Lesson: The Gifts of Wisdom  

Text: Proverbs 8:8-14, 17-21

I. **Aim for Change**

By the end of the lesson we will: RECOGNIZE the incomparable value of wisdom, APPRECIATE the difference between the rewards of wisdom and the rewards of mere wealth, and PURSUE godly wisdom rather than a substitute.

**Unifying Principle—Seeking Meaning.** People desire wisdom and hope to be rewarded when they search for it. Wisdom’s value is more than tangible gain; it gives knowledge and courage and leads toward God’s path of justice and righteousness.

**Key Verse**—“10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee. (Proverbs 8:10-11, KJV)

**People Places and Times**

**Lady Wisdom.** Her image is consistently positive. She is the one universal element without which everything else fails. Wisdom is not the shadowy female who frequents dark alleys in search of sexual gratification like the adulteress of Proverbs 7. She positions herself publicly beside the city gates where she can expect to attract a large audience. She affirms her integrity by stressing the truth, nobility, and righteousness of her words. Lady Wisdom boldly proclaims that her rewards are far more valuable than gold, silver, and jewels.

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II. **Background**

Lady Wisdom helps us better understand God by taking one of His attributes and giving it personality and consciousness. Thus, we can better comprehend how wisdom is integrated into our everyday lives. The proverbs in Proverbs 3 through 9 warn the youth against temptations such as violent crimes (1:10–19; 4:14–19); rash pledges (6:1–5); laziness (6:6–11); deceit (6:12–15); and sexual impurity (2:16–19; 5:3–20; 6:23–35; 7:4–27; 9:13–18). Temptations may seem easy to avoid, but they can creep in when we are caught off guard and cause us to fall into sin.

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The Lesson At-A-Glance…
1. The Pursuit of Wisdom (Proverbs 8:8–14)
2. The Promise of Wisdom (vv. 17–21)

III. In Depth with More Light on the Text

Section 1. The Pursuit of Wisdom (Proverbs 8:8-14)
Prosperity, power, prestige, and possessions are paltry when compared to the worth of wisdom. The wealth of the world is temporary, but the rewards of wisdom are eternal. A principle here is that wisdom is of greater value than any material wealth and is actually the way to acquire true wealth spiritually and naturally. Furthermore, when we pursue wisdom, we receive the benefits of discernment and good judgment.

Section 2. The Promise of Wisdom (vv. 6–8)
Those who truly love and seek wisdom will surely find it. In the New Testament James reaffirms that those who ask for wisdom from God will receive it, but they must be willing to follow it once they have it (James 1:5). Wisdom is tied to prosperity and also justice. It is the effect of wisdom to receive both.

Solomon himself embodies this well; the wealthiest man in the world is also the wisest and rules with justice. He asks God for wisdom rather than wealth, which is why God blesses him with wealth and power, knowing he would use it righteously. It is our responsibility as believers to follow Jesus’ example. He did not have material riches, but He had all the power of the Kingdom of God, which He used to heal the sick, cast out demons, confront the oppressive religious authorities, and care for those in need. We would be wise to seek wisdom to do the same works, recognizing that God can allow us to prosper with that same wisdom if we use it for His glory.

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Liberating Lesson & Application for Activation—see Sunday School book
Many people have education, knowledge, and information—but they have no understanding. Instead of selfishly seeking wealth, we should seek wisdom. When we are humble enough to know that we need God’s wisdom daily, God is faithful enough to give it. Wisdom is often demonstrated by the daily choices we make. This week keep a diary of all the major decisions you make. At the end of the week review your decisions to see if your choices demonstrated godly wisdom or foolishness. Determine if godly wisdom is a part of your life by the choices you made.

Vocabulary-New Words To Understand Hebrew Poetry and Wisdom Literature…
(Reiteration…) In Hebrew poetry there are three types to explain and layover the text to understand them…
1. **Synonymous Parallelism**—saying the same
2. **Antithetic Parallelism**—saying the opposite of what is in the previous line
3. **Synthetic Parallelism**—further explaining the content of the first line