

GET WISDOM!

23 Lessons for Children

About Living for Jesus

RUTH YOUNTS

Wisdom is supreme; therefore, get wisdom!

Proverbs 4:7

Introduction

A part from the gospel itself, nothing is more important to get than wisdom. It comes before education, friends, health, sports, work, and everything else you can think of. In fact, wisdom is the only good foundation for all those things.

This book illustrates qualities of wisdom and godliness. Every child of God—both adults and children—should work hard to show these traits more and more, because we love Jesus and want to be like him. That's easier said than done, isn't it? We struggle with sin every day. But thankfully, even though we often fail, we are saved by grace alone, by Christ alone! That is the GOOD NEWS. Jesus is the perfect example of all these qualities, and by his grace we can grow in wisdom and godliness.

I recommend that you memorize these verses. Talk about them every day, and don't let anything distract you or stop you from GETTING WISDOM.

Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom.

Though it cost all you have, get understanding.
Esteem her, and she will exalt you;
embrace her, and she will honor you.
She will set a garland of grace on your head
and present you with a crown of splendor.

Listen, my son, accept what I say,
and the years of your life will be many.
I guide you in the way of wisdom
and lead you along straight paths.
When you walk, your steps will not be hampered;
when you run, you will not stumble.

Hold on to instruction, do not let it go;
guard it well, for it is your life.
Do not set foot on the path of the wicked
or walk in the way of evil men.

Avoid it, do not travel on it;
turn from it and go on your way.
For they cannot sleep till they do evil;
they are robbed of slumber till they make someone fall.
They eat the bread of wickedness
and drink the wine of violence.

The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn,
shining ever brighter till the full light of day.
But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness;
they do not know what makes them stumble.

—Proverbs 4:7–19

Teaching Helps

This book can be used in a class or in a family. Every Christian should grow in wisdom and godliness throughout life. Parents should be helping their children acquire these traits from their earliest days. Repetition—day by day—is essential.

The Teacher's Guide is designed to help teach children from K-5 through Grade 4, although the lessons can easily be adapted to teach children of any age.

The Teacher's Guide provides teaching points, discussion questions, games, and role plays. Each lesson also includes a Scripture verse to help the teacher focus on the the gospel, which is the starting point of all Christian character.

The questions and answers on the next page will help you explain, at a child's level, how godly character—being "good"—relates to the gospel of grace.

Christian Wisdom & the Gospel

What is Christian wisdom?

Christian wisdom is knowing and understanding the truth, obeying the truth, and making decisions based on the truth. Wisdom helps you be more like Jesus in actions, thoughts and attitudes, by loving God and loving your neighbor.

Matthew 22:37-40 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Ephesians 4:22-24 "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

Can I be good and wise—like Jesus—if I work hard enough?

No, not by yourself.

Romans 3:12 "There is no one who does good, not even one."

How can I be good enough?

Only by the goodness of Jesus Christ. He was perfectly good, and he took the punishment of other peoples' sin by dying on the cross. Ask God to forgive your sin and give you a new heart. Then God will see you as though you are as good as Jesus. Also, he will help you to love and obey him.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."

Why should I want to be good?

To show love for Jesus.

1 John 4:19 "We love because he first loved us."

What do I do when it's too hard to be good?

Pray and ask God to forgive your sin. Thank him that he loves you even when you sin. Ask for God's help to practice each quality of godliness, because you love him and want to please him.

Phil 4:13 "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."

Obedience

is doing exactly what I am asked to do, right away, with a willing attitude.

"Children, **obey**
your parents in
everything,
for this pleases
the Lord."

—Colossians 3:20



Obedience is doing exactly what I am asked to do, right away, with a willing attitude.

EXAMPLES:

1. When my mom calls me I should answer right away.

2. I should turn off the TV right away, without
complaining, as soon as my parents tell me to.

PRAYER: Lord, help me to obey my parents. It's too hard for me to do by myself. Thank you that you obeyed your Father perfectly, so I could be forgiven for my sin. Please give me the help I need to obey, because I want to please you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The boy is running to obey quickly, with a good attitude.
So should you!

Lesson 2: bedience

Opening activity: Red Light, Green Light — The children line up facing the leader. When the leader says, “Red Light” the children must not move; when the leader says, “Green Light” the children may advance; anyone who moves during a “red light” has to return to the beginning. The first one to reach the leader wins.

Memory verse: Colossians 3:20 “Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.”

Definition: Obedience is doing exactly what I am asked to do, right away, with a willing attitude.

Discussion:

- Whom do you have to obey? *Your parents.*
- How do you know you have to obey your parents?
God says so in the Bible.
- Why do you have to obey God? *Because he made you. Since he made you, he has the right to tell you what to do. He also has control of everything, and you can't get away from his consequences (or his punishments).*
- Is it fun to obey? *Sometimes it's really hard!!!!*
- Why is it so hard to obey? *Because we want to do what WE want to do.*
- Are you happy after you obey? *Yes, if you really obey with a good attitude, because God's way is always BEST, even when it's very hard.*
- How can you have a willing attitude when you have to do something you don't want to do? *You can want to please God more than you want your own way. So you can*

do something you really, really don't want to do ... but you do it anyway, because you want to please God and obey him the most.

Role play games (Kids can act out “obedience” that isn't really obedience because it's doing what they're told, but not exactly, with delay, or grudgingly. Have the other students tell what's wrong with their “obedience.”)

- Mom says, “It's time for bed; put your book (or toys, or games) away and get your pajamas on!”
- Teacher says, “Class, no talking. Please pay attention.”
- Dad says, “Stop talking and finish your dinner!”
- Mom says, “Go do your homework before you do anything else.”
- Dad says, “Please take out the garbage before you play.”

What if I just don't want to obey—it's TOO hard?
Pray and ask God to forgive you and help you,
and change your heart to love him and obey him.

“Although He was a Son,
He learned obedience from what He suffered.”
—Hebrews 5:8

Faithfulness
is being dependable, so that others
can trust what I say and do.



"Let love and
faithfulness

never leave you.

Bind them around your neck,
Write them on the tablet of your heart."
—Proverbs 3:3

Faithfulness is being dependable, so that others can trust what I say and do.

EXAMPLES:

1. If I promised to play with my sister after school, I
should not change my mind when my best friend invites
me over.
2. I should do my work—and do it well—even when no
one is checking on me.

PRAYER: Dear God, it's hard to be faithful all the time. I just can't do it. Even when I'm trying, I fail a lot. Please help me to be more and more trustworthy and dependable. Thank you that Jesus was completely faithful for me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The rainbow is the sign of God's covenant with all living creatures that promises he will never again destroy all life with a flood (Gen. 9:12). Just as God is always faithful to his Word, so you should be faithful in all you say and do.

Lesson 13: Faithfulness

Opening activity: Make a set of cards, each with one character trait on it. Give each child a card. Ask them to hold it up when you describe a situation that requires that trait to be practiced. (More than one trait will be required.) After describing several situations, introduce faithfulness.

Memory verse: Proverbs 3:3 “Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.”

Show an identification necklace or bracelet, and describe how some people wear an I.D. all the time (e.g., for a medical condition). In the same way, faithfulness is like something we wear all the time.

Definition: Faithfulness is being dependable, so that others can trust what you say and do.

Discussion: Discuss how faithfulness means obeying God all the time, even when no one but God is watching. When can you take a break from being faithful? *Never!*

Re-distribute the character trait cards. Ask the children to tell how “their” trait is required in the following situations:

- You are very, very tired. Your mom asks you to put away your little sister’s toys before you go to bed. What character qualities do you NEED? *obedience, contentment, orderliness, gratitude, respect, trust, patience*
- You are sick and you feel terrible. Your mom is taking care of you, but she has to take care of your baby brother, too, and the rest of the family. What character qualities do you NEED? *obedience, contentment, grati-*

tude, respect, trust, patience

- You wake up after a scary dream. Your mom and dad talk to you, but you’re still upset. What character qualities do you need? *trust, contentment, respect, self-control*
- Your best friend just moved to another state and you’re very sad. What character qualities do you need? *gratitude, contentment, trust, patience*
- Your little brother or sister ruined your favorite shirt with mom’s lipstick. What character qualities do you need? *meekness, mercy, gratitude, contentment, trust, patience*

Role play games: Have the children role play the situations described in the discussion questions above.

I can do everything through him who gives me strength.
—Philippians 4:13
