

## **WISDOM--Lesson #1**

### **Teacher's Notes**

#### **Life - Community Building** (Warm-up; 10)

1. Small talk: How are you? How was your week? Introduction of new students
2. PAN questions
3. Review of homework

#### **Life to Topic** (10-15)

##### **Class Discussion**

1. What does the word 'wisdom' mean to you? What are related words? What is the opposite of wisdom?
2. What is 'the word' for wisdom in your language? They write on board in their own language.
3. Give a good example of a wise person. Perhaps also, an 'unwise person'.

#### **Topic** (25-30)

Dictionary Definitions (see Student Handout): what do they add? Do you agree? Disagree?

Do your words mean the same as the English 'wisdom'?

**Reading:** *Proverbs from Other Cultures:*

1. Students read silently with the following instructions
  - a. Note any words you do not know
  - b. Note any proverbs that don't make sense to you
  - c. Each student chooses 2 favourite proverbs to share with the class.
  - d. For those students who finish early, ask them to do the Word Search.
2. Are there any words you don't know? Have other class members answer, if possible.
3. Are there any proverbs you don't understand? Have other class members explain them.
4. Ask: Which is your favourite one? Why? Imagine a situation for its application.

#### **Topic to Life** (30-35)

1. Proverbs Exercise (in pairs; see next page):
  - a. Cut 8 selected proverbs from the reading into 2 parts;
  - b. Scramble the parts;
  - c. Then have the small groups (of 2 or 3 max) reconnect them.
2. Idioms (see Student Handout):
  - a. Ask students to cover the definition column of the Idioms on their Handout; then have the students guess possible meanings.
  - b. The teacher defines the idioms, using them in a sentence.
  - c. The students do the fill in the blank exercise (in student handout)
  - d. The Class invents a context/scenario for appropriate use of each idiom.

#### **Life** (5-10)

1. Memorize one proverb from the list given.
2. Collect and translate proverbs from your home culture; bring them to class next time.
3. Give take home application questions (bring to class in written form next time):
  - a. Take note of situations in which you observed 'wise behaviour'
  - b. Take note of situations in which you wish you had had more wisdom
4. Continue your PANning.

## Proverbs Exercise

If you want to be respected,	you must respect yourself.
Listen to valuable statements,	even if they come from your enemy's mouth.
The zebra told the white horse, "I am white,"	and told the black horse, "I am actually black."
The sweetness of food doesn't last long,	but the sweetness of good words do.
Hell is paved with good intentions,	and roofed with lost opportunities.
If you make yourself into a doormat,	people will wipe their feet on you.
A mind can make a heaven out of hell,	or a hell out of heaven.
Brief encounters	can result in long relationships.
The miserable only keep track of your misses	and never count your hits.
Help me during the flood, and	I will help you during the drought.
The person who recognizes his major mistakes	is on the road to wisdom.
Only a heart can find	the way to another heart.
He who does not like chattering woman	will remain a bachelor.
If a rich man eats a snake, people call it wisdom;	if a poor man does the same thing, people call it derangement.
On a rainy day,	many people volunteer to water the chickens.

## WISDOM--Lesson #1

### Student Handout

#### Class Discussion:

1. What does the word 'wisdom' mean to you? What are related words? What is the opposite of wisdom?
2. What is 'the word' for wisdom in your language
3. Give a good example of a wise person. Perhaps also, an 'unwise person'.

#### Definitions of wisdom:

1. "The ability to discern or judge what is true, right, or lasting; insight." wisdom.  
<Dictionary.com. *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004.  
<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/wisdom> (accessed: July 20, 2008)>
2. "1. accumulated knowledge or erudition or enlightenment 2. the trait of utilizing knowledge and experience with common sense and insight [antonym {=opposite}: [folly](#)] 3. ability to apply knowledge or experience or understanding or common sense and insight 4. the quality of being prudent and sensible [ant: [unsoundness](#)]." wisdom.  
<Dictionary.com. *WordNet® 3.0*. Princeton University.  
<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/wisdom> (accessed: July 20, 2008).>

#### Reading: Proverbs from Other Cultures

1. If you want to be respected, you must respect yourself. Spain
2. Listen to valuable statements, even if they come from your enemy's mouth. Greece
3. The zebra told the white horse, "I am white," and told the black horse, "I am actually black." Namibia
4. The sweetness of food doesn't last long, but the sweetness of good words do. Thailand
5. Hell is paved with good intentions, and roofed with lost opportunities. Portugal
6. If you make yourself into a doormat, people will wipe their feet on you. America
7. A mind can make a heaven out of hell, or a hell out of heaven. Costa Rica
8. Brief encounters can result in long relationships. Cuba
9. The miserable only keep track of your misses and never count your hits. Paraguay
10. Help me during the flood, and I will help you during the drought. Tanzania

11. The person who recognizes his major mistakes is on the road to wisdom. Columbia
12. Only a heart can find the way to another heart. Iran
13. He who does not like chattering woman will remain a bachelor. Congo
14. If a rich man eats a snake, people call it wisdom; if a poor man does the same thing, people call it derangement. Lebanon
15. On a rainy day, many people volunteer to water the chickens. Armenia

From <http://www.immediex.com/acowproverbs.html> (accessed 20 July 2008)

Find hidden words: related to “*Proverbs from Other Cultures*”...but there are other words as well.

a	f	m	i	s	e	r	a	b	l	e	z
v	d	e	r	a	n	g	e	m	e	n	t
o	r	o	r	s	e	q	m	i	n	d	c
l	e	e	l	l	s	t	e	n	s	w	h
u	v	d	r	o	u	g	h	t	k	i	a
n	e	o	e	e	s	k	e	e	p	s	t
t	n	o	s	w	e	l	l	n	a	d	t
e	t	r	p	b	e	p	l	t	v	o	e
e	o	m	e	h	e	l	p	i	e	m	r
r	m	a	c	e	l	l	a	o	d	e	i
r	a	t	t	c	a	l	l	n	h	e	n
s	m	i	s	e	r	y	c	s	x	t	g

call/all  
cell  
chattering  
derangement  
doormat  
end  
even  
event  
hat

hell  
help  
hen  
keep  
lens  
listen (list/ten)  
meet  
mind  
mint

miserable  
(miser + able)  
misery  
paved  
respect  
rough  
tent  
volunteer  
well

## Idioms

wisecrack	= slightly disrespect, mocking, and/or funny remark
none the wiser	= not knowing any more than before; clueless
wisdom tooth	= rear most molars, top and bottom
to cut one's wisdom teeth	= to attain maturity or discretion
wise guy	= a smart aleck; conceited person; insolent; wiseacre
wise up	= to become aware of an unknown situation
be or get wise to	= to be or become aware of; no longer be deceived by

Fill in these blanks with the idioms above.

1. She never \_\_\_\_\_ the fact that the joke was on her.
2. He was known as a \_\_\_\_\_, always making \_\_\_\_\_s.
3. Even after an explanation she was \_\_\_\_\_.
4. He went to the dentist to have his \_\_\_\_\_ removed.
5. Be patient with him; he hasn't \_\_\_\_\_ yet.
6. They tried to deceive her, but she was \_\_\_\_\_ those kinds of tricks.

## Homework

1. Memorize one proverb from "Proverbs from Other Cultures".
2. Collect and translate proverbs from your home culture; bring them to class next time.
3. Take home application questions (bring to class in written form next time):
  - a. Take note of situations in which you observed 'wise behaviour'
  - b. Take note of situations in which you wish you had had more wisdom
4. Continue your PANning.

## WISDOM--Lesson #2 Teacher's Notes

### **Life - Community Building** (10)

#### **Warm-up**

1. Small talk: How are you? How was your week? Introduction of new students
2. PAN questions
3. Review of homework: Ask for:
  - a. recitation of the Proverbs memorized
  - b. proverbs from the home cultures
  - c. "wisdom situations": observed or lived (successfully or not)
  - d. PAN questions

### **Life to Topic** (10-15)

1. Quotes
  - a. Divide into 4 groups; each group takes 2 Quotes
    - i. Read the quotes to each other.
    - ii. Are there any unknown words or meanings?
    - iii. Do you understand the quotes?
    - iv. Which is your favourite? Why?
    - v. Do you agree or disagree with the quotes?
    - vi. Do they seem "North American"?
  - b. Gather as a whole group
    - i. Each group reads one quote and explains it, sharing why they like it or not.
    - ii. Others can ask questions about the quote.

### **Topic** (25-30 minutes): Read together from "**Sandcastles**"

1. Teacher reads with dramatic intonation; students listen for main ideas.
2. Read a second time, taking turns. Pause paragraph by paragraph to answer vocabulary and general comprehension questions.
3. When finished: Do you understand it? Let them explain it to each other.
4. How is the little boy like the man? How are they different?
5. What is the lesson? Do you agree with it?
6. General Discussion: What about you? Are you more like the little boy or the man?
7. Is there a third alternative?
8. Pronunciation: Take note of any difficulties and responding as you are able. "Speaking Clearly" is an excellent text with resources.

## **Topic to Life** (30-35 min.).

### **CASE STUDY**

1. Have one student read the Case Study. Then discuss Questions 2-8 as a class.
2. Do you understand the situation? Do you understand the vocabulary?
3. Might this situation arise in your own culture/country?
4. What are the different motives involved: the woman; the other women in the office; the men; the boss?
5. Who is right and who is wrong?
6. How do any of the quotes apply?
7. Are there other proverbs or 'wisdom sayings' that apply?
8. What do you say or do? Why?

### **Life** (5+)

1. Memorize one quote from the list given.
2. Keep a Journal noting the following:
  - a. Take note of situations in which you observed 'wise behaviour'
  - b. Take note of situations in which you wish you had had more wisdom
  - c. How did your 'quote' work out in your experience.
3. Continue your PANning.
4. Optional: Read "Desiderata" (see Student Handout)
  - a. Look up difficult vocabulary.
  - b. Highlight areas of your strengths.
  - c. Highlight areas of your weaknesses.
  - d. What might you do differently?

## WISDOM--Lesson #2 Student Handout

You will be assigned a group and given 2 quotes from the list below. In your group, do and discuss the following:

- a. Read the quotes to each other.
- b. Are there any unknown words or meanings?
- c. Do you understand the quotes?
- d. Which is your favourite? Why?
- e. Do you agree or disagree with the quotes?
- f. Do they seem “North American”?

### Quotes

[http://www.wisdomquotes.com/cat\\_wisdom.html](http://www.wisdomquotes.com/cat_wisdom.html)

1. Baltasar Gracian: Without courage, wisdom bears no fruit.
2. Cicero: The function of wisdom is to discriminate between good and evil.
3. Elbert Hubbard: To know when to be generous and when firm—that is wisdom.
4. George Bernard Shaw: We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our future.
5. George Burns: Too bad that all the people who really know how to run the country are busy driving taxi cabs and cutting hair.
6. Henry David Thoreau: It is characteristic of wisdom not to do desperate things.
7. Immanuel Kant: Science is organized knowledge. Wisdom is organized life.
8. Theodore Levitt, Harvard Business School. Experience comes from what we have done. Wisdom comes from what we have done badly.

### A Story Related to N. American Culture Sandcastles

(by Max Lucado; October 5, 2005; *UpWords from Max Lucado*  
[cnnnoachegu@crosswalkmail.com](mailto:cnnnoachegu@crosswalkmail.com))

Hot sun. Salty air. Rhythmic waves. A little boy is on the beach.

On his knees he scoops and packs the sand with plastic shovels into a bright red bucket. Then he upends the bucket on the surface and lifts it. And, to the delight of the little architect, a castle tower is created.

All afternoon he will work. Spooning out the moat. Packing the walls. Bottle tops will be sentries. Popsicle sticks will be bridges. A sandcastle will be built.

Big city. Busy streets. Rumbling traffic. A man is in his office.

At his desk he shuffles papers into stacks and delegates assignments. He cradles the phone on his shoulder and punches the keyboard with his fingers. Numbers are juggled and contracts are signed and much to the delight of the man, a profit is made.

All his life he will work. Formulating the plans. Forecasting the future. Annuities will be sentries. Capital gains will be bridges. An empire will be built.

Two builders of two castles. They have much in common. They shape granules into grandeurs. They see nothing and make something. They are diligent and determined. And for both the tide will rise and the end will come.

Yet, that is where the similarities cease. For the boy sees the end while the man ignores it.

So, one is prepared and one isn't. One is peaceful while the other panics.

As the waves near, the wise child jumps to his feet and begins to clap. There is no sorrow. No fear. No regret. He knew this would happen. He is not surprised. And when the great breaker crashes into his castle and his masterpiece is sucked into the sea, he smiles. He smiles, picks up his tools, takes his father's hand, and goes home.

1. Do you understand the story?
2. How is the little boy like the man? How are they different?
3. What is the lesson? Do you agree with it?
4. What about you? Are you more like the little boy or the man?
5. Is there a third alternative?

### ***CASE STUDY***

You are an outgoing, gregarious woman, interested in people and naturally friendly. Today your boss has called you into his office and explained that your friendliness has been remarked upon and is causing misunderstanding in certain quarters. The women who work in the office think you are acting flirtatious, even loose, and the men have begun to question your professionalism. Your boss asks you if you can “tone it down a bit”. You are hurt and surprised; this is just the way you are. What do you say or do?

1. One student read the Case Study out loud.
2. Do you understand the situation? Do you understand the vocabulary?
3. Might this situation arise in your own culture/country?
4. What are the different motives involved: the woman; the other women in the office; the men; the boss?
5. Who is right and who is wrong?
6. How do any of the quotes apply?
7. Are there other proverbs or ‘wisdom sayings’ that apply?
8. What do you say or do? Why?

## HOMework

1. Memorize one quote from the list given.
2. Keep a Journal noting the following:
  - a. Take note of situations in which you observed 'wise behaviour'
  - b. Take note of situations in which you wish you had had more wisdom
  - c. How did your 'quote' work out in your experience.
3. Continue your PANning.
4. Optional: Read "Desiderata"
  - a. Look up difficult vocabulary.
  - b. Highlight areas of your strengths.
  - c. Highlight areas of your weaknesses.
  - d. What might you do differently?

## DESIDERATA

"Desiderata" is Latin for "desired things"; it is the plural of *desideratum*. It was first copyrighted by Max Ehrmann in 1927.

*Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant, they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit.*

*If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.*

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let not this blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

*Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.*

*Therefore, be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams; it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful.*

Strive to be happy.

## WISDOM--Lesson #3 Teacher's Notes

### **Life - Community Building** - Warm-up (10)

1. Small talk: How are you? How was your week? Introduction of new students
2. PAN questions
3. Review of homework:
  - a. Recitation of the Quote you memorized. Was it at all relevant in your life?
  - b. Share "wisdom situations": observed or lived (successfully or not)

### **Life to Topic Class Discussion** (10-15)

1. "Quotes—Part I": Read silently (3-5).
2. Discuss (5-10)
  - a. English Language
    - i. Are there any words you don't know?
    - ii. Is there any grammar that is difficult?
  - b. Discussion
    - i. Which quotes capture your attention? Why?
    - ii. Would you agree or disagree with any of the 3 quotes?
    - iii. Which quotes seem to apply to your life-situation? Why?
    - iv. Which quotes seem especially "Western"/N. American? Why?

### **Topic** (25-30)

1. Introduction (10)
  - a. Comment on "Wisdom is the power to see and the inclination to choose the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it" (J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 80.) What is "the best and highest goal" in life?
    - i. Make a list on the board;
    - ii. Discuss the similarities and differences.
  - b. Our topic today is "Wisdom in the Bible": We think the Bible helps us decide what "the best and highest goal" of life is. Biblical Wisdom is both like and unlike other wisdom.
2. Read "Quotes—Part II": (silently or choose students to read aloud) (10)
  - a. How are these quotes the same or different from the quotes of previous weeks?
  - b. What do you not understand in these quotes?

### **Topic to Life** (30-35)

1. Read together, section-by-section, a story of *A Wise King*: 1 Kings 3:16-28 {verses 5-16 is optional background; you may read it first, after vv. 16-28, or not at all}. Clarify any unfamiliar words section by section.
  - a. Retell the story in your own words
  - b. Solomon was known as very wise. Would you agree?
  - c. Are there any lessons for you/us?
  - d. Perhaps divide up the parts and enact the scene as a drama.

2. (If extra time) Read the “Selected Proverbs” from Student Handout: Homework Readings.
  - a. In small groups, classify the Proverbs by topic, like ‘the tongue,’ ‘money’, etc.
  - a. Gather to discuss the exercise and the proverbs.
  - b. Which proverbs will you want to “take home” with you?

**Life** (5+)

1. Continue PANning.
2. Be alert for proverbs, idioms, wise sayings in your hearing of English.
3. Journal your own areas of need for wisdom. Perhaps ask God to give you wisdom, as He promised He would.
4. (Optional) See the “Homework Readings”: take note of unknown vocabulary & life lessons. Perhaps read a portion each day for daily encouragement and counsel.

## WISDOM--Lesson #3 Student Handout

### Class Discussion:

1. Which quotes capture your attention? Why?
2. Would you agree or disagree with any of the 3 quotes?
3. Which quotes seem to apply to your life-situation? Why?
4. Which quotes seem especially “Western”/N. American? Why?

### Quotes—Part I

<http://www.sermonillustrations.com/a-z/w/wisdom.htm> (14-6-08)

1. Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you would have preferred to talk. Doug Larson.
2. A wise man learns by the experience, especially the mistakes, of others. An ordinary man learns only by his own experience. A fool learns by nobody's experience. Source Unknown.
3. Wisdom is the power to see and the inclination to choose the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it. J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 80.

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Read: “Wisdom is the power to see and the inclination to choose the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it” (J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 80.) What is “the best and highest goal” in life?

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### Quotes—Part II (from *The Bible in Basic English*)

Job 12:12

Old men have wisdom, and a long life gives knowledge.

Psalms 104:24

O LORD, what a variety of things you have made! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your creatures.

Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the Lord is the start of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One gives a wise mind.

1. Is there anything you do not understand in these quotes?
2. How are these quotes the same or different from the quotes of previous weeks?

## Readings Related to the Bible

### 1 Kings 3:5-28 (NLT)

{Optional: 5-15} 5 That night the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!"

6 Solomon replied, "You were wonderfully kind to my father, David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you have continued this great kindness to him today by giving him a son to succeed him. 7 O LORD my God, now you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around. 8 And here I am among your own chosen people, a nation so great they are too numerous to count! 9 Give me an understanding mind so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great nation of yours?"

10 The Lord was pleased with Solomon's reply and was glad that he had asked for wisdom. 11 So God replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people and have not asked for a long life or riches for yourself or the death of your enemies- 12 I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding mind such as no one else has ever had or ever will have! 13 And I will also give you what you did not ask for- riches and honor! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life! 14 And if you follow me and obey my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life."

15 Then Solomon woke up and realized it had been a dream. He returned to Jerusalem and stood before the Ark of the Lord's covenant, where he sacrificed burnt offerings and peace offerings. Then he invited all his officials to a great banquet.

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16 Some time later, two prostitutes came to the king to have an argument settled.

17 "Please, my lord," one of them began, "this woman and I live in the same house. I gave birth to a baby while she was with me in the house. 18 Three days later, she also had a baby. We were alone; there were only two of us in the house. 19 But her baby died during the night when she rolled over on it. 20 Then she got up in the night and took my son from beside me while I was asleep. She laid her dead child in my arms and took mine to sleep beside her. 21 And in the morning when I tried to nurse my son, he was dead! But when I looked more closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn't my son at all."

22 Then the other woman interrupted, "It certainly was your son, and the living child is mine." "No," the first woman said, "the dead one is yours, and the living one is mine." And so they argued back and forth before the king.

23 Then the king said, "Let's get the facts straight. Both of you claim the living child is yours, and each says that the dead child belongs to the other. 24 All right, bring me a sword."

So a sword was brought to the king.

25 Then he said, "Cut the living child in two and give half to each of these women!"

26 Then the woman who really was the mother of the living child, and who loved him very much, cried out, "Oh no, my lord! Give her the child-- please do not kill him!" But the other woman said, "All right, he will be neither yours nor mine; divide him between us!"

27 Then the king said, "Do not kill him, but give the baby to the woman who wants him to live, for she is his mother!"

28 Word of the king's decision spread quickly throughout all Israel, and the people were awed as they realized the great wisdom God had given him to render decisions with justice.

1. Retell the story in your own words
2. Solomon was known as very wise. Would you agree?
3. Are there any lessons for you/us?

## Homework

1. Continue PANning.
2. Be alert for proverbs, idioms, wise sayings in your hearing of English.
3. Journal your own areas of need for wisdom. Perhaps ask God to give you wisdom, as He promised He would.
4. (Optional) See the "Homework Readings": take note of unknown vocabulary & life lessons. Perhaps read a portion each day for daily encouragement and counsel.

## Homework Readings (optional)

### 1. Selected Proverbs

1. "He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who cherishes understanding prospers." -Proverbs 19:8
2. "Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue. " -Proverbs 17:28
3. "How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver!" -Proverbs 16:16
4. "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." - Proverbs 15:1
5. "Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel." -Proverbs 20:15
6. "A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense." -Proverbs 19:11
7. "My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out

of your sight; they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck. Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble." -Proverbs 3:21-23

8. "A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control." -Proverbs 29:11
9. "He who answers before listening- that is his folly and his shame." - Proverbs 18:13
10. "Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you. Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning." -Proverbs 9:8-9
11. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." -Proverbs 9:10
12. "A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps." -Proverbs 14:15
13. "Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife." -Proverbs 17:1
14. "A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions." -Proverbs 18:2
15. "A man's own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the LORD." - Proverbs 19:3
16. "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth." -Proverbs 27:1
17. "Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all." -Proverbs 22:2
18. "There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD." -Proverbs 21:30
19. "Like a bad tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in times of trouble." -Proverbs 25:19
20. "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom." -Proverbs 11:2

## **2. Proverbs 8:1-36**

Is not wisdom crying out, and the voice of knowledge sounding? 2 At the top of the highways, at the meeting of the roads, she takes her place; 3 Where the roads go into the town her cry goes out, at the doorways her voice is loud: 4 I am crying out to you, O men; my voice comes to the sons of men. 5 Become expert in reason, O you simple ones; you foolish ones, take training to heart. 6 Give ear, for my words are true, and my lips are open to give out what is upright. 7 For good faith goes out of my mouth, and false lips are disgusting to me. 8 All the words of my mouth are righteousness; there is nothing false or twisted in them. 9 They are all true to him whose mind is awake, and straightforward to those who get knowledge. 10 Take my teaching, and not silver; get knowledge in place of the best gold. 11 For wisdom is better than

jewels, and all things which may be desired are nothing in comparison with her. 12 I, wisdom, have made wise behaviour my near relation; I am seen to be the special friend of wise purposes. 13 The fear of the Lord is seen in hating evil: pride, a high opinion of oneself, the evil way, and the false tongue, are displeasing to me. 14 Wise design and good sense are mine; reason and strength are mine. 15 Through me kings have their power, and rulers give right decisions. 16 Through me chiefs have authority, and the noble ones are judging in righteousness. 17 Those who have given me their love are loved by me, and those who make search for me with care will get me. 18 Wealth and honour are in my hands, even wealth without equal and righteousness. 19 My fruit is better than gold, even than the best gold; and my increase is more to be desired than silver. 20 I go in the road of righteousness, in the way of right judging: 21 So that I may give my lovers wealth for their heritage, making their store-houses full. 22 The Lord made me as the start of his way, the first of his works in the past. 23 From eternal days I was given my place, from the birth of time, before the earth was. 24 When there was no deep I was given birth, when there were no fountains flowing with water. 25 Before the mountains were put in their places, before the hills was my birth: 26 When he had not made the earth or the fields or the dust of the world. 27 When he made ready the heavens I was there: when he put an arch over the face of the deep: 28 When he made strong the skies overhead: when the fountains of the deep were fixed: 29 When he put a limit to the sea, so that the waters might not go against his word: when he put in position the bases of the earth: 30 Then I was by his side, as a master workman: and I was his delight from day to day, playing before him at all times; 31 Playing in his earth; and my delight was with the sons of men. 32 Give ear to me then, my sons: for happy are those who keep my ways. 33 Take my teaching and be wise; do not let it go. 34 Happy is the man who gives ear to me, watching at my doors day by day, keeping his place by the pillars of my house. 35 For whoever gets me gets life, and grace from the Lord will come to him. 36 But he who does evil to me, does wrong to his soul: all my haters are in love with death.

### **3. A Wise Woman: 1 Samuel 25:2-42**

<sup>2</sup> There was a wealthy man from Maon who owned property near the village of Carmel. He had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats, and it was sheep-shearing time. <sup>3</sup> This man's name was Nabal, and his wife, Abigail, was a sensible and beautiful woman. But Nabal, a descendant of Caleb, was mean and dishonest in all his dealings.

<sup>4</sup> When David heard that Nabal was shearing his sheep, <sup>5</sup> he sent ten of his young men to Carmel. He told them to deliver this message: <sup>6</sup> "Peace and prosperity to you, your family, and everything you own! <sup>7</sup> I am told that you are shearing your sheep and goats. While your shepherds stayed among us near Carmel, we never harmed them, and nothing was ever stolen from them. <sup>8</sup> Ask your own servants, and they will tell you this is true. So would you please be kind to us, since we have come at a time of celebration? Please give us any

provisions you might have on hand." <sup>9</sup> David's young men gave this message to Nabal and waited for his reply.

<sup>10</sup> "Who is this fellow David?" Nabal sneered. "Who does this son of Jesse think he is? There are lots of servants these days who run away from their masters.

<sup>11</sup> Should I take my bread and water and the meat I've slaughtered for my shearers and give it to a band of outlaws who come from who knows where?" <sup>12</sup> So David's messengers returned and told him what Nabal had said.

<sup>13</sup> "Get your swords!" was David's reply as he strapped on his own. Four hundred men started off with David, and two hundred remained behind to guard their equipment.

<sup>14</sup> Meanwhile, one of Nabal's servants went to Abigail and told her, "David sent men from the wilderness to talk to our master, and he insulted them. <sup>15</sup> But David's men were very good to us, and we never suffered any harm from them. Nothing was stolen from us the whole time they were with us. <sup>16</sup> In fact, day and night they were like a wall of protection to us and the sheep. <sup>17</sup> You'd better think fast, for there is going to be trouble for our master and his whole family. He's so ill-tempered that no one can even talk to him!"

<sup>18</sup> Abigail lost no time. She quickly gathered two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, nearly a bushel of roasted grain, one hundred raisin cakes, and two hundred fig cakes. She packed them on donkeys and said to her servants, <sup>19</sup> "Go on ahead. I will follow you shortly." But she didn't tell her husband what she was doing. <sup>20</sup> As she was riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, she saw David and his men coming toward her. <sup>21</sup> David had just been saying, "A lot of good it did to help this fellow. We protected his flocks in the wilderness, and nothing he owned was lost or stolen. But he has repaid me evil for good. <sup>22</sup> May God deal with me severely if even one man of his household is still alive tomorrow morning!"

<sup>23</sup> When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed low before him. <sup>24</sup> She fell at his feet and said, "I accept all blame in this matter, my lord. Please listen to what I have to say. <sup>25</sup> I know Nabal is a wicked and ill-tempered man; please don't pay any attention to him. He is a fool, just as his name suggests. But I never even saw the messengers you sent. <sup>26</sup> "Now, my lord, as surely as the LORD lives and you yourself live, since the LORD has kept you from murdering and taking vengeance into your own hands, let all your enemies be as cursed as Nabal is. <sup>27</sup> And here is a present I have brought to you and your young men. <sup>28</sup> Please forgive me if I have offended in any way. The LORD will surely reward you with a lasting dynasty, for you are fighting the LORD's battles. And you have not done wrong throughout your entire life. <sup>29</sup> "Even when you are chased by those who seek your life, you are safe in the care of the LORD your God, secure in his treasure pouch! But the lives of your enemies will disappear like stones shot from a sling! <sup>30</sup> When the LORD has done all he promised and has made you leader of Israel, <sup>31</sup> don't let this be a blemish on your record. Then you won't have to carry on your conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed and vengeance. And when the LORD

has done these great things for you, please remember me!"

<sup>32</sup> David replied to Abigail, "Praise the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you to meet me today! <sup>33</sup> Thank God for your good sense! Bless you for keeping me from murdering the man and carrying out vengeance with my own hands. <sup>34</sup> For I swear by the LORD, the God of Israel, who has kept me from hurting you, that if you had not hurried out to meet me, not one of Nabal's men would be alive tomorrow morning." <sup>35</sup> Then David accepted her gifts and told her, "Return home in peace. We will not kill your husband."

<sup>36</sup> When Abigail arrived home, she found that Nabal had thrown a big party and was celebrating like a king. He was very drunk, so she didn't tell him anything about her meeting with David until the next morning. <sup>37</sup> The next morning when he was sober, she told him what had happened. As a result he had a stroke, and he lay on his bed paralyzed. <sup>38</sup> About ten days later, the LORD struck him and he died.

<sup>39</sup> When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Praise the LORD, who has paid back Nabal and kept me from doing it myself. Nabal has received the punishment for his sin." Then David wasted no time in sending messengers to Abigail to ask her to become his wife. <sup>40</sup> When the messengers arrived at Carmel, they told Abigail, "David has sent us to ask if you will marry him."

<sup>41</sup> She bowed low to the ground and responded, "Yes, I am even willing to become a slave to David's servants!" <sup>42</sup> Quickly getting ready, she took along five of her servant girls as attendants, mounted her donkey, and went with David's messengers. And so she became his wife.

- a. Retell the story in your own words.
- b. Was Abigail a 'wise woman'? Why or why not?
- c. What lessons are there for us?

## WISDOM--Lesson #4 Teacher's Notes

### **Community Building – Life** Warm-up (5-10)

1. Small talk: How are you? How was your week? Introduction of new students
2. PAN questions
3. Review of homework

### **Life to Topic** Class Discussion (10-15)

1. Quotes: Read silently (3-5)
2. Discuss (5-10)
  - a. English Language
    - i. Are there any words you don't know?
    - ii. Is there any grammar that is difficult?
  - b. Discussion
    - i. Which quotes capture your attention? Why?
    - ii. Which quotes seem to apply to your life-situation? Why?
    - iii. Which quotes seem especially "Western"/N. American? Why?

### **Topic** (25-30)

Introduction: Last week we looked at Wisdom in the Older Part of the Bible, what we call 'The Old Testament'. It contains the history of Creation and of God's People before Jesus came. We looked at the famous King Solomon. We still say the phrase 'as wise as Solomon'. 1 Kings 4:29 says "*God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a mind of wide range, as vast as the sand by the seaside. And Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt.*" And yet Jesus said about himself, "[some came from] *the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and now a greater than Solomon is here.*" (Matthew 12:42; BBE, modified). The Bible also says, Jesus is "*the power of God and the wisdom of God*"; and "*in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*" (1 Corinthians 1:24; Colossians 2:3).

1. These are very, very big claims. What do you think about them? Listen; discuss
2. Let's read some of the Wisdom of Jesus. Teacher reads the 3 passages, pausing only to clarify the meaning of words. After each passage, ask: can you summarize this passage in one or two sentences?
  - a. Matthew 5:38-48
  - b. Matthew 6:24-34
  - c. Matthew 7:1-5
3. When you are finished, ask:
  - a. What do you think?
  - b. Do you agree or disagree?
  - c. Do you want to do what he says? Can you? Have you tried?

### **Topic to Life** (30-35)

1. What would a life of Wisdom look like, according to the Bible? Teacher may explain that these readings are taken from different parts of the Bible, including the sayings of Jesus but not exclusively.
2. Read: Matthew 7:24-27. Teacher or students may read (if students, silently or not), Then discuss the following:
  - a. What would a life of Wisdom look like?
    - i. Stable
    - ii. Secure
    - iii. Confident
  - b. How would you get such a life? {Obey His Words}
3. Is that appealing? Attractive? Something you might want to achieve?
4. How would you get such wisdom?
  - a. Read: James 1:5-8
  - b. Discuss. What is “asking”? Prayer? Talking to God? Faith? Doubting?
5. A final focus on Jesus:
  - a. Read: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25
    - i. Explain “Christ on the cross” as seemingly ‘foolish’ and ‘weak’...and yet “the power and the wisdom of God”.
    - ii. Discuss “The Gospel”: We fall short; we are unable to live up to the high ideals in our own ability; we need Jesus ‘on the inside.’
  - b. Read: John 14:6
6. Prayer (as appropriate)

### **Life** (5+)

1. Continue PANning
2. Be alert for proverbs, idioms, wise sayings in your hearing of English
3. Journal your own areas of need for wisdom. Perhaps ask God to give you wisdom, as He promised.
4. Optional: Continue and finish up any “Homework Readings” from last week.

## WISDOM--Lesson #4

### Student Handout

#### Class Discussion

1. Which of the following quotes capture your attention? Why?
2. Which quotes seem to apply to your life-situation? Why?
3. Which quotes seem especially “Western”/N. American? Why?

#### Quotes

1. "Am I not destroying my enemies when I make friends of them?" -Abraham Lincoln
2. "Character is doing the right thing when nobody's looking. There are too many people who think that the only thing that's right is to get by, and the only thing that's wrong is to get caught." -J. C. Watts
3. "Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be." -Thomas a Kempis
4. "To wisdom belongs the intellectual apprehension of things eternal; to knowledge, the rational apprehension of things temporal." -Saint Augustine
5. "Of all the pursuits open to men, the search for wisdom is most perfect, more sublime, more profitable, and more full of joy." -Thomas Aquinas  
<http://www.christian-wisdom.com/wisdom/36/quote-category.html> (10 Aug. 08)

#### Introduction to our Topic

Last week we looked at Wisdom in the Older Part of the Bible, what we call ‘The Old Testament’. It contains the history of Creation and of God’s People before Jesus came. We looked at the famous King Solomon. We still say the phrase ‘as wise as Solomon’. 1 Kings 4:29 says *“God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a mind of wide range, as vast as the sand by the seaside. And Solomon’s wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt.”* And yet Jesus said about himself, *“[some came from] the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and now a greater than Solomon is here.”* (Matthew 12:42; BBE, modified). The Bible also says, Jesus is *“the power of God and the wisdom of God”*; and *“in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”* (1 Corinthians 1:24; Colossians 2:3).

1. These are very, very big claims. What do you think about them?
2. Let’s read some of the Wisdom of Jesus.

## Readings from the Bible

### Wisdom from Jesus

#### Matthew 5:43-48

<sup>43</sup> "You have heard that the law of Moses says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup> But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! <sup>45</sup> In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and on the unjust, too. <sup>46</sup> If you love only those who love you, what good is that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. <sup>47</sup> If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. <sup>48</sup> But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

#### Matthew 6:24-34

24 "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. 25 "So I tell you, don't worry about everyday life-- whether you have enough food, drink, and clothes. Doesn't life consist of more than food and clothing? 26 Look at the birds. They don't need to plant or harvest or put food in barns because your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than they are. 27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? Of course not. 28 "And why worry about your clothes? Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, 29 yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. 30 And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't he more surely care for you? You have so little faith! 31 "So don't worry about having enough food or drink or clothing. 32 Why be like the pagans who are so deeply concerned about these things? Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs, 33 and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern. <sup>34</sup> "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

#### Matthew 7:1-5

"Stop judging others, and you will not be judged. 2 For others will treat you as you treat them. Whatever measure you use in judging others, it will be used to measure how you are judged. 3 And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? 4 How can you think of saying, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First get rid of the log from your own eye; then perhaps you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.

1. What do you think?
2. Do you agree or disagree?
3. Do you want to do what Jesus says? Can you?

## What would a life of Wisdom look like, according to the Bible?

Matthew 7:24-27

24 [Jesus says,] "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

## How would you achieve a life like that?

James 1:5-8

5 But if any man among you is without wisdom, let him make his request to God, who gives freely to all without an unkind word, and it will be given to him. 6 Let him make his request in faith, doubting nothing; for he who has doubt in his heart is like the waves of the sea, which are troubled by the driving of the wind. 7 Let it not seem to such a man that he will get anything from the Lord; 8 For there is a division in his mind, and he is uncertain in all his ways.

## A final focus on Jesus

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Seeing that the Jews make request for signs, and the Greeks are looking for knowledge: 23 But we give the good news of Christ on the cross, a hard thing to the Jews, and a foolish thing to the Gentiles; 24 But to those of God's selection, Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power and the wisdom of God. 25 Because what seems foolish in God is wiser than men; and what seems feeble in God is stronger than men.

John 14:6

Jesus said, "I am the true and living way: no one comes to the Father but by me."

## Homework

1. Continue PANning
2. Be alert for proverbs, idioms, wise sayings in your hearing of English
3. Journal your own areas of need for wisdom. Perhaps ask God to give you wisdom, as He promised.
4. Optional: Continue and finish up any "Homework Readings" from last week.