

colaborate

Bible Study

Student Handbook

Old Testament

Sampler

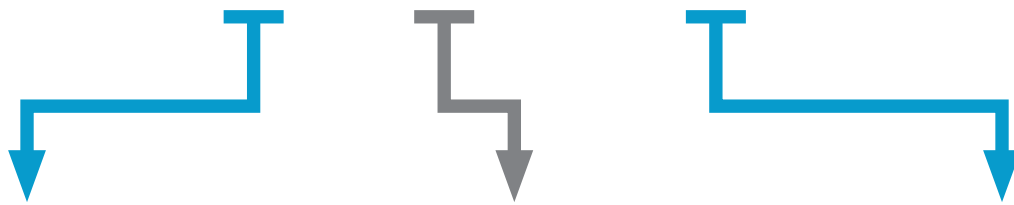
SPARK
HOUSE

colaborate

Student Handbook

The centerpiece of the Colaborate Bible Study curriculum is the student handbook. Each handbook contains fifteen lessons with each lesson working through four pages of handbook content. The Colaborate handbook guides students through a process of discovery with intriguing questions, in-depth information, and punchy graphics. Each page of the handbook serves a specific purpose that pulls students into the content.

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FRAMING THE PROBLEM

An opening infographic sets up the tension for the lesson, explicitly centering on student assumptions, biases, even disinterest. After students work through the first page, they'll watch a short animated video that heightens the tension through hyperbole, stereotypes, and misinformation. It is intentionally—and age-appropriately—provocative to build interest and get students thinking about the topic.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The center spread of the lesson equips students to work through the tension created on page one. It features an infographic that presents content in a memorable, visually powerful way, incorporating Bible passages, biblical exegesis, and historical context to help give students a stronger sense of the theology and doctrine behind each lesson. Students are invited to interact with the content by drawing, asking and answering questions, and sharing their ideas with a partner or the group.

PROJECT AND CLOSING

The final page of each lesson solidifies the concepts through two activities—an individual writing activity and an active group project. No pipe cleaners? No problem. Every project in colaborate can be done with materials you have on hand—paper, pencils, tape, scissors. You'd be surprised how much stuff you can create with just these simple supplies. These activities give students opportunities to articulate what they've discovered, share their thoughts with others, and engage with the broader church community.

Videos

The animated Colaborate videos aren't meant to stand alone. They don't give answers and they won't guide your class discussion. In fact, they might leave you scratching your head a bit. And that's fantastic. These short videos use humor, exaggeration, and assumptions to tease out the problem statement of each lesson. The retro feel of the videos plays off of students' perceptions of church as outdated and irrelevant, while the off-beat humor and quirky narration keep your students engaged as they start to ask new questions about some very old ideas.

Wisdom

What do you know?

The whole Bible could be called the Book of Wisdom, but there are actually a few books within it that are commonly referred to as “the Wisdom Books.” And while they are often thought of as the most accessible books in the Old Testament because they don’t deal with wild history or include a bunch of unfamiliar names, they still offer profound and sometimes challenging ideas about what it means to follow God with our hearts and minds.

Proverbs 2:6

“For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.”



CHOOSE THE WISE PERSON

PASTOR

EVERY WEEK YOU HEAR THEM SPEAK AND TALK ABOUT GOD. THEY KNOW THE BIBLE, AND YOUR COMMUNITY TRUSTS THEM TO HELP UNDERSTAND GOD AND LIFE.

Teacher

THEY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR HELPING YOU LEARN READING, WRITING, AND ARITHMETIC FOR MUCH OF YOUR LIFE. THEY GRADE ALL YOUR WORK AND HAVE STUDIED MORE THAN MOST.

Grandparents

THEY CAN BE QUIRKY AND SOMETIMES SEEM CLUELESS ABOUT WHAT LIFE IS LIKE FOR YOU, BUT THEY LOVE YOU A TON AND HAVE YEARS OF LIFE EXPERIENCE.

BEST FRIEND

THEY ARE THERE FOR YOU WHEN NO ONE ELSE IS. THEY UNDERSTAND YOU AND SEE YOUR SITUATION MUCH LIKE YOU DO. THEY HELP GUIDE YOU, AND YOU HELP GUIDE THEM.

Being wise isn't the same thing as being smart or studious or clever. So what is it?

Wisdom Works

We all have access to information and knowledge, but developing true wisdom involves more than just our brains.

God's Wisdom Personified

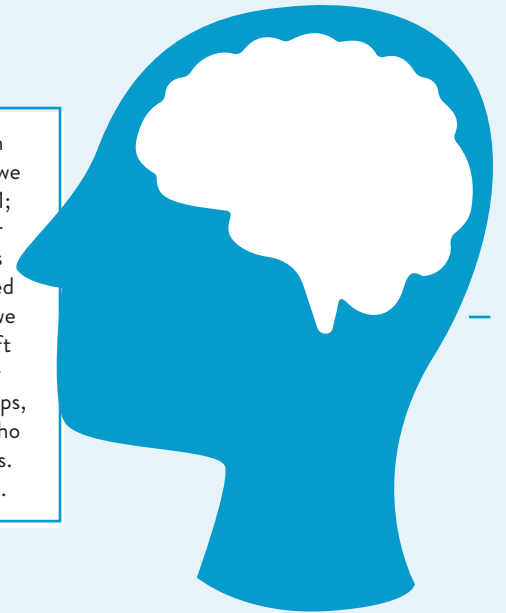
The book of Proverbs describes wisdom as a woman, a feminine spirit who was created with God at the beginning of time (Proverbs 8:22-31). While wisdom herself isn't an actual person, the Bible is clear that her spirit is one of the many ways we know Jesus is the Son of God (Colossians 2:2-3).



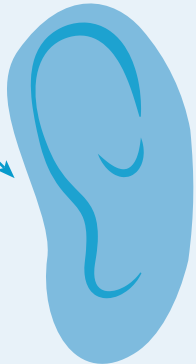
See: We see how God's Word is lived out—or not—when we look at our actions and those of others. The more we notice, the more we discover about what goodness and mercy and justice look like. Next to the eye, write down a word or two that describe what mercy looks like in your world.



The Head: Wisdom often comes to us through what we learn (1 Thessalonians 5:21; Proverbs 28:26). But our heads aren't empty bowls that knowledge gets poured into. We learn best when we take information in and sift it through the grid of our experiences, our relationships, and what we know about who God is and how God works. That's called discernment.



Hear: When you hear your pastor say, "Hear the Word of the Lord," it's time to listen up! Trust in Jesus comes through hearing God's Word—a Word that includes teaching about living wisely. God's words of wisdom can be "heard" through reading the Bible, through interactions with others, and even through your own gut sense about what's right and wrong. The more you listen, the more you learn. What's the first word that comes to mind when you think of God? Write it in the ear.



WISDOM

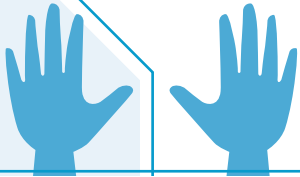
your age + **# of books you've read in the last month** + **your grade** + **# of sports clubs you're in**

the number of times you have to be reminded to do your homework **x 7**


Wisdom lit 101

The books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, Psalms, and the Song of Solomon are a kind of writing known as Wisdom Literature. They're kind of like those little sayings your quirky Uncle Al has about the weather or why you should always wear a hat on Thursdays. We don't know for sure who wrote these books—King Solomon often gets the credit for most of them—but we know that these sayings were a way of passing on the wisdom of one generation to the next (Proverbs 1:1-8). Tell a partner a weird or funny saying you've heard in your family.


The Heart: Ultimately, our wisdom shows in the way we live with God, others, and even ourselves. We can know all the right answers and information, but if that doesn't turn into love and service, then it's not worth much (1 Corinthians 13:2). True wisdom takes root and grows when we live out God's call to love as we've been loved.




Hands: Wisdom helps us understand the effects of our actions and motivates us to keep finding ways to be God's hands in the world (Ecclesiastes 9:17-18).




Feet: Wisdom helps us step into what God has for us next. It helps us trust that even when we don't know what the future holds, we know God will be with us as we move forward (Proverbs 16:9). If you could serve God anywhere in the world, where would it be? Write the name of the place by the feet.



Neighbor: Wisdom allows us to see everyone we meet as someone God loves. It guides us as we find ways to love and care for other people (Matthew 22:36-40). Write down the name of someone you know who could use a little love and kindness.



Community: Wisdom is always shared. When people of faith come together, we encourage and strengthen one another, giving and getting more wisdom than we could ever have on our own (Proverbs 15:22).



World: Wisdom isn't something we keep to ourselves. God wants us to be in the world, loving and serving and learning (Acts 1:8).

CALCULATOR

= I am _____ % wiser than others.

Compare your answer with that of another smart person in the group.

Wisdom or Wisdumb?

Not everything that sounds wise is wise. We need to know how to identify good and bad “words of wisdom.”

Option 1: **Wiz Libs!**

Write your own proverb! Work with a partner and see if you come up with wisdom worth holding on to.

My _____, if you accept my _____
[member of family] [noun]

and treasure up my _____, within you,
[noun]

making your _____ attentive to wisdom
[noun]

and inclining your _____ to _____;
[noun] [verb]

if you _____ out for insight
[verb]

and raise your _____ for _____;
[noun] [verb]

if you seek it like _____
[precious item]

and search for it as for _____ treasures,
[adjective]

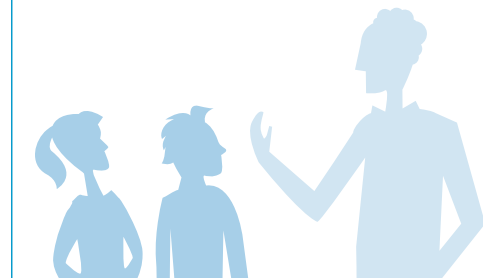
then you will understand the _____ of the
[adjective]

Lord and find the _____ of God.
[noun]

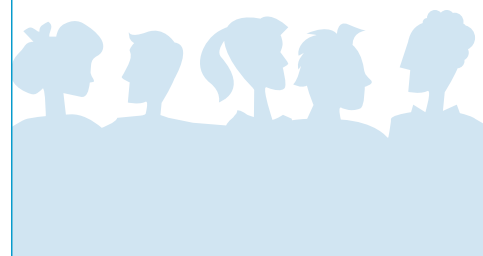
Option 2: **Get It, Share It**

Supplies: butcher paper, small pieces of paper, pencil, tape

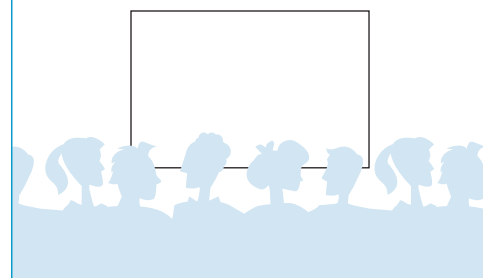
1. With a partner, take a small sheet of paper and a pencil, then go find someone else at the church and ask them to share their wisest words of advice. Write down what they say, then find two more people to ask.



2. Head back to your group and take turns sharing the wisdom you gathered.



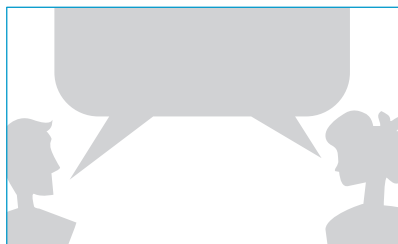
3. As a group, talk about which words of advice feel the most helpful or meaningful to you. Write down your favorites on a big sheet of paper and hang it up as a reminder of the wisdom in your community.



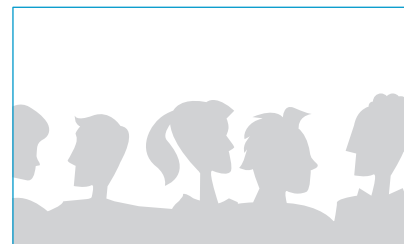
1. Think



2. Share



3. Discuss



What do you do with wisdom when you find it?

