anyone ever gave you?
3. How would you complete this statement?
 - a. I would be wiser if I—
4. Check three areas where you could use more wisdom.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Staying out of trouble
<input type="checkbox"/>	School work and studying
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family life
<input type="checkbox"/>	Handling my emotions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Understanding the Bible
<input type="checkbox"/>	Choosing friends
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spending money
<input type="checkbox"/>	Relating to God
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other [add your own]--

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OPENING: Ask the kids what kind of problems they face on a daily basis. Write them on the dry erase board.

Split them into small groups and allow each group to select from the bag of “tools of wisdom” which includes a magic 8 ball, Dear Abby columns, a set of dice, a deck of cards, a cootie catcher, and a list of horoscopes. They must use these “tools” to and only these to solve the problem.

After they have been given 5 minutes to “solve” the problem discuss whether these “tools” were helpful or unhelpful.

DISCUSSION, BY THE NUMBERS:

1. Who do they consider wise? Why? What characteristics of this person make them wise?
2. Ask for volunteers to share bits of good advice. Who did they hear them from? How has it helped them?
3. Let a few read and share their completed sentences. Make the point that everyone should seek more wisdom each day.
4. Point out that being wise doesn't necessarily mean being smart. Learning is one thing, but it's what you do with your learning that leads to wisdom. How can you gain wisdom in these areas?

READ: The Book of Proverbs 1:1-7

Prologue: Purpose and Theme

- ¹ The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:
- ² for attaining wisdom and discipline;
for understanding words of insight;
- ³ for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life,
doing what is right and just and fair;
- ⁴ for giving prudence to the simple,
knowledge and discretion to the young-
- ⁵ let the wise listen and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance-
- ⁶ for understanding proverbs and parables,
the sayings and riddles of the wise.
- ⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools ^[a] despise wisdom and discipline.

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EXPLAIN: The Book of Proverbs was written as a means to extend the wisdom of God to the people of Israel. We can still use this wisdom today. Problems haven't gone away and oftentimes they are the same problems, in different situations, that people were dealing with back then.

MAKE IT PERSONAL: Break into small groups, assign each group a different chapter from the book of Proverbs. Have them solve the problems that were on the board now using at least five examples from the chapter of Proverbs assigned to them.

THE CLOSE: Point out to the kids that we gain wisdom through prayer, Bible study, and advice from other mature Christians. Be wary of the advice given from friends, the media and outside influences, it's easy to hear the wrong message and make wrong choices. God has given us the ability to discern right from wrong, and He expects us to use it. Remember, "***The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge***"-true wisdom comes from God. The more you love God and His commandments, the wiser you will become.